

7. FINAL COMMENTS

Videotape data can provide distinctive input into the various disciplines that make use of qualitative research. While this book has emphasized videotape as a data source to be directly studied or used as a stimulus for responses from research participants, the other purposes for which videotape can be used in research also deserve attention (see chapter two).

The future is impossible to predict, but it seems likely from the most recent developments that more and more videotape records will become available to an increasing number of people. This suggests an almost unlimited sharing of data and perspectives that can hardly be imagined at present. This openness and sharing can help free video analysis from the limited perspectives and naive biases that sometimes characterized the research of prior generations. Perhaps in the future the videotaped dissertation will become a reality, an idea first suggested to me by my qualitative research mentor, Judith Preissle. With additional developments in video and computer technology, unprecedented advances can be made in creating and using videotape in qualitative research.

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