qsr.

Nsight

2004 QSR Strategies Conference
– new site, new dates!

The fifth international conference on Strategies in Qualitative Research with QSR Software will be held at the University of Durham, Wednesday 1 September thru Friday 3 September, 2004.

Announcing the new venue and date this month, the conference committee thanked the University of London's Institute of Education for its initiative in establishing the conference series, a unique source of methodological discussion and learning for users of QSR's NUD*IST and NVivo. The first four conferences in London established the extraordinary value of a research conference whose papers and workshops, networking and discussion opportunities were focused and enhanced by the common experience of using the same software tools. Information on past conferences can be accessed through http://www.ioe.ac.uk/conferences/nvivo/

The call for papers for the conference will be out in November, and the conference website will provide details and registration. QSR News will send links and information as they become available. Place it in your diary now!

In moving out of London to England's third oldest university, the conference will offer participants a registration/accommodation and full board package (en suite university conference rooms) in a historic city of great beauty and interest. The conference will be hosted by the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at Durham http://www.dur.ac.uk/Sociology/. New conference events will include pre-conference introductory workshops (on Wednesday 1st September) and weekend post-conference working sessions (4-5 September) for researchers with projects in process.

The conference will be held in Van Mildert College, with modern conference facilities, and en suite accommodation (much of it new this year). The college site is close to the Botanical Gardens and other parks for walkers and to the lovely old town for those who wish to explore between sessions. To find out about Durham, its heritage castle and cathedral, the hinterland and history of Northumberland, visit http://www.travelaccommodation.co.uk/toursuk/hadriantour.htm. To view the university facilities, visit http://www.dur.ac.uk/conference_tourism/.

The conference moves to the first week of September to allow participants from overseas to combine it with the International Sociological Association's social science methods conference in Amsterdam. This Sixth International Conference on Social Science Methodology has as its focus, "Recent Developments and Applications in Social Research Methodology". To find out more about the August conference, http://www.siswo.uva.nl/rc33/intro.htm. To submit a paper to a session on qualitative computing, email lyn@qsr.com.au

**QSR has a presence at the upcoming AEA and APHA conferences.
See inside for stories on health and evaluation…..**

QSR

Hello and welcome
to this edition of the
QSR newsletter, NSight.

As we in Melbourne have been huddled round the fires in the middle of winter and our colleagues overseas have been almost melting in the heat over the past few months, the vagaries in weather seemed to highlight the geographical distance and diversity of those who use our software. Through discussions at conferences, workshops and over the airwaves, the theme that has come through strongly is the sheer variety and scope of projects being conducted on both N6 and NVivo. To show some of this research in action, this issue focuses on articles by researchers from around the world working in diverse areas.

As announced on the front page, our big news is that the University of Durham in England is now our new host for the Strategies Conference, an event that for me in my first couple of months with QSR showcased the type of research that is possible with the software.

Reports on research being done include Donna Richter talking about her upcoming papers at the 2003 APHA conference (p.4), a report from Jenine Beekhuyzen on a longitudinal study being conducted on women in IT (p.5) and from Chih Hoong Sin, an account of using N6 for a large scale, multi site evaluation study (p.6). Following on from here to a smaller scale, Lyndall Bull talks about her research into the commercial arena (p.8), Michael Reid reports on a social research project into the small farm sector in country Australia (p.9) and Ann Norman summarises her research looking at the needs of disabled people in disaster situations (p.10).

Other pages allow me the opportunity to introduce someone known by users around the world but met in person by far fewer - my colleague on the helpdesk, Sue Bullen (p.3), and we also introduce two of our newest overseas trainers, Pamela James and Judy Hughes from Canada (p.11).

Happy reading and researching from all of us here at QSR.

Fiona Wiltshier, Research Services, October 2003

Links – stay in touch…

Our website at www.qsrinternational.com is updated regularly. Important news is posted in the column on the home page so please check it regularly. Contact us directly if you do not have web access.
- Register for QSR News, our email bulletin, to receive newsletters, information about software updates and so on.
- Join the QSR-Forum email discussion group for researchers (see Resources).
- Contact an independent consultant/trainer for training or help in project design (see Training).
- Find answers to your questions under FAQs, a bibliography and Conference and Workshop events lists.

Introducing the people at QSR…

Though we speak to hundreds of people each month via email and phone, we don't get a chance to meet many in person; so I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce someone who many users around the world will know by name, but probably not in person…

Sue Bullen

What do you do at QSR?
I work in Research Services on the HelpDesk

How long have you been at QSR?
Just over four years.

