

Two NVivo Narrative Strategies



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Defining narrative

- A story is a sequence of [connected] **events**
- A **plot** is an arrangement of events in a story
- A **narrative** is a presentation of a **plotted story: Plot + presentation**
- [Narrative Networks | SAGE Publications Ltd](#)

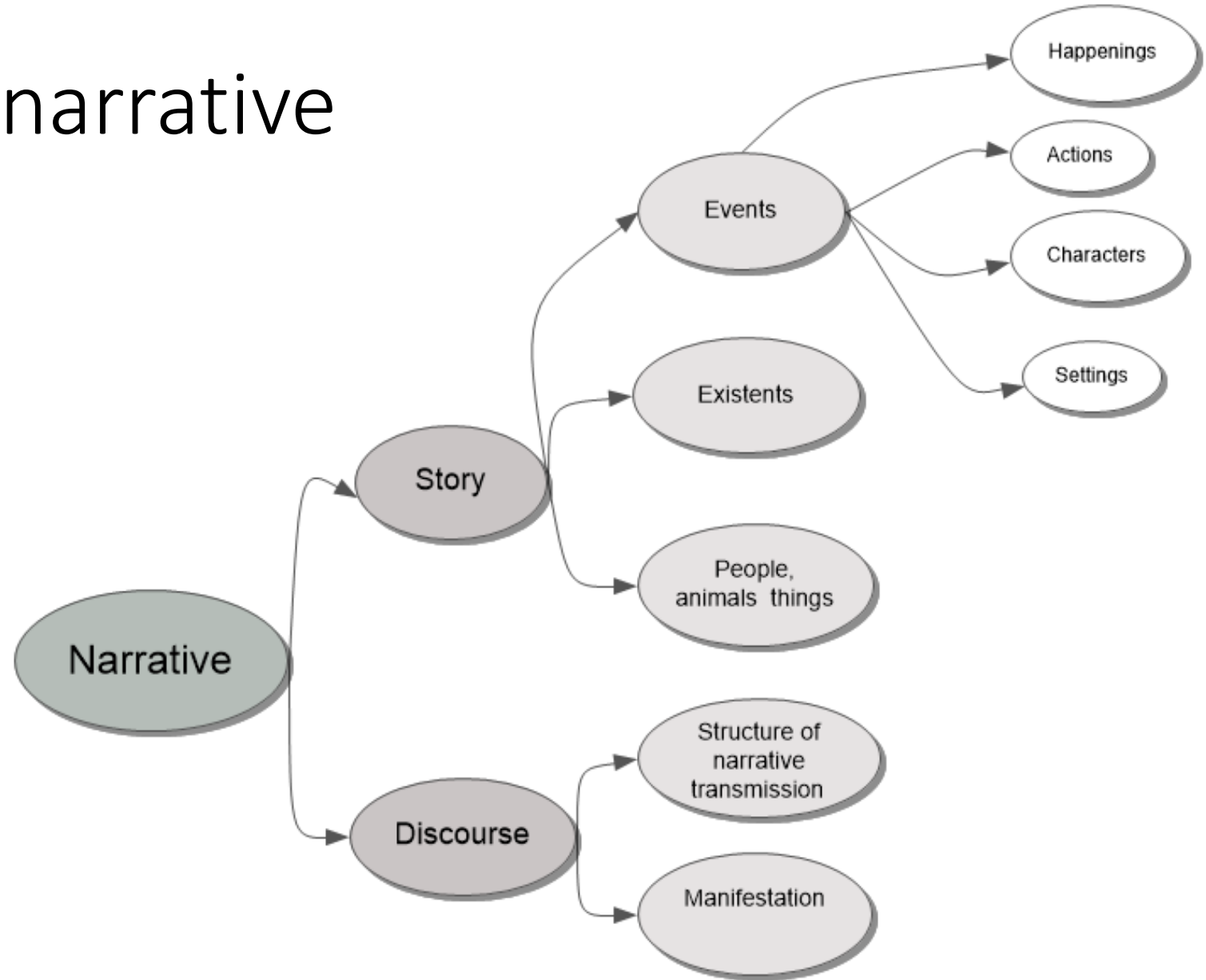
NARRATIVE NETWORKS

Storied Approaches in a Digital Age

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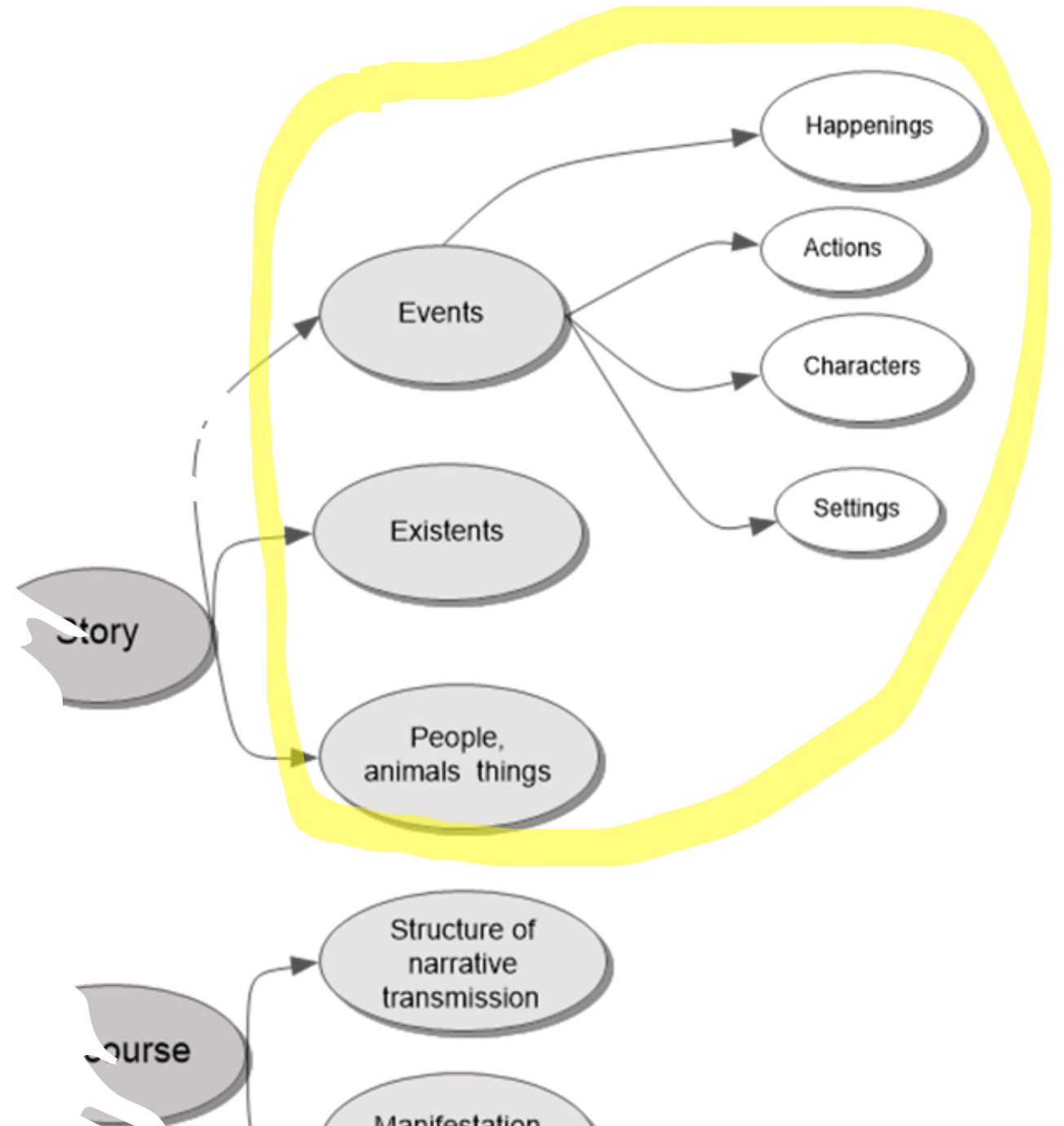


