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The Victoria Climbié Corpus Project.

Original Citation

Clarke, Dawn and Gibbs, Graham R. (2010) The Victoria Climbié Corpus Project. In: Open Educational Resources 2011 (OER11), 11 - 13 May 2011, University of Manchester.

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Teaching and Research use of the Victoria Climbié Corpus

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Library and Computing Services

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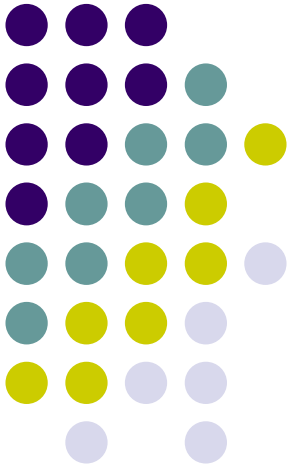

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Outline

- Victoria Climbié Inquiry
- The Huddersfield Corpus Project
- The Website
- Example of teaching use

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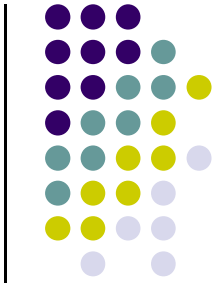
The Victoria Climbié Corpus (VCC)



- The Victoria Climbié Inquiry (Laming Report)
- Major review of the child protection system in England and Wales -> Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'
- Inquiry investigated circumstances surrounding the death of Victoria Climbié
- Took evidence on wider aspects of the child protection system through a series of seminars
- Reported to both the Home Office and the Department of Health
- Issues still relevant today - Baby Peter, etc.

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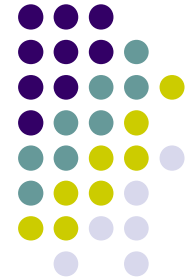
Relevance for child protection education and research



- Single case
- Inquiry talk itself – accounting, blaming, establishing credibility
- Topics of interest themselves – supervision, child protection procedures, allocation in everyday contexts, inter-agency working
- Importance of Victoria Climbié Inquiry in child welfare policy and practice
- Public inquiries as a mechanism of social policy

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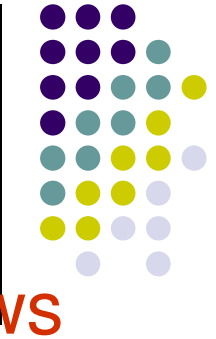
Testimony already on the Web



- http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ero/browse.aspx?id=3121&level=5
- *64 days of the verbatim cross-examination of witnesses (up to 200 pages per day)*
- *Written submissions (image pdf – not part of current study)*
- *Evidence about state of child protection services in late 1990s*

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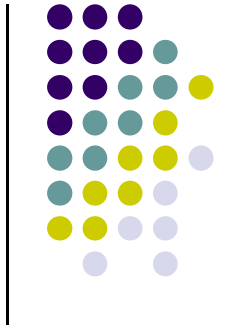
But:



- HTML pages not amenable to analysis
- Data set very large - too large for some uses/users
- Needs a means of “navigation”
  - Like Medjedovic & Witzel (in FQS) we believe some basic coding of the corpus is helpful and compatible with further analysis done by other researchers.

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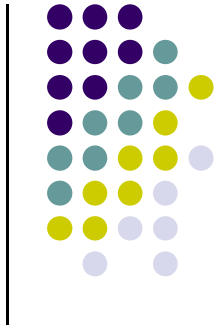
The Huddersfield Victoria Climbié Corpus Project



1. Identify themes & topics in cross-examination required by or of use to a range of professional & educational users -> Delphi exercise (Univ. funding)
2. Catalogue and code data & establish system of data management & retrieval. (Using Atlas.ti software)
3. Establish an online data corpus available for future research/teaching use outside the University. (Using XML output from Atlas.ti in University Repository) (Jisc funding)

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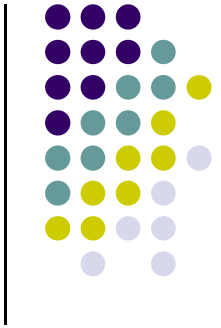
Themes for coding



- From Delphi and other advice
- 108 codes used to code the data thematically e.g.

