ATLAS.ti Mobile for Android User Manual
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Introduction

ATLAS.ti, the powerful workbench for the qualitative analysis of large bodies of textual, graphical, audio, and video data has now received another companion—ATLAS.ti Mobile for Android. With this app you can begin to collect and analyze data wherever you are and can take your tablet or smartphone along. Perhaps you want a work on a document while on a long train, plane or boat ride. Email it to yourself so it is available on your tablet. Add it to an ATLAS.ti Mobile project, read it, write comments, and perform coding work. You can later merge the result with your existing ATLAS.ti desktop project.

Supported file formats are text, images, audio and video files (for details, see “Adding Documents” on page 12 below)
Main Concepts And Features

ATLAS.ti Mobile utilizes the same concepts as you know them from your desktop application: Primary documents, quotations, codes and memos. If you are not familiar with them yet, please read this section.

The most basic level of an ATLAS.ti project consist of the documents that you want to analyze.

Quotations are your selections from the documents.

On the next level, codes (equivalent to “tags” or keywords) are applied to quotations.

In addition you can write down your thoughts and ideas in comments and memos. Comments are always attached to a specific object; in ATLAS.ti Mobile that would be either quotations or codes. Memos are independent objects; think of them as pages of a note pad for writing more extended text.

Documents

ATLAS.ti mobile for Android supports the analysis of text, image, audio and video files. These documents are always stored independently of your ATLAS.ti project file. This becomes relevant when importing the mobile project to your desktop version. In the desktop version, the term primary documents or P-Docs is used. The two terms, however, refer to the same thing—the documents you are analyzing in your project.

Quotations

A quotation is a segment from a document that is interesting or important to the analyst. In textual documents, a quotation is an arbitrary sequence of characters that can range in size from a single character, to a word, a sentence, a paragraph, up to the entire data file. In audio- and video documents, you mark quotations on the audio wave form; in image documents you mark a rectangular area.

Usually quotations are created by the researcher. Although creation of quotations is almost always part of a broader task, “free” quotations can be created that indicate interesting parts in the primary data for which a meaningful classification has not yet been found. Free quotations resemble notes "scribbled" in the margin of a book.

The Android app offers an interesting new feature: If you use the recording feature of the app and notice something interesting while you record, when
pressing the “Live Quotation” button the app creates a quotation for you while you record.

Quotations As Layers
Quotations are stored inside the project file, independent of the document to which they belong.

Quotations can be regarded as a transparent layer overlaid on top of a document. From a technical standpoint, a quotation consists of a name and a pair of coordinates that specify the beginning and end of the quotation. The content a document is therefore not altered by the creation, deletion, or modification of quotations.


Codes

The term “code” is used in many different ways in everyday and professional life. First we would like to define what that term means in qualitative research and then in ATLAS.ti.

From a methodological standpoint, codes serve a variety of purposes. They capture meaning in the data. They also serve as handles for specific occurrences in the data that cannot be found by simple text-based search techniques.

Codes are used as classification devices at different levels of abstraction in order to create sets of related information units for the purpose of comparison.

From a "low level" tool perspective, codes are typically short pieces of text referencing other pieces of text, graphical, audio, or video data. Their purpose is to classify a frequently large number of textual or other data units.

In the realm of information retrieval systems, the terms “tag,” “index,” or “keyword” are often used for what we call "code" or "coding."

For practical purposes, the length of a code should be restricted and should not be too verbose. If textual annotations are what you want, you should use quotation comments instead.

Memos

Memos capture your thoughts regarding your data and your project and are an important device for project management and writing up analysis.

In ATLAS.ti Mobile, memos are 'standalone' objects. Once you transfer your mobile project to the desktop version, you can link them to quotations, codes,
and other memos. You can sort them according to types (method, theoretical, descriptive, etc.) and group them into families.

**The following library articles are available on memos:**

## Project

Your ATLAS.ti project consists of two things: A project file plus the documents you add to a project. Thus, the project file itself (in most cases) does not actually contain your documents. You will notice this when exporting your mobile project; there will be a project file plus a folder that contains your documents. ATLAS.ti will know what to do with this file and folder. Thus, you do not have to be concerned about it – the only thing you shouldn’t do is to delete the additional folder. If you are already familiar with the desktop version of ATLAS.ti, the exported project is similar to a copy bundle file.

