

Glossary of roughly equivalent terms in ATLAS.ti and Transana

Transana and ATLAS.ti are very different and cannot be easily compared because both are trying to do different things. Transana lacks ATLAS.ti's ability to work with text files, while ATLAS.ti makes it nearly impossible to analyze transcripts along with the original video or audio, something that Transana does well. One thing that Transana does well compared to ATLAS.ti is seamlessly synching the work of multiple analysts and transferring projects from one computer to another, something that is frustratingly complex in ATLAS.ti. Although it's a bit like comparing apples and oranges, the table below lists roughly equivalent concepts and functions in the two programs.

Transana	ATLAS.ti
Database	HU (Hermeneutic Unit)
Series	No equivalent in ATLAS.ti, but functions a bit like a PD Family
Episode	Media PD (Audio or Video Primary Document)
Clip	Quotation
Time Code	Start time of a quotation in media PD
Collection	No equivalent in ATLAS.ti but functions a bit like a SuperCode
Keyword	Code
Search	Query Tool can handle more complex searches than Transana
Export and Import Database	Merging HU

Some key features that Transana has that ATLAS.ti does not:

- Waveform Visualization Window (will be enhanced to show colored clip bars in future version of Transana).
- Transcripts and notes are synchronized to the media playback
- Keyword Maps showing the sequence and distribution of keywords of one episode using color coded clips.
- Series Maps display the sequence and distribution of color coded keywords across several episodes from a single series (this will be implemented in future versions of Transana).
- Episode Maps display the keywords and clips of the current episode in the waveform visualization (this will be implemented in future versions of Transana).
- Multi-user version allows simultaneous editing and synching of the database

Some key features in ATLAS.ti that Transana does not have:

- Works with text and graphics PDs in addition to audio and video
- Search for text strings in PD or across the entire HU
- Network views
- Hyperlinks between quotations and codes
- Filters for PDs, Quotations, Codes
- Reports are generated in rtf format. NB: Transana reports are in JPEG format which is fine for printing but cannot be edited. To convert these to word format, print them as pdf and then use a PDF to Word converter such as Nuance PDF Converter Pro.

Transforming quotations of media files created in ATLAS.ti into Time Codes for use in Transana 2.11

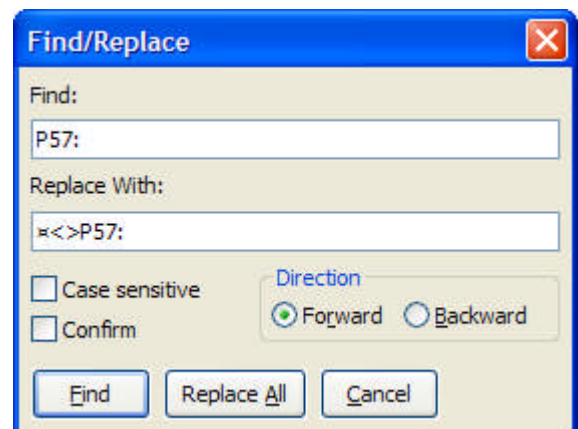
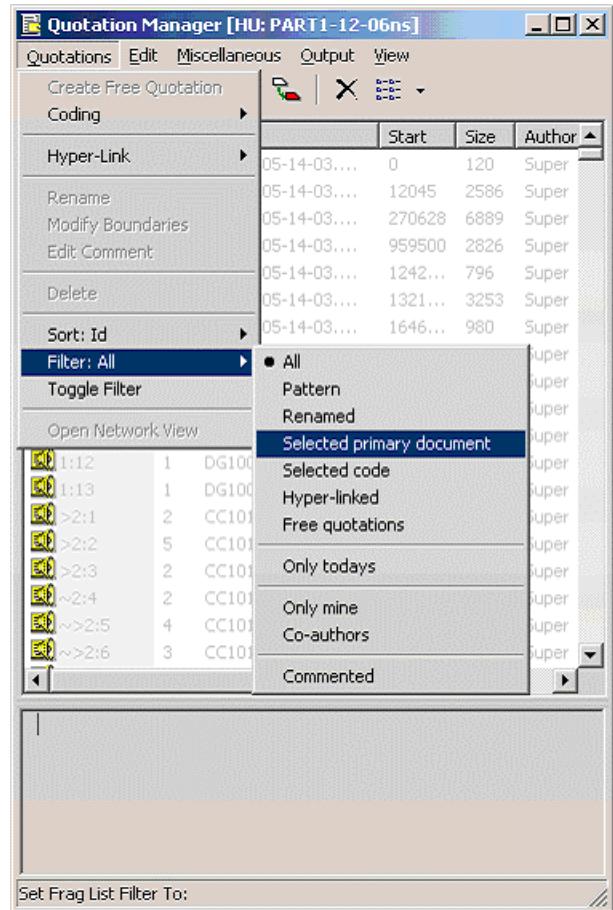
Transana and ATLAS.ti have different ways of segmenting files into quotations or clips. A key difference is the way that Transana bases the boundaries of clips on “time codes” that synchronize the transcript and annotations to their respective segment in the media file. This document explains how to convert segments created from a media file in ATLAS.ti into time codes that Transana can use. You will need ATLAS.ti v. 5 and Transana v. 2.11 to do this.