Witnesses' Job/Status: Paediatrician	Categorisation: Sick Child case
Witnesses' Job/Status: Police Officer	Communication between agencies
Witnesses' Job/Status: Social Worker	Communication within agencies
Witnesses' Jobs/Status: NSPCC	Contact with Victoria Climbié
Blame/Mistakes	Family Status
Categorisation: Child in need case	Files/Records
Categorisation: Emotional abuse case	Mangmt: Responsibilities and direction
Categorisation: Housing/homeless/subsistence case	Management: Roles

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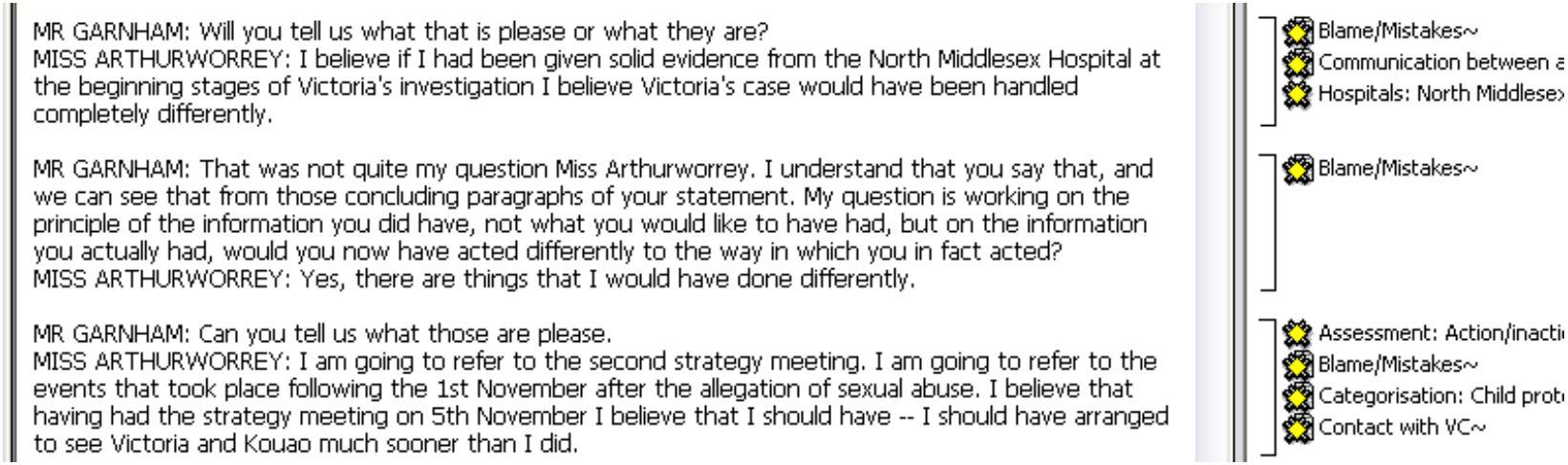
Used Atlas.ti

- Question from lawyer and answer from witness combined into single quotation
  - 47,352 quotations



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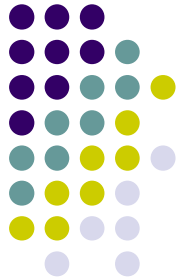
Victoria Climbié Inquiry Data Corpus Online



University homepage

Project homepage

The Inquiry

- Background
- Witnesses
- Research Literature

The Data Corpus

- How to use
- Learning Resources
- Research Resources
- Retrieve Data

Links

Project team

Contact details

Choose statements to display

The figures in parentheses in the menus below indicate the number of statements classified under each heading.

See the How to use this corpus page

Narrow your choice by selecting the role or occupation of the witness:

- Witnesses' Job/Status: Admin Officer (227)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Ambulance Techician (79)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Child Protection Advisor (55)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Childminder+childminder's family (554)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Clergy (362)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Councillor (1481)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Education Officer (36)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: General Practitioner (1)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Hospital doctor (1143)
- Witnesses' Job/Status: Housing Officer (1045)

Narrow your choice by selecting the borough or the hospital where the witness worked:

- Hospitals: Central Middlesex Hospital (2749)
- Hospitals: North Middlesex Hospital (3415)
- SS Borough: Brent (8263)
- SS Borough: Enfield (18)
- SS Borough: Haringey (11031)
- SS Boroughs: Ealing (2460)

Narrow your choice by selecting whether the witness speaking had contact with Victoria Climbié:

- Contact with VC (13011)
- No contact with VC

Narrow your choice by selecting whether the witness was discussing workplace practices:

- Workplace practices (22007)
- No discussion of workplace practices

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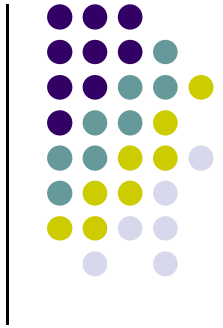
Use of the resource



- Research use.
  - Academics in UK and USA
- Teaching use
  - Postgraduate/professional practice at Huddersfield
  - Students take selections of text on supervision practice and create a supervision structure.
  - = Concrete data, not interpreted/mediated
  - Supervn. structure taken back to workplace as e.g. of good practice.

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