---

1 The only exception is if you add text files as internal documents. In this case your project file also contains these documents.
Main Steps In Working With ATLAS.ti

The diagram below illustrates the main steps of working with ATLAS.ti Mobile, starting with the creation of a project, adding documents, identifying interesting things in the data and coding them. Memos and comments can be written at any stage of the process.

Once your data is coded, it is ready to be queried. ATLAS.ti mobile offers simple queries based on a single code. For more complex queries, you need to import your mobile project to the desktop version. The insights gained from working with and querying your data can then be visualized using the ATLAS.ti network view function in the desktop version.

Some steps must be taken in sequence, like creating a project first, adding documents, and noticing interesting things in your data that you comment on or code.

But other than that there are no strict rules.

General Steps
The following sequence of steps is, of course, not mandatory, but describes a common "script:"

---

**Figure 1: Workflow when working with ATLAS.ti mobile**

- Creating a project
- Adding documents
- Identifying relevant data segments
- Coding / Writing comments and memos
- Simple Queries
- Export to ATLAS.ti (desktop)
- Creating families
- Sorting & structuring
- Analyzing & Querying data
- Developing models & Visualize

---
Create a project (see “Creating A New Project” on page 11). It serves as an “idea container,” and encloses your data, all your findings, codes, memos, and structures under a single name.

Next, add documents, text, graphic, audio and video files to your ATLAS.ti project. See “Adding Documents” in page 12.

Read and select text passages or identify areas in an image or select segments in your audio or video file that are of further interest, assign key words (codes), and write comments and memos that contain your thinking about the data. See “Creating Quotations” on page 21 / “Working With Codes” on page 34 / Working With Memos on page 40.

Compare data segments based on the codes you have assigned; possibly add more data files to the project. Review your data and retrieve coded segments. See “Browsing Quotations For A Code” on page 36.

Export your mobile project to do further work in the desktop version, like grouping objects by families, sorting and structuring your codes list, asking more complex questions using the various analytical tools, and build semantic, prepositional or terminological networks from the codes you have created. See “Project Export And Import” on page 43.
Start A New Mobile Project

Creating A New Project

1. Open ATLAS.ti Mobile for Android and press the **ADD PROJECT** button (step 1).

2. Enter a name and press **DONE** (step 2). If you want to use a code list from another project, tap 'Select a project', select a project and then press **DONE**.

   ![Image of adding a new project](image)
   
   Figure 2: Adding a new project

The project information page opens. You can now begin to add documents.

You may, however, also skip this first step of adding a project and immediately begin with adding documents. During the process of adding a document, you have the choice to add it to an existing project or to create a new one.

The Project Manager

The project manager provides an overview of your project including information like number of documents, quotations, codes and memos, an overview map of the documents' geo locations, and access to your documents, quotations, codes and memos. Further you can access the project settings, export or delete a project, or import codes from another project.
Tap the document / quotations / code or memo button to access the corresponding objects.

Tap the tree dots, also referred to as overflow menu, in the action bar to access further project related options (see Figure 3).

**Saving The Project**

The project does not have to be saved explicitly. All changes are saved immediately.

**Adding Documents**

ATLAS.ti Mobile for Android supports the following document formats: Plain text, image, audio, and video. There are two ways of adding documents to your ATLAS.ti Mobile projects:

- Via the **ACTION BAR** in the app. You can import existing images, audio, video and text files or create new ones.
- Via the **SHARE OR EXPORT** options from other apps.

**Adding Documents Using The Action Bar**

Select one of the four options to either create or import an image, audio, video, or text file.
Importing Existing Documents

- Images can be imported from Google Drive, Dropbox, the Gallery or Photos app.
- Audio files can be imported from Google Drive, Dropbox or other apps that contain audio files.
- Videos can be imported from Google Drive, Dropbox, the Gallery or Photos app.
- Text can be imported from Google Drive, Dropbox and Quickoffice, or added via copy and paste to an existing text document.

For instance, select the option `Import picture`.

Select one of the offered apps (this may vary depending on which apps you have installed).

