Interviews Going Open!

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Keywords: Personal information \cdot Pseudonymization \cdot Guidelines \cdot Small-scale project \cdot Qualitative data \cdot Open science \cdot FAIR principles \cdot Ensuring ethical practices

Abstract:

The project Interviews Going Open! addresses the challenge of sharing sensitive interview data within the humanities and social sciences. Interviews are a valuable source of information, but concerns about privacy and ethical considerations often hinder their open accessibility. Another common challenge is how to make "thick description" (a property of qualitative fieldwork) suitable for metadata (which is often criticized as oversimplification in qualitative research).

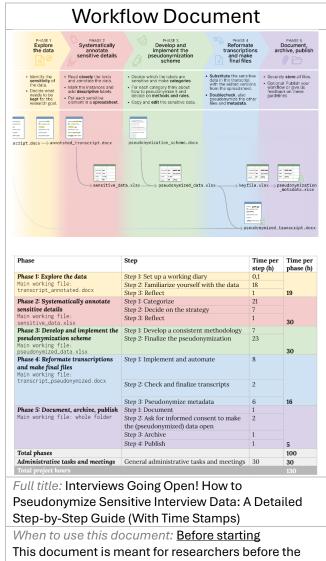
Key points:

- Pseudonymization is not only about names, but also indirect identifiers such as a person's education and location.
- The goal is to **protect** the interviewees' identity without losing any (in our case, sociolinguistic) information.
- The process supports a consistent, systematic approach, especially with multiple researchers involved.
- The outputs map out how we navigated a **small-scale project** on a tight budget in just four months.

Approach:

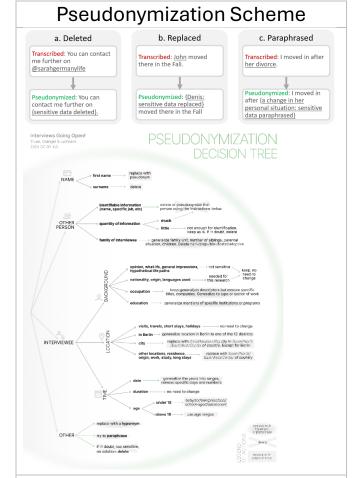
- · By hand, case by case, for data integrity
- · Mix common tools (Word, Excel) with digital methods (Python, Regex)
- Focus on preserving utility = enabling data reuse
- We use pseudonymization methods to convey the context and subtleties that were provided by the removed information.
- · Transparency: all edits are documented

Two outputs in Open Access:



This document is meant for researchers before the start of the project, to estimate the time and costs when applying for grants.

Keywords: WHEN & WHY https://shs.hal.science/halshs-04743263



Full title: Interviews Going Open! Pseudonymization Strategies: Protecting Data While Preserving Utility

When to use this document: After data collection and transcription

Can be used to pseudonymize any corpus containing sensitive information, whether it is a data gathered by a student's project or outputs from previous research.

Keywords: WHAT & HOW

https://shs.hal.science/halshs-04842999