How would you describe yourself?
Lucky, loyal and happy helper.

What's your burning desire?
To live comfortably and stay healthy when I retire!
and…then there's that little sports car I wouldn't mind owning one day.

What would you be doing if you weren't doing this?
I often say when I'm trying to work out a problematic support question that a sales job on the perfume counter at Myers (which is a huge department store here in Australia for our overseas readers) would be a good job!

What's something no-one at QSR would know about you?
Hmmm, probably lots - how about my brother was an Australian champion boxer!

Site Licenses: use QSR software at work and at home

QSR has been running a successful site license program for a number of years. It was born out of a growing demand by tertiary institutions to better manage their software investment.

If your organization has 8 or more users of QSR software and the number is expected to grow in the near future and/or you are running older versions of software (N3, N4 Classic, N5, NVivo 1.0, or NVivo 1.3) and wish to upgrade, then perhaps it is worthwhile considering the cost benefits of a site license.

One of the appeals of having a site license is that staff and students can enjoy greater flexibility of use. Under a site license, users not only have access to the software on a campus or work based machine but they also get the option to use the software on a personal machine. Other benefits include access to all future upgrades and help desk support via a nominated site representative.

From an organizational viewpoint the overall cost savings are significant and decrease further as more users are registered. Site licenses are a single contract regardless of the number of users and so time spent on administration is minimal.

Our site licenses can be a 12-month renewable agreement or a time limited arrangement to cater for a specific project, course or other event. To find out more visit http://www.qsrinternational.com/products/sitelicences/ site_licences.htm or contact the appropriate person in you region:

The Americas – John Woolcott
(j.woolcott@qsrinternational.com)

Europe – Paul Condon
(p.condon@qsrinternational.com)

Australasia & the rest of the world
– Lisa Pakenham (l.pakenham@qsr.com.au)
– John Owen (j.owen@qsr.com.au)

APHA conference:
Capacity Building Programs and HIV Prevention: Lessons Learned through Qualitative Evaluation Measures

BY DONNA L. RICHTER

Donna Richter

Qualitative research will be strongly represented at the American Public Health Association Meeting in San Francisco in November, many presentations reporting projects in QSR software. Professor Donna L. Richter, of the Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, outlines two presentations stemming from one of her major grant projects, the Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership. For more on the project, visit http://www.ihpl.org/

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in partnership with the Association of Schools of Public Health, the Institute's mission is "to enhance HIV prevention capacity of community-based organizations that serve populations and/or communities affected by or at risk for HIV/AIDS. This mission is achieved through the provision of professional development and education programs specifically designed to enhance knowledge and skills in the principles of public health prevention and strategic planning and management."

HIV prevention program managers employed in community-based organizations (CBOs) across the US apply to the Institute through a competitive process. Those selected attend week-long interactive educational sessions at a training facility in Atlanta four times during the Institute year. In between Institute weeks, these scholars utilize distance education and work on their Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) assignments, designed to have the scholar apply knowledge and skills learned at the Institute to their actual work in the CBO. Other CBO staff take part in the completion of the ILE, thus promoting the diffusion of knowledge and skills within the organization.

The evaluation of the Institute is complex. The two presentations at this year's APHA conference report results of three qualitative evaluation measures, the Qualitative Survey of Costs and Benefits, the Knowledge/Skills Integration Survey, and the Cluster Site Visits. Using a variety of methods, these measures record qualitative responses to questions regarding the scholars' Institute experiences (focusing on barriers and facilitators of Institute participation), their experiences in completing the ILE assignments and several perspectives from the CBO on how the Institute has been useful and how it might better serve the CBOs' needs.

Data are analyzed using NVivo 2. In all cases, transcripts were coded by multiple trained coders who began coding using an initially agreed-upon set of defined codes and added and modified codes and definitions as needed for clarity and to capture new themes. Coders held frequent meetings to compare their ideas and codes to determine if they arrived at similar interpretations of the data. Discrepancies between analysts were resolved through discussion and modification of the code book as needed.

Diffusion mechanisms have not been formally studied via qualitative data methods in the field of public health. One presentation documents evaluation findings from a qualitative cluster site study to determine how knowledge and skills diffused from the scholar to other CBO employees. Four geographic cluster sites were selected by epidemiological factors, capacity issues and regional considerations. Thirty-eight individual interviews and five focus group discussions (totaling 16 participants) conducted at eight CBOs were coded and analyzed using NVivo.

