Coding in NVivo

Coding your sources in NVivo is a way to attach references to specific concepts not limited to topics, themes, persons, locations, or observations. Many types of sources can be coded and brought together in a single node. A node is a collection of referenced material with similar themes, concepts, or ideas and helps researchers generate ideas to identify patterns and theories in research material.

This resource includes the following topics:
- Steps for coding sources
- Additional resources

Learning Objectives
After you complete this resource, you will be able to code in NVivo, attaching topics, themes, and observations to nodes.

Steps for Coding Sources

Step 1: Double click Internal Sources to view sources in List View; then choose a source from List View to open in the Detail View.
Step 2: In Detail View, you can code by right-clicking on highlighted content. Highlight the content you want to attach to a theme, pattern, or idea. Click Code to create a new node, or Code to Recent Node to attach content to a previously created node.

Step 3: Click New Node.
Step 4: Name the node that it identifies (e.g., the theme, pattern, or idea that has emerged in your data).
Step 5: Return to your Detail View to highlight more content. Repeat Steps 1 through 4. In Step 2, create new nodes, or choose Code to Recent Node to attach similar ideas or themes to nodes already created.

Congratulations – You are ready to code in NVivo!

Additional Resources

- Free one-on-one tutoring for NVivo concepts and help is available in the Academic Skills Center to students currently enrolled in Walden University courses.
  - Students needing support with doctoral proposal or capstone data should attend qualitative methodology office hours in the Center for Research Quality.
- Subscribe to the ASC’s Savvy Student newsletter, a one-page monthly email with updates about current and new tips and resources.