If you have opened a project, you will see the `Add Document to Project` screen. Accept the suggested name or enter a new one:

```
Add document to City Gardening project
arch-day-urban-farming-new-york-rooftop
  ▶️  ▼️  Done  Cancel
```

```
Figure 5: Adding image, audio, video and text documents
```

Press `Done` to add the document to a project.

If no project is currently selected, you see the following screen:
START A NEW MOBILE PROJECT

Tap the field with the default entry 'Create a new project'. If projects already exist, the list of projects will show in the drop down menu.

Create a new project or select an existing project.

Next, enter a name for the document or accept the suggested one.

Press Done to add the document.

Creating New Documents

Take A New Photo

Tap the Camera button and select Take Picture. This opens the camera of your Android device and you can a photo as usual. If you like the photo, tap the check mark; otherwise tap the Retake button.

If you want to use the photo, you will see the Add Document to Project screen. Enter a name and tap Done.

Record Audio

Tap the Microphone button and then select the Record Audio option. This opens the Audio Recorder.

Press the Record button (big red circle). The circle turns into a square. To end the recording, tap on the red square.
Enter a name for the new audio document. Then select **Done**.

**CREATING QUOTATIONS WHILE YOU RECORD**

If you notice something interesting while you listening to a person or group talking, you can create quotations at the spur of the moment. And this is how it works:

- Press the **Live Quotation** button. When pressed, it turns light blue. The resulting quotation is as long as you hold down the button. If you just tap it very shortly, you only set a marker in your audio file (i.e. a very short quotation).

**Record Video**

- Tap the **Camcorder** button and then select the **Record Video** option. This opens the camera of your Android device and you begin to record a video as usual. If you like the video, tap the check mark; otherwise tap the **Retake** button.

If you want to use the video, you will see the **Add Document to Project** screen. Enter a name and tap **Done**.
Add A New Text Document

1. Tap the Text button and then select the Create Text option.
2. You see the Add Document to Project screen. Enter a name and tap Done.

A new empty text file has been added to your project, which you can access via the document manager (see below for more information on the document manager).

EDITING TEXT DOCUMENTS

1. Tap the Edit button to enter edit mode. When you are done, tap the check mark.

Adding Documents Or Text From Other Apps

You can add text, audio, video, and image documents from other apps to your ATLAS.ti Mobile projects.

To do so, open the app that contains the document you want to add, and locate the 'Share' or 'Export' button by tapping on the three dots in the Android action bar.

The apps to chose from are of course dependent on what you have installed on your Android device. You can also select a text and share it with ATLAS.ti. It will be added as new text document.
Select the Share or Export option. You will then be taken back into ATLAS.ti Mobile, where you can choose to add the document to a new or existing project. Tap the field with the default entry ‘Create a new project’. If projects already exist, the list of projects will show in the drop down menu.

After creating a new or selecting an existing project, enter a name for the document or accept the suggested one.

Press **Done** to add the document to a project.

**Document Manager**

Tap the document button to view the list of documents that have been added to a project.

At the bottom right-hand side of each document, you see the Information button and the Further Options button:

If you tap the information button, further information for the document is displayed either on the right-hand side of your screen, or at the bottom of the screen, depending on how you have rotated your device.
Tap the comment area to add or modify the document's comments.

If quotations had been created, you could also review the list of quotations for this document. We will get to this later.

Commenting, Renaming Or Deleting A Document

Tap the Further Options button to write a comment for the document, to rename or to delete it from the project:

Working With Documents

To open a document, simply tap on it:
The panel to the right-hand side / bottom of your screen, can be swiped to the left. By default the document info is displayed. If a geo tag is available, the location will be shown on a map (see Figure 16).

- If the document is not geo tagged yet, you can add a tag by tapping the **ADD LOCATION** button.
- You can also read, add or modify document comments in this view. Tap the comment area to do so.
- If you swipe the panel to the left, you see the list of quotations (currently none).
- Swiping again shows the list of codes that have been applied to this document.

We will return to these options later (see Working With Codes on page 34). Currently, there are no entries as I first need to show you how to create quotations and code them.

**Geo Tags**

If your documents contain geographical information, you can view the location on a map. Prerequisite is that you have given the respective apps permission to tag your documents.