The first step is to create a “transcript” out of your quotations using ATLAS.ti. This transcript will be in rich text format.

1. In ATLAS.ti, select the segmented PD from the PD manager window. Open the Quotations Manager and set filter to show only quotations for the Selected Primary Document, as shown in the picture to the right.

2. In Quotations Manager select Output menu, then All Quotations (not List). A box will pop up asking: “Do you want to include all links and comments?” I usually click “Yes” since this contains all my annotations and coding information for each quotation. Now, click the button next to “Editor” when it asks you where to send the output. Click Ok. Save this rtf file to the same directory as your media files, in our case: C:\PART\ECO-PART Sessions. I like to use the same name as original media file but add the word “notes” to the end of the name to distinguish it from a transcript. Click Save and it will open the saved rtf in Word. [NB: In Transana, you can assign multiple “transcripts” to a single episode (media file). One transcript file could contain your segment info and annotations, the other could be a detailed transcript, or notes by someone else on the team. You could also combine these all this into one “transcript” if you prefer.]

3. In order for Transana to insert time codes for each quotation segment created in ATLAS.ti, we need to manually insert the Transana time codes

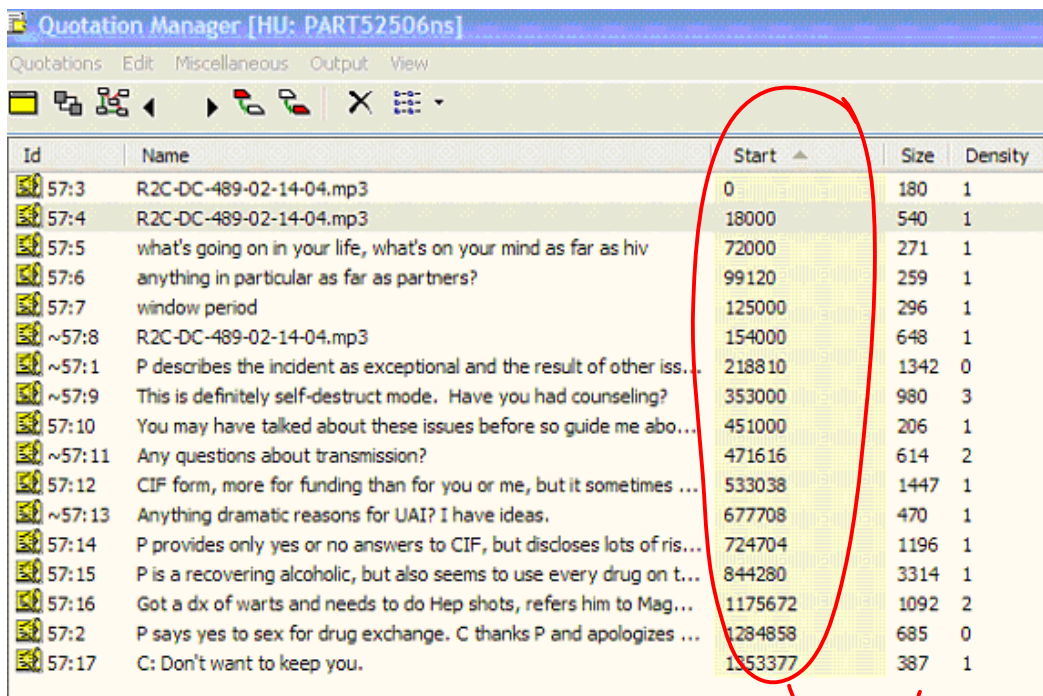


Transana Tips for ATLAS.ti Users

using a special symbol, ⌘ <milliseconds> . A quick way to insert the special time code symbols before each quotation header is to use find and replace in the ATLAS.ti text editor. Simply replace the PD number with Transana time code followed by the PD number, as illustrated below:

NB: To make the ⌘ symbol you can either find it on the character map or turn on number lock, hold down the Alt key while typing 0164 on your 10 key number pad (not the number keys at the top of the keyboard). The symbol appears when you release the Alt key.

