

First steps in grounded theory

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Abstract

This essay review my first steps in grounded theory and aim to focus the research on Wikipedia and gender in this frame. In the first part I present my understanding on grounded theory and in the second part I am going to explore what can I use in my research and what should be my next move in grounded theory.

Beginning with grounded theory

This is the first time in my life that someone mentioned to me the grounded theory. I am following the 4th edition of Corbin and Strauss (2015) and a digital 3th edition of Corbin and Strauss (2008) and if I want to catch up with this, better I learn fast.

In the 4th edition of my book Corbin and Strauss (2015) I read that grounded theory is a “form of qualitative research” (page 4) and that this kind of research has relevance beyond the academia (page 10). I am working to identify why women participate less in Wikipedia and this is something that I don’t want just understand but change, and I imagine my project team too, even if I didn’t meet them.

My previous experience

I had a conversation with a librarian, because I analyse 8.500 ideas from the library world in a project called *IFLA Global Vision Ideas Store* of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions IFLA (n.d.) . My colleague suggested me to use *AtlasTI* and I knew about that software before, but I was not sure what was the main propose of this tool. Maybe I made a craft work on grounded theory without knowing.

I noticed that in the third edition Corbin and Strauss (2008) reference *MAXQDA* (page 620) and I try to follow examples and tutorials of these tools. My thesis director suggested me to work on interviews to male editors, because in previous versions of the research they talked to female editors, documented in the presen-

tation by Meneses Naranjo (2018) and I need to collect and analyse data, so the methodology developed by Corbin and Strauss (2015) seems fit here (page 7).

I am a free software user and I want to develop my research using open science principles. I started reviewing free software (free meaning of freedom) to make this research reproducible.

Concerns

“I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.” Abraham Maslow’s law of the hammer

My main concern is if try to solve everything with grounded theory, because I feel I don’t know many other methodologies and maybe I am biased because my lack of knowledge. I believe as more I learn about grounded theory the more I will understand the limits and scope of it.

My research on Wikipedia and gender on grounded theory

I am joining a project and I understand the general aspects of this research, but I still have to work on how I fit in the team. After I watched some videos on grounded theory I noticed the question is key and I learn about the power of a good question in my master degree - Ramírez-Ordóñez (2014) -.

My thesis director suggested me the following questions Ferran-Ferrer and Meneses Naranjo (2019):

- If only 12% of people editing Wikipedia are women, what are the reasons for this bias in Spanish Wikipedia? What can we do to compensate it?
- Having in mind that women have less persistence than men, what are the motives make them stop contributing Spanish Wikipedia and why they do it before?
- What is the role of *WikiQuedadas* in the promotion of participation of women in the edition process? Does it contribute to the learning of the use of Wikipedia? Does it help to build the arguments needed to avoid the refuse of their contributions? What happens to female editors when these meetings for collective editions finished?

These are some of the questions I will be working on.

Conclusion

I want to try grounded theory, but keep an eye on other ways to solve this problem to see if there is a bias in my research methodology. It seems grounded theory is like swim: you just learn it doing it, so even if this is the first time I know of this concept, I can read and follow books, but the sooner I started with the practice in my own research the better.

My first reading on grounded theory suggested this is not just for the analysis, but actually I should try to research to understand and change behaviours.

References

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