QUADS is a pilot initiative exploring untested and experimental methods. The QUADS team would be very happy to hear from anyone who is already working in this area, or who would like to contribute to these exciting projects.

QUADS Co-ordination
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QUADS is the ESRC Qualitative Archiving and Data Sharing Scheme.

The objectives of the Scheme are to:

- develop new models of qualitative research archiving and data sharing which tackle the epistemological, ethical, methodological and practical challenges raised by the re-use and re-analysis of qualitative material
- explore ways of improving the quality of contextual information, which complement the ESDS Qualidata approach
- encourage researchers to explore the use of stored and shared video, visual and audio datasets
- promote understanding of the potential benefits and challenges of information, communication and e-science technologies
- explore and extend the relationship between qualitative data producers, users and re-users and to demonstrate innovative and effective practice in these domains
- promote adoption of methodological advances in relation to qualitative research archiving, data sharing, re-use and re-analysis

Main aim: to help promote innovative methodological approaches to the archiving, sharing, re-use and secondary analysis of qualitative research and data, through co-ordination and promotion of the five QUADS projects.

Main objectives
- facilitate communication and collaboration between QUADS projects
- co-ordinate the Advisory Committee and seek guidance from the wider user community
- provide networking with sister initiatives, such as Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) and National Centre for e-Social Science (NGeSS) and constituent nodes and projects
- provide a publicity and promotions strategy for QUADS

quads.esds.ac.uk

Educational Programme Evaluation

University of Cambridge and University of East Anglia

Main aim: to develop an archive and a replicable process by which context-rich case study data and analysis may be represented electronically and in forms useful and relevant to the widest possible range of users.

Main objectives
- identify and document a suitable set of case study-based evaluations nominated by the ‘Cambridge Conferences’ on educational programme evaluation, locating them in their historical, policy and methodological context
- construct a digital repository containing electronic versions of case study-based evaluations and contextual data, together with a collaboration and learning environment
- develop an appropriate descriptive metadata scheme for the case studies, case data and contextual data

www.caret.cam.ac.uk/

Northern Ireland Conflict

Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University

Main aim: to produce a catalogue of qualitative material on the Northern Ireland conflict and facilitate access to the material for the purposes of primary and secondary analysis.

Main objectives
- produce a comprehensive collated catalogue of primary qualitative material
- create an indexed retrieval system for the catalogue holdings, accessible through ESDS Qualidata and ARK
- where material is at risk of being lost or the holder requests, transfer material to digital format and make accessible via ESDS

www.ark.ac.uk/qual