If available, the location is immediately shown on a map if you open a document.
On May 30, the Horticultural Society of New York will host its fourth annual Urban Agriculture Conference. While the event is citywide, there will be three demonstrations and workshops held in Long Island City and Astoria from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

At Smiling Hogshead Ranch, located at 26 Davis Court in Long Island City, participants will learn how "container gardening" can develop alternative gardenscapes to grow abundant, healthy food in limited spaces. At Build it Green! Astoria, located at 03-17 26 Ave., a workshop titled "Composting & Soil Management" will offer a firsthand view of small- and large-scale composting operations and techniques to maximize the complex ecosystem underneath crops.

Nearby, Boswyk Farms, located at 16-09 Dekalb Ave. in Brooklyn, will sponsor "Hydro & Aquaponics," a workshop that aims to show how alternative designs, new technology and sustainable systems support high productivity.

Figure 16: Document with geo tag

Switch Between Full Screen Or Document + Side Panel View

To switch between full screen or document + side panel view, tap the following button that you find at the bottom right of the document:

Figure 17: Full screen view
Creating Quotations

Open a document and flick the panel on the right hand side (or bottom of the screen) to the left, so that you can see the quotations area:

As there are no quotations yet, you find instructions on how to create quotations in the side panel:

To Create Text Quotations

To create a quotation in a text document, long press on a word in the text, edit the selection by dragging the handles to the desired start and end positions.

At Smiling Hogshead Ranch, located at 26 Davis Court in Long Island City, participants will learn how container gardening can develop alternative gardenscapes to grow abundant, healthy food in limited spaces.

Tab the Q+ button that now appears on the top right in the document area, or in the action bar.

Figure 18: Document with quotation side panel that does not contain quotations yet

Figure 19: Making a text selection
CREATING QUOTATIONS

annual Urban Agriculture Conference. While the event is citywide, there will be three demonstrations and workshops held in Long Island City and Astoria from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

At Smiling Hogshead Ranch, located at 26 Davis Court in Long Island City, participants will learn how "container gardening" can develop alternative gardenscapes to grow abundant, healthy food in limited spaces.

At Build it Green! Astoria, located at 03-17 26 Ave., a workshop titled "Composting & Soil Management" will offer a firsthand view of small-and large-scale composting operations and techniques to maximize the complex ecosystem underneath crops.

Nearby, Boswyk Farms, located at 16-09 Dekalb Ave. in Brooklyn, will sponsor "Hydro & Aquaponics," a workshop that aims to show how alternative designs, new technology and sustainable systems support high productivity.

The newly created quotation is highlighted in pink and a first quotation entry appears in the side panel.

If you continue to create quotations, existing but not selected quotations are highlighted in gray, new selections in light blue, and currently selected quotations in pink.
Modifying Text Quotations

To modify a text quotation, select it in the side panel so that it appears highlighted in pink.

Drag the handles to the desired start and end position to modify its size.

That’s all.

To Create Image Quotations

Long press anywhere in the image and drag. ATLAS.ti Mobile immediately creates a quotation from the selection. There is no need to get it “right” when drawing the frame.

You can simply move the frame to a different position or hold your finger down at one of the four corners, pull it in any direction to modify the size of the frame.

To Create Audio Quotations

In portrait orientation, you need to switch to time line view first:
CREATING QUOTATIONS

Use two fingers to zoom in and out the audio wave (pinch-to-zoom).

Position the play-head (green line) where you want the quotation to start.

Long-press on the audio wave form and pull it to the left. A quotation is immediately created when you release your finger.

You see a first entry in the side panel and the quotation is displayed at the bottom of the audio wave form:

To replay a quotation, double tap on the quotation at the bottom of the wave form or on the quotation thumb nail in the side panel.

To modify its length, long press the start or end position and drag it to the desired position.
Creating Audio Quotations While Listening

If you play the audio file, the live quotation button is displayed at the end of the time line.

Push the Q+ button and hold it. You will see that the audio wave is highlighted. Above the Q+ button you see a time counter (seconds / milliseconds). When you release the Q+ button, a quotation is created.

![Image: Creating audio quotations]

To Create Video Quotations

In portrait orientation, you need to switch to the time line view first (see Figure 24 on page 24).

