	NVIVO	MAXQDA	DEDOOSE	ATLAS.TI
ORGANIZE				
Import of text	RTF, TXT, DOC, PDF	RTF, TXT, DOC, PDF	RTF, TXT, DOC	RTF, TXT, DOC, PDF
PDF	Import either as externals, or as internals. Internals can be coded. Externals have to be organized by the user, cannot be coded.	Import or linked. Either can be coded in MAXQDA. Software creates library with backup copies.	Import	Linked. Either can be coded in ATLAS.TI. Software creates library with backup copies.
Video & Audio	Supported	Supported	Supported; pay per minute imported	Supported
Transcription	Integrated transcription tool, but not mouse-free; import with time stamps	Integrated transcription tool; import with time stamps from f4	Transcription possible, but not mouse-free & somewhat clunky	Integrated transcription tool; ; import with time stamps from f4
File Organization	Central project file, full access to the file itself	Central project file, full access to the file itself	Central project file, only access to export	Central project file, full access to the file itself
Folder Layering	Multiple layers	One layer of folders	No folders	No folders; organization in families
Variables	Yes. Built for having multiple sets of variables for different data.	Yes. Somewhat clunky handling & organization of variables.	Yes. Good integration & workflow, also allows for different data points under one variable.	Via document organization in families, thus somewhat more limited than the other 3 programs
Tables	Excellent visualization & access.	New feature, basic functionality.	n/a	n/a
Images	Yes, sections can be coded & annotated. Very powerful table for annotating images densely.	Yes, sections can be coded & annotated.	Only as parts of text documents, but prone to crashing	Yes, sections can be coded & annotated.
ANNOTATE				
Coding	Somewhat sluggish; poor visualization. Basic colors available. Multiple coding trees can be organized in different folders. No weight available.	Smooth and responsive; excellent visualization. Excessive color options & tools to use colors. New feature: coding with icons (somewhat gimmicky). One coding tree. Coding weights available.	Somewhat clunky 2-step process of creating a snippet and then adding codes. Automatic coding colors. Coding weights can have extended functionality. Coding tree easily visually overloaded; coding tree organization somewhat tedious.	Smooth and responsive, good visualization. One coding tree. Coding tree is non-hierarchical, and family-based instead. In effect, handling of massive amounts of codes can overload the visual accessibility.
Memos	Memos can be coded; each item can have one memo attached to it, and one memo can be attached once. Multiple linking options available (see below). Visualization of memos in the text poor. No limit on memo length. Basic word processing in memos.	Excellent visualization of memos in-text. Indefinite number of memos can be attached to instances of data, but only one to a document as a whole, or a code as a whole. Memos can only be coded as a whole, not more fine-grained as in NVIVO. No limit on memo length. Basic word processing in memos; code classes available, time stamp insertion available.	Excellent visualization of memos in-text. Indefinite number of memos can be attached to instances of data. Multiple memos can be attached to one item (including memos themselves). Memos cannot be viewed simultaneously to the data.	Both comments (i.e. localized memos) and memos feature excellent word processing features. No limit to memo length. Via network functions and family organization, memos can be interlinked with multiple elements in the database. Memos can be interlinked with other memos, comments, and codings.
Hyperlinking	Elaborate functions available (hyperlinks, see also links, relationships that can be transformed to nodes)	Hyperlinks available	n/a	Hyperlinks available

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SEARCHING & RETREIVING	Complex searches; menus somewhat dated; incudes wizard though. Results viewed in separate tab that can be detached to buffer de-contextualization.	Complex searches; menu slightly clunky. Very quick simple searches. Results viewed on the same screen as data. Information on snippets incudes weight & position, as well as attached memos. Extremely efficient & effective re-contextualization (seeing the result in context)	Complex searches; selecting the scope of the search somewhat tedious. Display of results contains information on linked memos and other linked codes. De-contextualization does not allow for seeing the excerpt and the original data at the same time.	Complex searches; menu slightly clunky. Very quick simple searches. Co-occurrences can be found using automatically generated c-coefficient.
Word search	Yes. Quantification options available	Yes. Quantification options available (in MAXQDAplus version). Auto-coding and semi-auto coding available.	Yes. But not across documents/sources.	Yes. Quantification options available Auto-coding and semi-auto coding available.
EXPORT & DISPLAY				
Export	Numbering in export not consistent with in-software enumeration. Excellent options for export of interlinked objects. All items exportable.	Numbering consistent in software & export. Allows for breaking text into line numbers. Standard automatic enumeration in paragraphs. Excellent options for export of interlinked objects. All items exportable.	Numbering in export not consistent with in-software enumeration. Enumeration in paragraphs can be displayed in software, but not in exports. Excellent options for export of interlinked objects. All items exportable.	Numbering consistent in software & export. Excellent output options including coding strips. Excellent options for export of interlinked objects. All items exportable.
Visualization	Various options.	Various options, including visualizations drawing heavily on code coloring.	Various options, extensively for integration of variables; easy access to a variety visualization options	Various options.
Mapping tools	Yes, but clunky.	Yes, but clunky.	No.	Tightly integrated. By far the best integration of a mapping tool of any QDA software.
Overall design	Menus are redundant, overall the design does not make good use of the screen space. Dated design and hard to learn intuitively.	Efficient use of space, all relevant pieces of a project can be seen on one screen. Easiest to learn.	Often many clicks are necessary to do simple tasks. Dated design, and oftentimes the flash-based design gets in its own way.	Good use of space, use of space is customizable. Some menus such as the query tool and the family managers seem a bit dated in design.
Price	around 670	around 570	around 11/ month plus cost for audio & video data	Around 670
Platform	PC & MAC (mac version missing some features)	PC & MAC (mac & win projects not directly compatible)	PC, MAC, Linux (browser-based, requires online connection)	PC & MAC
Documentation	Excellent. Good user forum	Excellent. Good user forum	Poor. Vital details are not given. User forum not functional.	Excellent. Good selection of guides and materials.

	NVIVO	*DEDOOSE*	*MAXQDA*	*ATLAS.TI*
Textual data	Tier 2	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 1
Integration of video & audio data	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 1
Data in tables	Tier 1	n/a	Tier 2	n/a
PDFs	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 1
(Online) collaboration	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 3	Tier 2
Integration of quant data	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Organization of massive and diverse data sets	Tier 1	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 3
Learning curve	Tier 2	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 2
Coding visualization	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 1
Memo visualization & writing options	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 1
Integration of network maps	Tier 2	n/a	Tier 2	Tier 1