

Application

The two Co-occurrence Tools are very useful for many kinds of analysis. But not all options make sense for all type of data. If you have a smaller data set like a typical interview study with 10 to 20 respondents, then taking a look at the frequency count for exploratory purposes is likely to provide some new ideas and you may gain new insights. The c-coefficient is useful when working with larger amounts of cases and structured data like open-ended questions from surveys. If you use the c-index, pay attention to the additional colored hints. As your data base is qualitative, the c-coefficient is not the same as for instance a Pearson correlation coefficient and therefore also no p-values are provided.

In any case, co-occurrence measures need to be clearly understood, not only for the mechanical but also for semantic issues involved in their meaningful interpretation (e. g., mixed application of codes with different level like broader and sub terms). Furthermore, you need to be aware of the artifacts enforced by a table approach like being reduced to a pairwise comparison. Higher order co-occurrences which would take more than two codes into account need more elaborate methods.

References: [Garcia \(2004\) http://www.miislita.com/semantics/c-index-1.html](http://www.miislita.com/semantics/c-index-1.html)

Codes-Primary Documents Cross-Tabulation

Even though a bit hidden, a further analysis tool with an emphasis on quantitative output is the **CODES-PRIMARY-DOCUMENTS-TABLE**. You find this option under the **ANALYSIS** menu and under **CODES / OUTPUT**.

The table is available as internal report within ATLAS.ti in text format, or can be exported to Excel. The internal report displays all PDs as columns and the codes as rows.

The table contains either a frequency count for each code or code family per document or document family, or a word count of the coded segments per code and primary document.

A useful application is a comparison across different groups of documents for a particular category of codes. Thus, you are likely to create such a table if you have a certain research question in your mind. This will guide you to create the code and PD families you need to construct your query.

Example Query

Based on the Happiness Stage II project that can be accessed via the Help / Quick Tour menu, we can compare statements that express either a positive or negative effect of parenting across different groups. For this purpose two code families grouping all codes about positive and negative parenting effects have been created.

To open the tool, select **ANALYSIS / CODES-PRIMARY DOCUMENTS TABLE** from the main menu.

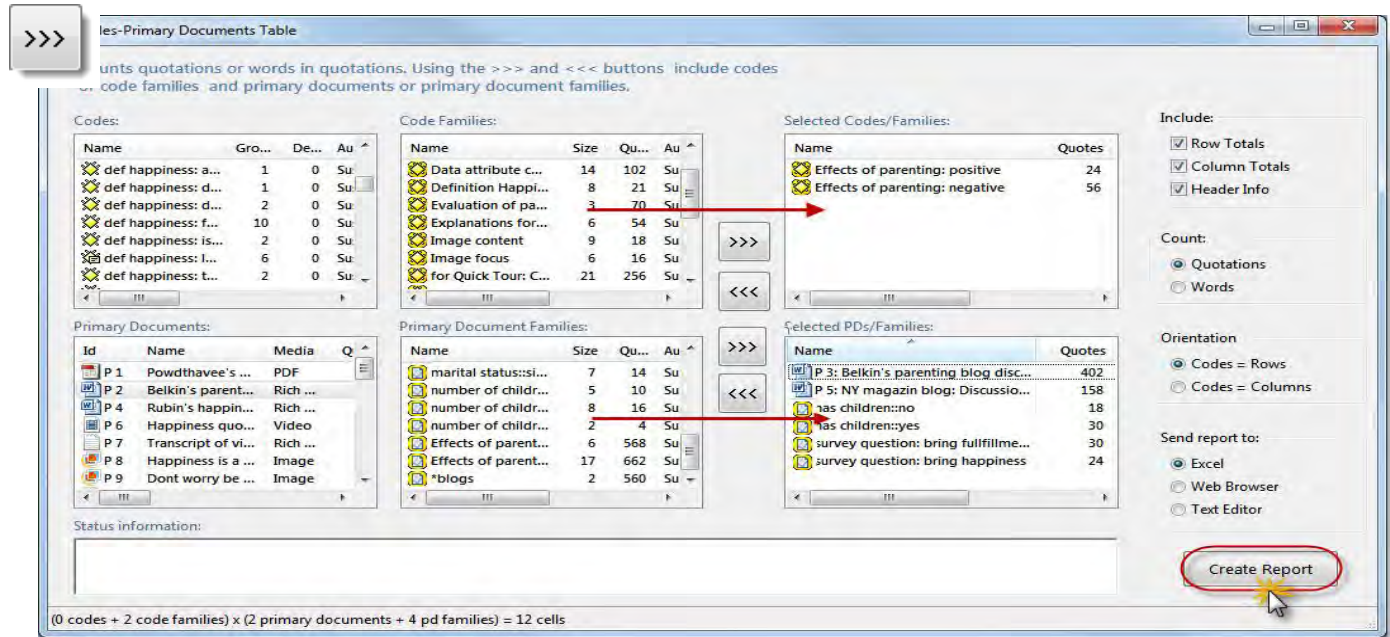


Figure 261: Setting options for the Codes-Primary-Documents-Table

Select these two code families “Effects of parenting: positive” and “Effects of parenting: negative” from the list. Either double-click on the items to move them into the selection list, or click on the button with the arrows pointing to the right.

Select the following documents and document families and move them into the selection list:

- P3: Belkin's parenting blog discussion
- P5, the New York magazin blog discussion
- survey respondents with children
- survey respondents without children
- survey respondents that answered the question about happiness with either: “children bring happiness” or “children bring fulfillment”

On the right hand side of the window, set the options as shown in Figure 261: Count: Quotation / Orientation: Codes – Rows / Send report to: Excel.

Click on the button **Create Report**.

Before the table opens in Excel, you will be asked to convert the exported results. Confirm the message.

	P 3: Belkin's parenting blog discussion	P 5: NY magazin blog discussion	has children no	has children yes	survey question: bring fulfillment & purpose	survey question: bring happiness	TOTALS:
Effects of parenting: negative	23	13	4	8	9	5	62
Effects of parenting: positive	16	4	2	2	3	1	28
TOTALS:	39	17	6	10	12	6	90

Figure 262: Formatted Excel output of a codes-primary-documents-table

Across all groups, we find more negative than positive statements.

Include:

Row Totals

Column Totals

Header Info

Count:

Quotations

Words

Orientation

Codes = Rows

Codes = Columns

Send report to:

Excel

Web Browser

Text Editor

Output Options

You can set the following output options:

To include the calculation of the row and column totals.

To include header information that provides information when the table was created, by whom (currently logged in user), and which items where selected.

The table cells can either show the quotation count or word count per code or code family.

You can decide whether the codes should appear in the rows or in the columns of the table.

The report can be displayed in a simple text editor or in Excel. The text editor is only suitable for small tables. The Web Browser option is not yet available in Version 7.0.

Calculating Inter-Coder Reliability Using CAT

Some programs offer rudimentary forms of inter-coder reliability calculation as an internal tool, but we have found CAT, a free external tool, to an excellent addition to ATLAS.ti. Being that it is free, very easy to handle, closely integrated with the ATLAS.ti data format and sporting powerful