4. Now you will need to add in the time code values next to each quotation header in your transcript. The value must be entered in milliseconds since the start of the file. These values are visible in ATLAS.ti's quotation manager window in the Start column that becomes visible when you maximize this window as in the illustration below:



Id	Name	Start	Size	Density
57:3	R2C-DC-489-02-14-04.mp3	0	180	1
57:4	R2C-DC-489-02-14-04.mp3	18000	540	1
57:5	what's going on in your life, what's on your mind as far as hiv	72000	271	1
57:6	anything in particular as far as partners?	99120	259	1
57:7	window period	125000	296	1
~57:8	R2C-DC-489-02-14-04.mp3	154000	648	1
~57:1	P describes the incident as exceptional and the result of other iss...	218810	1342	0
~57:9	This is definitely self-destruct mode. Have you had counseling?	353000	980	3
57:10	You may have talked about these issues before so guide me abo...	451000	206	1
~57:11	Any questions about transmission?	471616	614	2
57:12	CIF form, more for funding than for you or me, but it sometimes ...	533038	1447	1
~57:13	Anything dramatic reasons for UAI? I have ideas.	677708	470	1
57:14	P provides only yes or no answers to CIF, but discloses lots of ris...	724704	1196	1
57:15	P is a recovering alcoholic, but also seems to use every drug on t...	844280	3314	1
57:16	Got a dx of warts and needs to do Hep shots, refers him to Mag...	1175672	1092	2
57:2	P says yes to sex for drug exchange. C thanks P and apologizes ...	1284858	685	0
57:17	C: Don't want to keep you.	1353377	387	1

Milliseconds

Simply add this time code info to the beginning of each quotation heading of the ATLAS.ti annotations. The first usually starts at the beginning of the file which would millisecond zero. The second quotation begins at 18 seconds or ⌘ <18000>, and so on as illustrated in the report below.

Transana Tips for ATLAS.ti Users

✖<0>57:3 [R2C-DC-489-02-14-04.mp3] (0:00 0:18) (Super)

Codes: [#CONSENT]

No memos

✖<18000>57:4 [R2C-DC-489-02-14-04.mp3] (0:18 0:54) (Super)

Codes: [INTRO.STANDARD CT PROCESS]

No memos

✖<72000>57:5 [what's going on in your life, what's on your mind as far as hiv] (1:12 0:27) (Super)

Codes: [ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT?]

No memos

✖<99120>57:6 [anything in particular as far as partners?] (1:39 0:26) (Super)

Codes: [#RISK ASSESSMENT]

No memos

✖<125000> 57:7 [window period] (2:05 0:30) (Super)

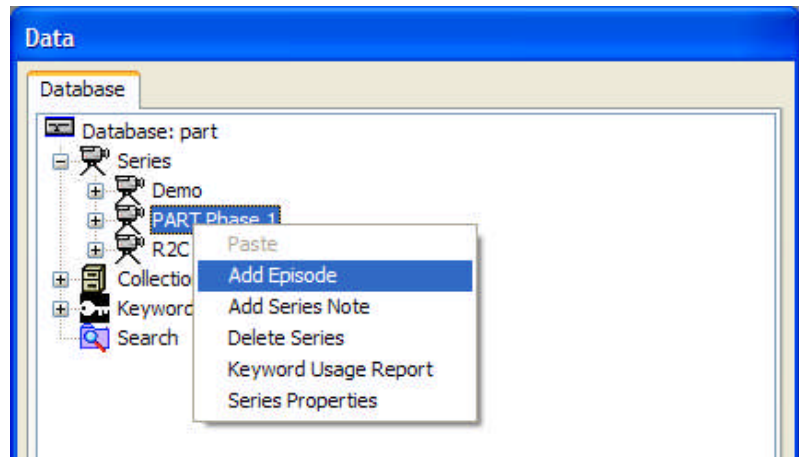
Codes: [WINDOW PERIOD]

No memos

After you have entered these time codes, save the “transcript.” Note that it must be saved as an .rtf file to work in Transana.

5. You are now ready to load the document in Transana. Start Transana, and click okay to select the correct database, in our case “part”. In the database window on the right, click of the “+” next to series, and find the series to which you will add the new episode, in our case, it is called, “PART phase 1.” Right click on Series and select “Add Episode”.