Results indicated that scholars employed different diffusion mechanisms to share Institute information and skills depending on the status of the receiving individual: subordinate, peer, or supervisor. Most diffusion occurred through informal mechanisms such as discussions, meetings, practical demonstrations, vicarious learning, etc. as opposed to

WOMEN IN
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

BY JENINE BEEKHUYZEN

The lack of female participation in Information Technology (IT) education and professional work is a challenging and constant issue. This issue is now a well documented research area, but the causes and remedies remain puzzling and complex. Started in 1995 by Associate Professor Liisa von Hellens and Dr Sue Nielsen, our longitudinal study - called Women in Information Technology, or WinIT project, explores the perceptions and attitudes of women in high school, undergraduate and postgraduate university study and in the work place, and attempts to understand the factors which influence these females to take up and remain in an IT career.

Our research has taken the view that gender and IT are socially constructed. That is, IT is constructed as a domain attractive to certain types of people, primarily as a male domain, in the same way such occupations as child-care and nursing are constructed as female domains. The advantage of this view is that what can be constructed can also be deconstructed and changed. The more women enter professional-level IT education and work, especially in technical areas, the less IT will be viewed as a male domain. Similar changes have been seen in other professional fields, including law and medicine.

To date, over 800 surveys have been collected and approximately 100 interviews have been conducted. Since 2000, NUD*IST has been used to manage the very large data set and to help facilitate communication between members of the project team in Australia, as well as a collaborative project with other researchers in the US.

Our coding scheme is still quite simple and although we intend to elaborate it as our interpretation proceeds, the team has viewed coding as a necessary evil, time consuming and tedious, not as an end in itself. Our interest remains focussed on interpretation. We found that the systematic approach used with NUD*IST is helpful in improving indexing, searching and linking of the WinIT data. We also found that it did support interpretation of the data.

After our initial coding of data at the nodes, we used discourse analysis to identify distinctive patterns of text, and to relate these patterns to the individual interviews and to the whole set of interviews and to previous research in this area. NUD*IST supports the examination of the interview discourse, by allowing us to quickly move from the smaller piece of text to the wider context and back again.

Some unexpected issues arose when the project moved from a single-researcher analysis using the tool to shared analysis but this did not mean that the team were obliged to adopt a single coding of the data. The advantage of using software such as NUD*IST is that the same text (phrase, paragraph or larger section in the interview) may be coded as many ways as the researchers wish. This is made much more manageable with software than when performed manually.

Patton (1990) supports the use of computer assisted coding and suggests that "when data are going to be used by several people, or when data are going to be used over a very long period of time, including additions to the data set over time, such a comprehensive and computerized system can be extremely useful and could actually save time in the long run" (p.384). This statement sums up our experience very well and we are already convinced of the benefits of using NUD*IST to explore new and changing perspectives on the data.

Jenine Beekhuyzen is a Consultant for ThoughtWare, an IT Consulting company and is also a Senior Research Assistant and Lecturer in the School of Computing and Information Technology at Griffith University. Visit her website at: www.cit.gu.edu.au/~jenine and www.cit.gu.edu.au/~jenine/WinITPubs.html for a full list of WinIT publications.

Jenine Beekhuyzen

The social organisation of using N6 in a large-scale, multi-site evaluation

BY DR CHIH HOONG SIN

Dr Chih Hoong Sin

The social organisation of research influences the use of CAQDAS, thus inevitably affecting the data created, interpreted and reported. This article reports on the way in which the sixth revised Nud*ist, N6, is used in a large-scale evaluation project involving a team of fifteen individuals from two organisations, some of whom also work from home.

The evaluation team comprised of individuals with different levels of experience in conducting qualitative research and different levels of exposure to N6. Training involved two major components: knowledge and team working. Training sessions on knowledge not only imparted the requisite know-how to operate N6, but also contextualised this against a backdrop of wider knowledge requirements including the background of the specific evaluation project, the theory and practice of evaluation in general, the conduct of qualitative research, the range of quantitative and qualitative research instruments used and how each fits into the wider evaluation framework.

Not only do team members need to understand N6 and its relationship with qualitative research and the evaluation, they must also understand what it means to work in a team and what it means to deliver the particular type of evaluation project in question. Training sessions on team working encouraged frank discussion of fears and hopes of being part of the evaluation team, respective strengths and weaknesses, as well as the types of support required.