Elements of narrative

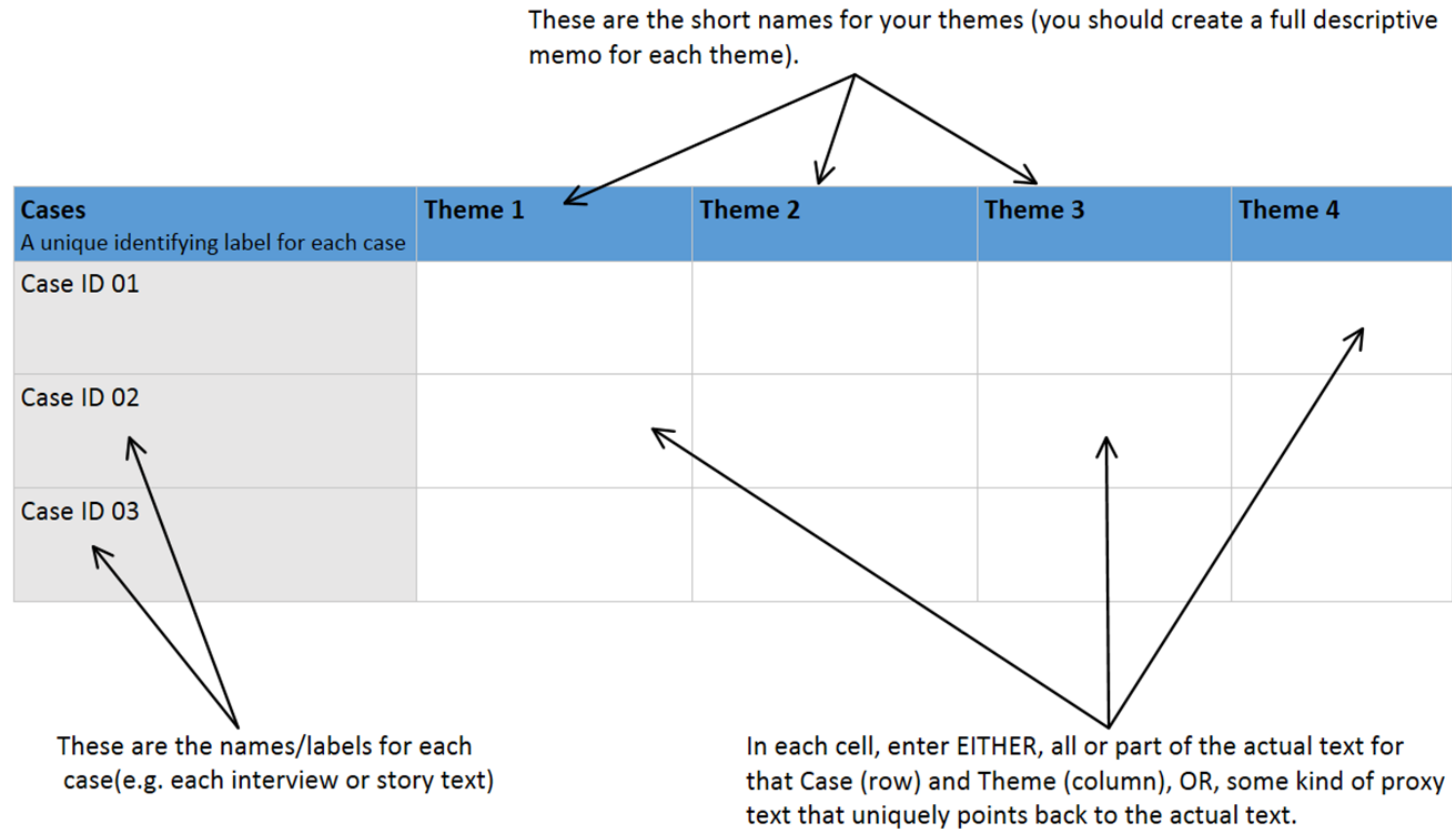


Why use cases for narrative methods?