An “Add Episode” dialog box appears where you can enter the Episode Properties. Transana needs to have three things: 1. a media file 2. a transcript file, and 3. a wave form of the media file.



Transana Tips for ATLAS.ti Users

The screenshot shows the 'Add Episode' dialog box with the following fields and options:

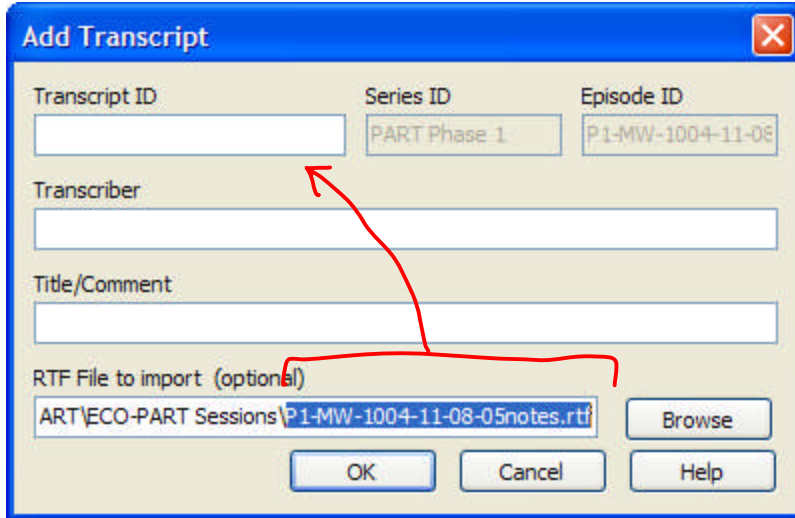
- Episode ID: P1-MW-1004-11-08-05
- Series ID: PART Phase 1
- Date: / /
- Length: 00:00:00
- Media Filename: C:\PART\ECO-PART Sessions\P1-MW-1004-11-08-05.mp3
- Media File Type: Browse (circled in red)
- Title/Comment: (empty)
- Keyword Group: Counseling (selected)
- Keyword: ANYTHING YOU'D LI, BLUE, C gives test results, C praises P for Char, CHANGE TALK, Confession, HOW ARE YOU FEEL, MI, Process Comment/C, RFT
- Episode Keywords: (empty)
- Buttons: Core Data, OK, Cancel, Help

Ignore this stuff for now

Type in the Episode ID name which is the mp3 file name, or browse to it from the directory where you store your media files, and it will insert the file name in the File ID box. [NB: Transana browses for avi files by default, so if you are looking for some other type of media file, such as mp3 files, you need to change the “Files of Type” pull down list to the desired format or “All files (*.*)”].

For consistency, use a common naming convention for the Episodes and associated transcript files. In our case, the names consist of the Study Phase (e.g. P1) – Counselor Initials – Client’s Study ID number (four digits) – and finally the date of the recording – mm-dd-yy.mp3

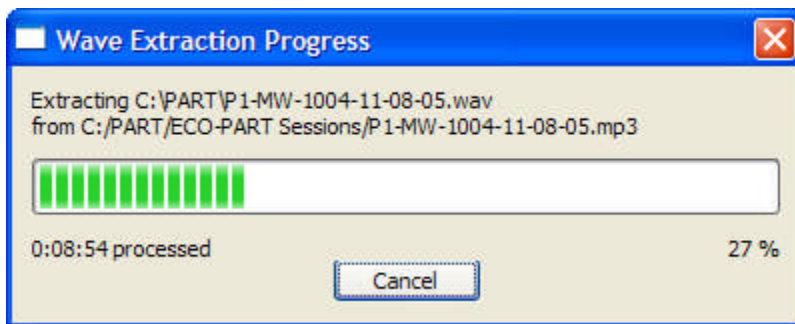
I usually ignore the rest of this box regarding episode Keywords. Click Ok, and immediately Transana will ask for the transcript. Browse to select the rtf Word file that was just created with updated time codes and “notes” in the name.



You may need to cut and paste the name into the Transcript ID box if the Browse function does not automatically fill it in. The time code annotations should have the same name as the episode, with the suffix “notes” added. This will help distinguish it from the transcription proper.

Click Ok.

If it is a new mp3 file it will need to create a waveform. Click Yes and wait a few moments while it generates a wave form.



Transcript and time codes will now be imported and the wave form will be synchronized to the segments described in the “notes” transcript.