Apart from the implications for training, the management of the evaluation team and project also influenced the design of the coding structure. The nature of the evaluation and team working meant that codes had to be as unambiguous as possible. The resultant nodes in the pre-defined coding tree were neither purely emergent nor entirely grounded. Instead, they were descriptive 'themes' drawn from the evaluation's main lines of inquiry. While thus approaching the use of N6, revisions and modifications were possible and expected once team members have immersed themselves in the data. To prevent the enterprise from being too directive, the coding tree had pre-assigned areas for each team member to develop 'personal coding trees' should they so wish.

Dummy project files were created and sent to team members in order for them to practice and play with 'real' data in simulated 'real life' situations for a week. This encouraged team members to gain a better understanding of how they themselves interpreted codes, how and when they might wish to use their assigned 'personal coding tree' area, and how they worked best with N6. The importance of play in the learning process is often underestimated and dismissed in the drive to meet the demands of research. Yet, play is arguably the best way of instilling confidence in users of CAQDAS and of inspiring more creative ways of using such software. Moreover, the trial run allowed the protocols for coordinating returns from individual team members to be tested and refined.

The discussion here does not attempt to map out a blueprint for team-based use of N6. While there is abundant literature on the use of N6, the available literature surrounding collaborative working using such software is scant and can often posit simplistic dictates of what true collaborative cultures should be. It is argued here that we should move towards context specific responses to individual and team understandings of what using N6 entails. Just as CAQDAS users should always assess the suitability of particular packages to their needs, those working with CAQDAS in a team should also be asking themselves questions about the sort of team working arrangements that best suit their needs.

Note: *A much fuller discussion of the topic is covered in a paper presented at the conference 'Strategies in qualitative research: methodological issues and practices in using QSR Nvivo and NUD*ist' held on 8th and 9th May 2003 at the Institute of Education, London. Copies of the paper can be obtained by emailing the author at Chih.HoongSin@matrixrcl.co.uk or Chihhoong@hotmail.com*

Dr Chih Hoong Sin is Senior Consultant at Matrix MHA, Zetland House, 5/25 Scrutton Street, London EC2A 4HJ. Matrix MHA offers research and consultancy services to public sector clients in the fields of health and social care, crime, substance misuse, local government and partnerships. For more information, visit www.matrixrcl.co.uk

There is more to searching than just the search tool...

Two tools in NVivo often overlooked by the novice (and in some cases not-so-novice) user, are the 'Assay' and 'Show' functions. The word 'assay' is little used in research environments outside those of geology and NVivo users. Assay is a geological term used to ask 'What's here?' In NVivo, Assay offers a quick test of whether something you think may be worth investigating is backed up by your data. For example, as you are reading through your data, one particular theme seems to keep jumping out, possibly indicating a new and interesting concept. Before you enthusiastically report this new revelation, it is worth seeing whether more than a couple of people have spoken about it, and who they were. Assay will give you a quick count of how many documents are coded at a node or have an attribute. Or you can generate a table that will show for each document in the set you specify, whether it is coded at that or other nodes. If you then find that only one person has mentioned your theme, you may have saved yourself a great deal of work and heartache following a stream of thought that is

not backed up by your data. (Or perhaps you now have the task of explaining this deviant case). If you

> *Assay is a geological term used to ask 'What's here?' In NVivo, Assay offers a quick test of whether something you think may be worth investigating is backed up by your data.*

do find that this is a theme worth investigating, you have an easy way of identifying which documents you should look at further.

Assay is available in either document or node explorer, and importantly in the Search Tool, where you can ask to assay the scope of a search. Finding out about the data you've pointed a search to can save pointless (or embarrassingly trivial) searching, or worst, false conclusions.

The Show Tool is exactly what is

says, a fast way of asking NVivo to 'Show Me' what items have relationships with other items. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the modeler. In a model, you can ask to be shown all the documents that are coded by this node – then you can drag the ones you are interested in onto your model. The Show Tool can also surprise you by showing patterns that you may not have seen before. Ask NVivo to show you which documents are coded at particular nodes: you may find that documents you thought had no relation to each other, are in fact coded at the same nodes, something that may be worth investigating further!

Like all the tools in NVivo, these are designed to help you get more out of your data. Which ones you use, how and when you use them, will probably be determined both by your personal thought processes and the research approach. But it's worth playing with them to explore what they may offer.

