

COMPARING RESULTS FROM CONSTANT COMPARATIVE AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE METHODS: A REFLECTION ABOUT QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

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This study compared qualitative research results obtained by manual constant comparative analysis with results obtained by computer software analysis of the same data. An investigation about issues of trustworthiness and accuracy ensued. Results indicated that the inductive constant comparative data analysis generated 51 codes and two coding levels of increasing specificity, and the deductive Tropes computer software analysis generated 728 codes and six coding levels of increasing specificity. The constant comparative data analysis results confirmed previous research, but were restricted in scope by human cognitive limits and dataset size. The computer software enabled data analysis and presentation in much more depth, but required much more knowledge about the phenomenon being investigated to facilitate accurate interpretation of results.