Creating Clips and Assigning Keywords (Codes) in Transana

Unlike ATLAS.ti, Transana assigns clips to its “collection(s)” and to “keyword(s).” The distinction between these two is often fuzzy and will hopefully become clearer as you use them. I find that the names of my collections mirrors the names of my meta codes or code categories. You may find a different way to organize your collections. I find that it’s easiest to drag the highlighted clip text to a collection and then assign a name and keyword(s) to the clip. Highlight the text you want to associate and drag it to the collection you have chosen. A dialog box will ask for a clip ID number.

Transana Tips for ATLAS.ti Users

Add Clip

Clip ID: 149.18 - You could use con
Collection ID: Health Education
Series ID: PART Phase 1
Episode ID: P1-CW-1008-11-19-05

Media Filename: C:\PART\ECO-PART Sessions\P1-CW-1008-11-19-05.mp3
Clip Start: 0:22:40.7
Clip Stop: 0:24:13.0
Clip Length: 0:01:32.2

Title/Comment:

Clip Text:

1 P149: P1-CW-1008-11-19-05.mp3 - 149:18 [You could use condoms for oral or abstinence.] (22:39 1:34) (Super)
2 Codes: [#HEALTH EDUCATION] [*RED] [ORAL SEX RISK - C BRINGS UP]

Keyword Group: Counseling, Data Collection, FG Participants, **Health Education**, Lab Procedures, RFT, Study Consent, Tangent

Keyword: ACCURACY OF RT, Closing, CONFIDENTIAL/UI REF, Frequency of Testing, Health Education - Exp, Intro to RT Process, Intro to RT Results Proc, **Oral Sex C brings up**, REFERRAL, Risk Assessment

Clip Keywords: Health Education : Oral Sex C brings up

OK Cancel Help

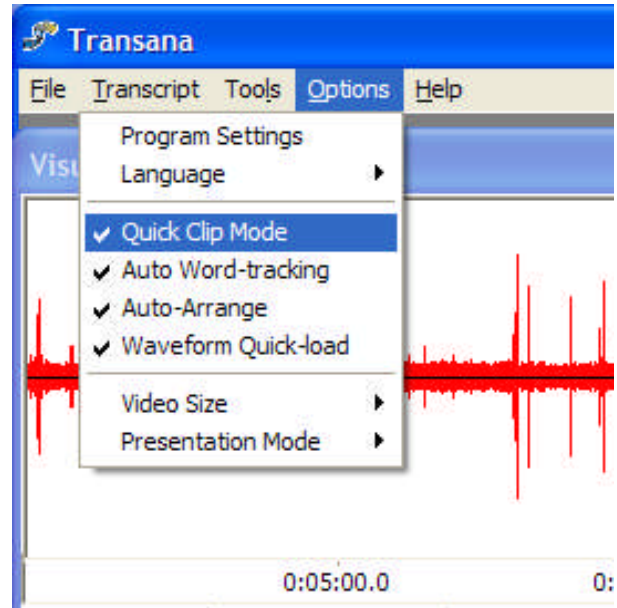
New

The clip name could include the ATLAS.ti PD quotation number, e.g. 149.18 and any labels that were added to the quotation in ATLAS.ti, e.g. “149.18 – C: You could use condoms for oral sex.” In the same dialog box you can associate the clip with keywords. These are organized into keyword groups. Click on the red key to create a new keyword.

Quick Clips for Emerging Collections and Keywords

In the early, exploratory phases of analysis, you may not have a clear idea of how you want to organize your clips into collections. Also, sometimes it's helpful to have a quick way to create a number of clips and assign them to a keyword with a minimum of steps. In ATLAS.ti, you can simply highlight text in the transcript and drag a code onto it and thereby create a quotation all in one simple step.

I asked David Woods to develop QuickClips to enable this kind of quick coding that lends itself to a more inductive, GT open coding process. To enable this feature, you will need to check the "Quickclips" function from the Program Settings Menu as illustrated on the right.



Much like you do in ATLAS.ti, you begin by highlighting the selected text in the transcript window and then dragging a keyword (code) from the database window and drop it in the transcript window. Transana will automatically create a clip and name it "episode name - quickclip 1", "episode name - quickclip 2", and so on). These are placed into a collection called "Quickclips." You can rename the quickclips and redistribute them to new collections as you refine your analysis. You can also rename the QuickClips collection. To assign multiple keywords to a clip, simply drag the other keywords onto the same highlighted text in the transcript or onto the clip listed in the database window in the collection.