Product Innovation and Commercialization
Case study research

Lyndall Bull

Commercialisation of research outcomes is a key objective of the Cooperative Research Centre for Wood Innovations in Australia. Lyndall Bull's doctoral research, through the CRC and University of Melbourne, uses case studies in commercialisation of innovative microwave wood products.

There has been virtually no critical assessment of product innovation and commercialization in the Australian and New Zealand timber industries, but literature and experience in innovation development shows that no one strategy fits all firms, products and markets. The study aims to identify factors contributing to the outcome (success or failure in the marketplace) for the product and, if possible, develop a framework for commercialization of microwave wood products. Data are taped semi-structured interviews with participants in commercialisation of wood product innovations, promotional material, records and technical reports.

NVivo has been critical in my analysis of the case studies and existing literature. It has helped me identify both the obvious and not so obvious variables that influence the success of a new forest product, to identify the regularity with which the 'known' variables occur, and by whom they have been cited as bearing an influence over the product's success. The search and modelling functions are proving to be invaluable in helping me understand the data and the interactions that are occurring. In addition, the formal reporting capabilities provide an effective and convincing way of illustrating to the reader the dynamic interaction of the variables.

More effective product development and commercialization is important for the competitiveness of industry. In the forest industry it is not only important for its economic stability but also the sustainable management of the forest resource. Due to constraints on native forests, the world is increasingly moving to a plantation-based resource. Timber from plantations has significantly altered physical characteristics and it is often necessary to engineer this timber for use in particular applications. One of the most important aspects of innovation in the forest product industry is its ability to ease the pressure on native forests and enable all of our timber needs to be met by plantations. The more effectively and efficiently we can achieve this goal, the better placed we are to protect the genetic and biological resources of the native forests of the world. My doctoral research aims to achieve that goal by better equipping the forest industry with the ability to bring new products to market efficiently and effectively.

Online Resources for Teachers!

A special Issue of the online Qualitive Research Journal will be published in November at http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aqr/. It offers papers, workshop reports and course ideas from the conference on teaching with QSR software held at the University of Wisconsin earlier this year. Other resources from the conference are at http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/tqm/conf2003.htm.

Social Research into the Small Farm Sector

When Australians think of people on the land, often the image that comes to mind is of the archetypal broadacre farmer or pastoralist we see so often in the media. Akubra hat, riding boots, born on the land and usually working a property worked by their forbearers. But, another group of people on the land, whose numbers are steadily increasing, don't fit this image. Their activities and practices can have a huge impact on the natural resource base. These are the owners of small rural properties. Rural landscapes are changing as many Australians seek rural lifestyles on small parcels of land around the peri-urban fringe and near larger regional centres. In some shires of Australia small properties dominate the landscape.
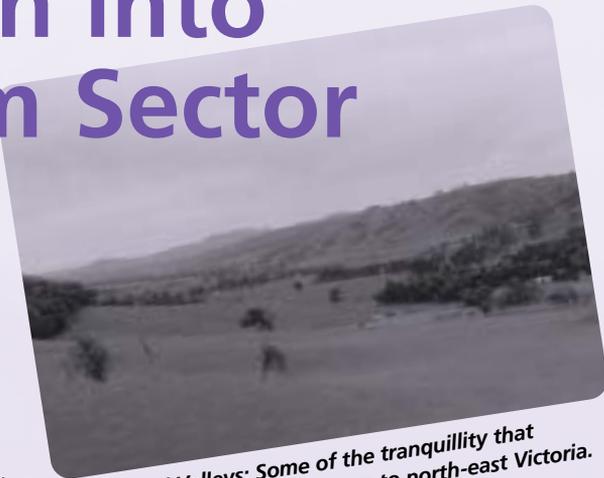
The Eco-Analysis research team at Primary Industries Research Victoria: Rutherglen are undertaking two research projects funded through the state government's Ecologically Sustainable Agricultural Initiative and the nationally funded Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. These projects are apart of the Developing Human Capacity Program, which is investigating how government agencies and other rural service providers may better engage with the sector in their programs.

Views and Valleys: Some of the tranquillity that attracts smaller land-managers to north-east Victoria.

Land management is a socially and economically framed practice. Carole Hollier, Program Leader says, 'As a research team we understand that lying at the centre of natural resource management is the human component, and in the past research programs have over looked this component.'

