IMT 570 B :

ANALYTIC METHODS FOR INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

Exercise 2 : Qualitative Analysis
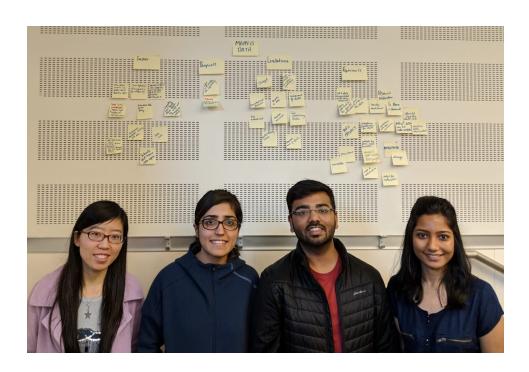
Submitted by-

Group 7

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Mapping of the data to make an affinity diagram with four clusters under which lie several keywords with similar themes. These keywords were generated from the qualitative data that we collected in the span of last 1-2 weeks.

What did you learn from this exercise?

We learnt to identify the keywords from the different sources of qualitative data that we had. We then had the challenge to group these keywords under different clusters. We learnt to differentiate between clusters, group them together if they seemed to overlap and conveyed the same idea and also break them into smaller clusters to make them more defined. This helped us in understanding the main themes of our research so that we can focus on each one of them.

What concepts did you identify?

We had two data from interviews and first identified the themes emerging from our data and then grouped them together to create broader concepts. Open data repository holds a different meaning for everybody. Thus, teaching faculties, people associated with Data Lab, PhD students, and people who don't work with data as often are some of the different **contexts** our research has to keep in mind. Privacy concerns, budget, sophisticated infrastructure, motivation for publishing are some common **limitations** to having an open data repository. On the other hand, high accessibility, storage options, secure and persistent platform, and access to data associated with PhD researches and teaching instructions are some common **requirements**.

What went wrong and how would you improve for next time?

Since the transcripts and notes were reviewed and analyzed by different individuals and each person decided some keywords from each piece of source, and this might to some extent result in filtering of certain information some others might think useful. In the future, there are some ways we can improve it.

First, as a team, each of us should have a general sense of all the sources. Specifically, one person could analyze the transcripts carefully, while the others at least have an idea about what the transcripts are about through fast reading. Second, each of us who is transforming data to information should try to keep in mind we are doing research as a team and extract information not too much subjectively. To discuss with teammates while summarizing the transcripts would also be a good solution to reduce the biased interpretation of sources.

How would you summarize this for your research findings to present to management or a client?

This activity helped us to identify the direction in which our research is progressing. After mapping the qualitative data into 4 clusters of Context, Pain points, Requirements, and Limitations, we realized some of the common concerns of the researchers are security for sensitive data, sophisticated infrastructure and motivation for publishing their research. We also understood that the requirements we have gathered do not represent all sets of researchers in the iSchool. That is why our next step is to interview researchers with different roles which will help reduce the biases in our data.