

~~Mystery~~ *Solved!*

When Donna Knowles member-checked this website manuscript and came across the lost files mystery, she filled me in on what actually happened to the files culminating in this additional link. Here is a quick Q & A with Donna Knowles:

Annabelle: So what actually happened to the “lost files” Donna?

Donna: As it turned out, the qualitative research analysis program that we were using had a limit to the number of files or the total file size that it could simultaneously download for analysis. This means that when Claire tried to download hundreds of files into the qualitative research analysis program at once, only some of the files transferred. There was no warning at the time that the files didn't transfer and it was only later when we were analyzing files that we realized that some were missing. Claire went back to transfer the remaining files, but once again only some transferred. There is no indication of this limitation in the software manual and we only figured it out after a few attempts and considerable time on Claire's behalf.

Annabelle: So how did you approach this problem? Obviously you were not able to conduct an analysis of all the files at one time? Did you analyze reflection files in batches?

Donna: We code each file individually and only after going through the entire set can we look for cross comparisons. This is a long process with so many individual files. The individual files are students' reflections on their learning in a course and they sometimes reference others' reflections. This is what led us to initially discover the missing files: we encountered reflections that referenced other reflections that we hadn't seen. We had a list of the original files and printed out a list of the files transferred into the qualitative software. We cross-referenced the two lists and then I sent Claire back to download the missing files. In the interim, we could continue coding individual files, but needed to keep careful notes to keep track of what was or was not coded. That's all part of Claire's research log.

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