The team is currently undertaking a mixed-method study to enable them to develop and improve delivery mechanisms to the sector. A series of focus groups, unstructured and semi-structured interviews, are entered into NVivo. Michael Reid, research scientist says, 'NVivo has been a powerful tool in allowing us to mange our data and record ideas. After an interview with land-managers we take a walk around the property with a digital camera and get the land-managers to take shots of their property. NVivo allows us to place all our secondary research and qualitative research into the one program rather than having it scattered all over the place.'

In the future the research team hopes to explore the fusion of biophysical data to qualitative data. Geographical information about natural resources will be handled as attributes in NVivo. Searches will then be run to see if there was any variation in certain aspects of the qualitative data across differing bio-regions.

Michael Reid (right) from the Primary Industries Research Victoria: Rutherglen, discussing natural resource management issues of small farmers with Brian Furze (middle) from La Trobe University, and T.P. Singh (left) from India's TATA Research Institute.

Researching the needs of **disabled people** in disaster situations

Ann Norman

Investigating the needs of disabled people in flood warning and response, Ann Norman was able to offer new information and policy recommendations. The project, for her MSc at Anglia Polytechnic University, was conducted in three UK towns, focusing on the effects of flood events in 1999 and 2000 on disabled people. Her goals were to discover the needs of disabled people in flood warning and response, to consider the feasibility of measures to meet these needs and to give disabled people 'a voice', making their needs known through this report.

Data gathering was either secondary, through literature, e.g. flood research and official reports, or primary, through taped, qualitative interviews. Twenty-four disabled flood survivors, with varying physical or sensory disabilities, mental health problems or learning difficulties, were interviewed. Additionally twelve representatives of different statutory bodies providing emergency care for flood survivors were interviewed. Data were sought on participants' characteristics and vulnerability self-evaluations, flood warning received and from which source, evacuation problems compounded by varying levels of disability, and difficulties experienced in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

Tapes of these 36 qualitative interviews generated huge amounts of raw data. Data reduction and analysis was achieved with NVivo, emergent themes being coded ready for later retrieval. NVivo facilitated identification of the most important issues, considerably speeding up collation - invaluable in ordering the findings, prior to final report writing.

Participants' warning time varied from one hour to no warning at all. Warning sources included the Environment Agency's (EA)'s Automated Voice Messaging service (AVM) – automated telephone message warning of imminent flooding - local radio and weather reports, friends, family, neighbours. All participants said they needed longer warning.

Evacuation problems presented for all interviewees, requiring others' assistance, either neighbours, relatives or Emergency Services.

Temporary Accommodation problems experienced by most survivors included sparse furniture or none, steep stairs and changing levels. Most participants had either two or three moves, but one lady had five. During the drying out, refurbishment and refurnishing of their flooded homes, participants were in temporary accommodation for between five and eighteen months or more.

The increased likelihood of flooding in the 21st Century, due to climate change, highlights the need for flood preparedness to receive higher profile. Residents in risk areas, (particularly disabled residents), could become more proactive in raising their flood awareness through the following measures:

- registering with the EA's AVM system;

- vigilantly watching local weather forecasts and warnings, and instantly recognising the EA's media flood warning symbols;

- developing their own personal helping network of 3 or 4 people (both at home and work) who would know their needs in emergencies and be prepared to help;

- developing their own personal flood plans: particularly putting together and keeping an emergency kit readily available, containing: medication, torch, spare clothing, etc.

The above measures, centred on self-empowerment of people-at-risk could be considered in working towards a participatory approach to planning for flood events in the twenty-first century, ultimately perhaps better meeting disabled people's needs in flood warning and response.

NVivo was invaluable in coding masses of data and, I am sure, contributed to my gaining a Distinction for the dissertation and MSc overall! As I progress to PhD research, I shall live to be even more grateful for this great analysis tool! Heartfelt thanks to Tom and Lyn!

Pam James and Judy Hughes –

congratulations and welcome to a new training team

Pam James, Ontario Breast Cancer Community Research Initiative

Our newest trainer on the website, Pam James, recently received a Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (Ontario Chapter) two-year doctoral fellowship to examine the impact of a breast cancer diagnosis/ensuing treatment on mothers with breast cancer and their adolescent daughters. Pam, who has been working in the area of breast cancer and psycho-social research for the past 6 years, and with NVivo for four; has been with the Ontario Breast Cancer Community Research Initiative (OBC CRI) for 2 years. She has led and facilitated a number of formal and informal trainings on NVivo 2, Merge and N6 over the past three years and is currently working on a community participatory study of lesbians and breast/gynecological cancer as well as a qualitative longitudinal study, examining spirituality, religiosity and breast cancer.