In portrait orientation, you see preview images below the video; in landscape orientation, the preview images are shown on the right-hand side. The number of preview images is dependent on the length of the video and the frame rate.

For creating video quotations, I recommend portrait orientation:

- Use two fingers to zoom the time line.
- Flick the time-line area to move back and forth in your video.
- To create a quotation, long-press the time line area and pull to the right. A quotation is immediately created when you release your finger.
Double-tap the green box to play the newly created quotation to review it.

Another way to create video quotation is via the quick coding button while the video is playing:
Push the Q+ button and hold it. Above the Q+ button you see a time counter (seconds / milliseconds). When you release the Q+ button, a quotation is created.

Modifying / Adjusting The Length Of Video Quotations

The green line (play position) in the middle of the screen helps you to set your start and end positions precisely:

Flick to the desired position or stop the video at the desired position. Then pull the end / start position of the quotation to the green line.

Figure 29: Modifying a video quotation
Working With Quotations

After you have created one or more few quotations, you see a thumbnail image for each quotation in the respective side panel. Audio quotations that have been created while recording are marked with the label “LiveQ x”.

![Figure 30: Display of text, image, audio and video quotations](image)

Naming Quotations And Writing Quotation Comments

The “i” button offers you a detailed view of each quotation. You can access it underneath each thumbnail image or from the action bar after a quotation has been selected.

In detail view you can name each quotation, write a comment or add codes:
When naming video or image quotations, quotation names are displayed in the document. In video documents, they fade in and out when playing the video:

- **Press Done** (top left of the screen) to return to overview mode.

In portrait orientation you have to tap the return button on your device to close the detail view / return to overview mode.
The Overflow Menus

Click the overflow menu for each quotation to write a comment, to rename the quotation, to edit it in context, to switch to detail view or to delete it:

![Overflow menu for quotations](image)

Figure 33: Overflow menu for quotations

The overflow menu in the action bar offers the following options:

![Overflow menu of action bar](image)

Figure 34: Overflow menu of action bar

You can hide the quotation markers / names in the document, i.e. highlighting color in text documents, frames in images, quotation names in videos.

The dynamic quotation list can be switched on for text, image and audio files. The list of displayed quotations automatically adjusts to where you are in the document.
Deleting Quotations

Quotations can be deleted at various places in the app:

In Overview Mode, you can tap the information button and select the delete option (see Figure 33 on page 30).

In Detail View, you have access to the bin at two places: from the action bar and from within the detail view.

![Figure 35: Deleting a quotation](image)

You can also select a quotation in context and click on the Delete button in the action bar at the top right-hand side of your screen:
Another place where you can delete quotations is in the Quotation Manager via the Overflow menu:

![Deleting audio and video quotations in context](image1)

Figure 36: Deleting audio and video quotations in context

![Deleting image and text quotations in context](image2)

Figure 37: Deleting image and text quotations in context
The Quotation Manager

To access the Quotation Manager, press the Quotations tap (see left).

The Quotation Manager provides a list of all quotations sorted by document. If a quotation is coded, the code is displayed underneath the quotation name.

The available options are the same as described in the section Working With Quotations. If you tap the 'i' button, the detail view of the quotation is displayed. If you tap the overflow menu, the available options are to comment, rename, edit, delete or view quotation details (see Figure 38 above).
Working With Codes

Coding Data

You can code quotations in detail view:

- Select a quotation in the quotation manager or in the side panel of a document and tap the “i” button.
- Tap the Codings button.
- Enter a new code and tap Add, or select an existing one. Tap Use codes.

You can select multiple codes from the code list by simply tapping on each code. The code field turns gray. A second tap removes the selection.

Adding Code Color

To add a code color: Tap the overflow menu, either in the code selection screen, in quotation detail view or in the The Code Manager.
The code colors are displayed on top of the quotation thumbnails:

![Figure 41: Display of code colors in quotation thumbnails](image)

You have a choice of 7 colors:

![Figure 42: Available code colors](image)

Within image, audio and video files:
Browsing Quotations For A Code

You can browse quotations either in the code panel (next to a document in landscape orientation / below a document in portrait orientation), or the The Code Manager.

