

Self Research Community Interview Protocol

[2 mins] Opening

Introduction

My name is <name> and I'm from the University of Washington. Thank you for spending the time and talk with me today. I would like to talk to you about your experience with the Quantified Self forum. You should have already received an email with a Study Information Sheet that contains detailed information about this study.

This interview will last about 30-90 minutes. There are no wrong answers to my questions. I want to hear your **personal** stories and your experiences. You also absolutely can decline to answer any of the questions that I ask. You are also free to stop the interview at any time. This is your interview.

Privacy and confidentiality

To clarify, your participation in this conversation is strictly confidential. Your responses may be published as quotes in a future academic research paper, but no identifiers will tie your username or any other identifiable factors to those responses.

Participant questions

Do you have any questions about this interview before we start?

Consent to interview and recording

For the record, is it okay if I record this conversation?
[if they say yes, start recording]

Questions

[3 mins] Warming up

- Please tell us a little bit about yourself.
 - What's your experience with self research?
 - What's your experience with data science?

[6 mins] General forum usage

- Please share your experience with the Quantified Self forum.
 - How did you start using it?
 - What do you usually do in the forum?
 - Why do you use the forum?
 - What did you learn from the forum?
 - How does your participation in the forum help or not help with your data science skills?

[20 mins] Sharing projects in the forum

- Please walk through your most memorable experience about a project that you shared in the forum. Please share your screen to show me the relevant analysis, visualization or online interaction if possible.
 - What parts of the project did you share? Why?
 - What parts of the project did you choose to not share? Why?
 - What did you share about data collection? Why?
 - Were there things about data collection that you did not share? Why?
 - What did you share about data preprocessing? Why?
 - Were there things about data preprocessing that you did not share? Why?
 - What did you share about data analysis? Why?
 - Were there things about data analysis that you did not share? Why?
 - What did you share about your findings or insights about data? Why?
 - Were there things about your findings or insights that you did not share? Why?
 - What did you share about the tools you used in the projects?
 - Were there things about tools that you did not share? Why?
 - What are some challenges in this process?
 - Are there aspects about your project that you wish to share in the community but did not do so? Why?
- Can you describe how this example differs, or similar to, other projects that you've shared.
- Can you describe another experience? It could be either an experience where things didn't go as well, or a better experience. Please share your screen to show me the relevant analysis, visualization or online interaction if possible.
 - [repeat bullet points of the first question]
- In general, what do you think about the forum as a place for sharing personal data projects?
 - What are some concerns with sharing about personal data and findings in the forum?

[15 mins] Asking for and getting help from the community

- Please walk through your most memorable experience asking for or getting help with your projects in the forum. Please share your screen to show me the relevant analysis, visualization or online interaction if possible.
 - What did you ask?
 - Why did you frame your question in this particular way [referring to details of their question on the screen]?
 - Why did you choose to ask this question in the forum specifically?
 - What answers did you get?
 - How were the answers helpful or not helpful?
 - Was there anything else that you wish you could get?
- Tell me about a time that you ran into some questions in your project but did not ask questions in the forum.
 - What was the question about?
 - Why did you choose to not ask it in the forum?
 - What did you do instead to solve the problem?
 - How typical are experiences like this with the QS forum?
- How did you ask for help in the forum in the following stages of your project? If you did ask for help in a particular stage, tell me an example. If you have never asked for help in a particular stage, tell me the reason behind this decision.
 - Collecting data
 - Reading/Understanding data
 - Working with/preprocessing data
 - Analyzing data
 - Forming conclusion/insights from data
- In general, what do you think about the forum as a place for asking for and getting help when working with data for your projects?
 - What are some concerns with asking for and getting help in the forum?
 - How are other members helpful or unhelpful to your learning towards working with data? In what ways?

[7 mins] Learning from others' projects

- Please walk through your most memorable experience learning from others' projects in the forum. It could be reading about others' posts or engaging in discussions. Please share your screen to show me the relevant analysis, visualization or online interaction if possible.
 - What did you learn from them?
 - What do you wish that you could learn more from their project?
- In general, what do you think about the forum as a place for learning from others' projects?
 - What are some challenges?

[6 mins] General Reflection

- Please list three things that you like about the forum. Please list three things that you don't like about it. Why?
- What are some things that you wish to get from the forum but did not?
- If you were able to change or add anything to the forum in order to improve the experience of sharing about and discussing personal data projects, what would you add or change?
- Are there other communities (that you are part of/heard of) where there are people doing and sharing personal data projects?
- In general, how has your participation in the quantified self forum been helpful or helpful in terms of your learning about data (collection, work with data, analysis, visualization etc)?

[1 mins] Ending

Thank you so much for sharing your experience with us!

Do you have any questions?