Like many trainers (including us at QSR!) she has found teamwork invaluable in training. The other half of this Canadian team is a fellow PhD Candidate from the University of Toronto, Judy Hughes, who has also used NVivo over 4 years on various projects. Pam writes that Judy "has a stellar grasp of the program, and I think we work really well together. We have both found that it is so much easier to train with 2 people." Using experiential hands-on methods and research data connected to the participants' interests, they work to integrate the conceptual and epistemological frameworks of qualitative methods with the technical capabilities of qualitative software.

APHA Conference - Continued From Page 4

structured training sessions. The size, capabilities, scholar attributes, and community environments impacted on diffusion. These results are important for anyone who wants to understand why training programs are often ineffective at increasing individual and organizational capacity, specifically in the field of HIV/AIDS.

The second paper focuses on the interweaving of public health prevention principles with strategic management practice skills to enhance both HIV prevention program effectiveness and organizational viability. Scholars were asked to complete qualitative surveys that looked at their application of knowledge and skills learned during the Institute in their CBOs after they returned home. Responses were gathered in the Qualitative Survey of Costs and Benefits (telephone interviews) and in the Knowledge and Skills Integration survey (email/pencil and paper) and data analyzed using NVivo.

Scholars reported that they were able to increase their effectiveness in their jobs with improved capacity to:

1) complete community assessments,

2) engage in program planning,

3) undertake strategic planning activities revising policies and procedures, and

4) develop the knowledge and skills of colleagues at their CBO through training and other interactive activities.

Donna will be presenting her papers at APHA on Monday, November 17, 2003 (Board 8) and Wednesday, November 19, 2003 (Board 4).

"What's going on...?"

Conferences

Upcoming events include regular training in Melbourne as well as conferences and workshops.

QSR News

From time to time we send an email to announce news such as free upgrades, newsletters and new products. When you register at http://www.qsrinternational.com/register/register.html elect to be placed on the QSR News mailing list.

QSR Training

Regular events are listed on the QSR website at http://www.qsrinternational.com/events/ trainingworkshops/workshops.asp. These range from hands-on introductory workshops to work-with-your-own-project days and methods workshop-seminars.

Our next scheduled date for 2003 is a one day introductory N6 workshop to be held on Tuesday 18th November. Dates for the 2004 train the trainer week to be held in Melbourne will be announced shortly, as will the those for the NVivo workshops to be held in March.

Our regular BYO project days are held on the first Thursday of each month.

QSR has a presence at a number of conferences in the next six months:

AEA

Wednesday 5 – Saturday 8 November 2003 – Reno, USA

The Annual Meeting of the American Evaluation Association

http://wwweval.org/

APHA

Saturday 15 – Wednesday 19 November 2003 – San Francisco, USA

The American Public Health Association 131st Annual Meeting & Exposition

http://www.apha.org/meetings/

AERA

Monday 12 – Friday 16 April 2004 - San Diego, USA

American Education Research Association Annual Meeting

http://www.aera.net/meeting/

QSR is also proud to support the following conferences in the next six months:

ARE & AARE

Saturday 29 November – Wednesday 3 December 2003 – Auckland, NZ

The NZ Association of Research in Education & Australian Association of Research in Education Conference 2003

QUIG

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 January 2004 – Athens, USA

The Qualitative Interest Group

http://www.coe.uga.edu/quig

AQM

Thursday 29 – Saturday 31 January 2004 – Alberta, Canada

"Advances in Qualitative Methods" 5th International Interdisciplinary Conference

http://www.qualitative.institute @ualberta.ca

Workshops & Seminars

Too many to mention here! For more details and an updated list, please see Training/Workshops on the QSR website at http://www.qsrinternational.com/events/trainingworkshops/workshops.asp

Website

The projects and researchers pages have been given a new look with different features now on both pages. The projects page now contains links to research being conducted in the areas of evaluation, health and gender studies around the world, http://www.qsrinternational.com/userprojects/projects/projects.htm

Our featured researchers are a team from Argentina working in the field of health. http://www.qsrinternational.com/userprojects/researchers/researchers.htm

On other parts of the site some links have been changed to help users access the pages they want more easily.