Click on the "i" button, or select the option **SHOW DETAILS** in the overflow menu.
Tap a quotation to view it in context. Tap the return button on your device to return to the list.

Figure 46: Opening the quotation browser

Importing Existing Code Lists

You can share code list across different projects that you have created within the Android App. To do so:

- Tap the overflow menu on the action bar and select the option **IMPORT CODES**.
- Select a project whose codes you want to use and press **DONE**.
The Code Manager

To access the Code Manager, press the Codes tab in the action bar.

You can use the Code Manager for the following activities:
- to create new codes
- to add code colors
- to write code definitions (comments for a code)
- to rename or delete a code
- and to browse quotations.

All of these options are described elsewhere in the Working with Codes chapter.

Writing Code Comments

To enter a definition or description for a code (see also page 40), open the Code Manager and select Comment from the overflow menu, or flick to the Codes panel next to / below a document and select Comment from the overflow menu there.
Deleting Codes

It is only possible to delete codes in the Code Manager (see page 38).
Working With Memos

Writing memos is an important task in every phase of the qualitative analysis process. The ideas captured in memos are often the “pieces of a puzzle” that are later put together in the phase of report writing. Theory-building, often associated with building networks, also can involve the use of memos.

Difference Between Memos And Codes

Code names are (or should be) succinct, dense descriptors for concepts emerging during the stage of closely studying the data. They often reduce complex findings to crisp placeholders and/or theoretically relevant concepts.

Beginners often stuff lengthy treatises into a code name, blurring the distinction between codes, comments, and memos and thereby mistaking codes for their more appropriate siblings.

If you find yourself using more than a few words as code word, consider making use of the code comment field to describe the code more extensively, or if you have some thoughts on the data segment you are coding, write your thoughts into the quotation comment field.

Like codes, memos have names. Just like code names, a memo’s title should be short, concise, and descriptive. Don’t confuse the name with its content!

How Memos And Comments Differ

Memos are similar to comments in that both are intended to hold lengthy texts, as opposed to codes that are simply naming a concept. Comments exclusively belong to one entity. They are not displayed separately from the object to which they belong.

Writing Memos

The Memo Manager currently allows you to add, edit and delete memos.

- Open the Memo Manager. You can immediately start typing your memo on the line that says: Enter memo....
- Once you are done writing, click on the Add button. This opens the editor.
The default title is *memo*. The title is written above the blue line, the memo content on the gray box below.

As you are not asked to enter a title first and you can immediately begin to write, but only on one line, I recommend that you type a few words and tap the Add button. Then continue to write in the memo editor.

- Tap the ATLAS.ti icon to return to the Memo Manager.
- Tap on a memo in the list to edit or to continue writing it.
Deleting Memos

- Tap the overflow menu in the Memo Manager to delete a memo.
Project Export And Import

Exporting A Mobile Project

To continue your work in the desktop version, e.g., to run more sophisticated analysis, to link various objects, or to create network views, export your Mobile project.

To export your project, tap the overflow menu in the action bar and select the option **Export**.

Depending on the size of the documents, it may take a couple of minutes to export a project. Tap **Continue**. You will see a small ATLAS.ti icon in the notification bar (top left) or your device. You can continue to work while the project is being exported.

A small green check mark indicates that the export is completed. The project is now stored on your device in “.hprm” format.

To send the project to a desktop computer that has ATLAS.ti desktop installed, pull down the notification bar and tap “Project exported to:”

The Export Notification screen opens:

![Exported ATLAS.ti mobile project in the notification bar](image)
Tap **SHARE**. You can now copy the file to your dropbox or any other cloud or connected drive.

You can also access the file via a file explorer on your device. If your device is connected to a computer via USB, you can also copy and paste it to a folder on your computer. You can find your exported projects in the *ATLAS.ti/Export* folder.

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### Importing A Mobile Project To ATLAS.ti Desktop

In ATLAS.ti select the option **PROJECT / Import ATLAS.ti iPad/Android Project**.

Alternatively, you can drag and drop the “.hprm” file onto the ATLAS.ti window. You do not need to create a new Hermeneutic Unit first. Just drag the file onto the title bar of the currently opened HU. ATLAS.ti will create a new HU from your Android project.