

Patterns and Correspondence

Coding: Setting up and labeling categories into which data can be sorted for checking on frequencies or correspondence. There can be subcategories within any category.

Patterns: Observable correspondence, repetitious happenings, covariation, occasionally cause and effect relationship.

Analysis: Separation into parts or elements in order to examine the composition. The analysis of an observation or interview is to identify the components and to ponder the patterns and relationships.

Correspondence: A relationship or correlation between two categorical variables; an indication of the strength of covariation between the two; the similarity of two events.

Source	Issue	Variables	Pattern
Among School Children	Depersonalization of teaching	Standardization and adherence to schedule	Repeated emphasis on specific minutes to be spent on each subject
Hill's Archipolis	Obstacles to classroom instruction	Tardy arrival; stealing teaching aids, damaged equipment	Nonconforming students entering classroom other than their own, socializing, disrupting instruction
CIS' Bill Milliken	Lack of interest in evaluation findings	Interest in findings; ideas of uses for findings	Reaction to questions and initial findings as opportunities or obstacles to program promotion
Larry Ecker's Art Class	Low student work ethic	Participation rate; attitude to teacher; views of course claims	Slow engagement in lessons, maintaining social engagement

Example of correspondence from observation of Larry Ecker's classroom:

Hypothesis: Avoidance of coursework is a form of dislike or opposition to the teacher	Method: At each minute observe next child on list, code as AP or EP or An or EN	Code P Positive attitude toward teacher	Code N Negative attitude toward teacher
Code A	Avoiding coursework	AP	AN
Code E	Engaging coursework	EP	EN

Exercise: Take any issue. Identify variables for data gathering. Identify a way of analyzing categorical data pertinent to the issue. Identify codes. Distinguish between patterns of repetition and patterns of contingency.

Reminder: Keep in mind that the purpose of the case study is to come to understand the case better. The choice of issues and analyses should facilitate that understanding. One early concern is to assure that the best data collected are properly stored and easy to retrieve, so code them carefully. Some data are collected because of interest in a particular potential correspondence. Coding may help keep that intention in the foreground.