- A case is an object of interest, bounded in time and space
- NVivo facilitates collection of all data relevant to case in one place (a case node)
- For narrative methods cases are perfect containers for attributes and source documents related to:
 - Events
 - People and other living entities
 - Places, projects, organisations, objects
- Cases are a fundamental tool for keeping track of the core narrative elements



Coding scheme for analysis for narrative



See Chapter 3 of [Narrative Networks](#).

Analysis of narrative: using Framework Matrices

- Framework Matrix is useful for analysing both the structure and thematic content of story texts
- Unlike code cross tabulations, the cells in a Framework Matrix contain textual content, which is what we are most interested in
 - We need to create cases for our rows
 - We need to code source texts for themes or structural elements
 - The resulting table is a digital realisation of a fundamental tool in analysis of narrative

Narrative analytical frame based on themes

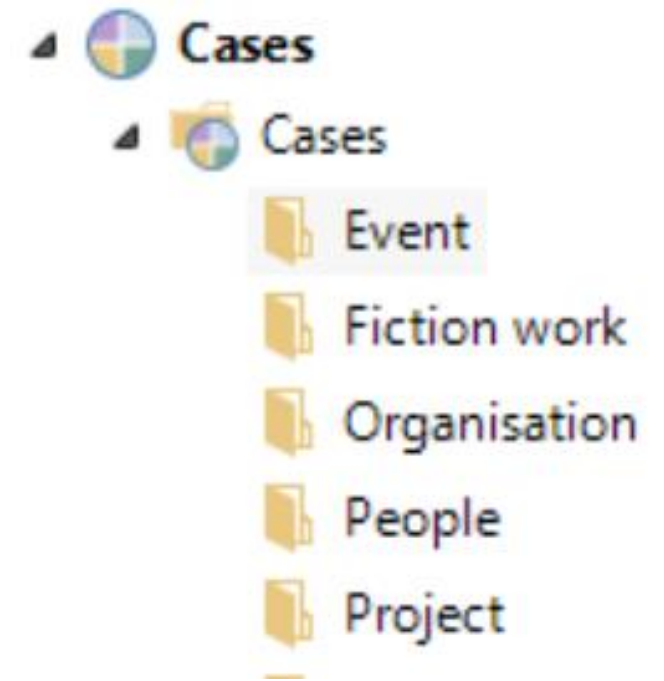
	A : Representation - colony	B : Representation - human	C : Representation - Technology
13 : Ragamuffin	<p>"A Freeman colony in orbit around the world Yomi," he hissed out of the side of his mouth. One of the ladies snapped her fingers. "You gonna stand there all day, you two?" Yomi lay over fifty wormhole transits downstream and in the right fork, the Thule branch. But it was still fifteen upstream from the dead end of New Anegada. Nashara shook her head. "That's not as close to the planet I was promised."</p> <p>"No, but it's not here, where you're certain to be taken down by a Gahe hunting pack. We need to leave now. We'll help you find your way to where you need to be once you're at the Freeman colony.</p>	<p>In a far future, the Benevolent Satrapy, a coalition of alien races, rules over 4* worlds, restricting the freedom and movement of humans under their control. Only the Ragamuffins, descendants of Earth's island population who have turned to smuggling and piracy, retain any freedom-and the satraps have marked them for extermination. The fate of humanity lies with a woman called Nashara, who is part machine and part flesh-a walking doomsday weapon. Only the Ragamuffins can help Nashara and prevent her from destroying the universe she is trying to save.</p> <p>It had been three hundred and fifty-seven years, three months, and four</p>	<p>She slid a piece of silver out and wiped the blood off it. "Assay this." She needed the lamina viewer. All around her in the habitat's information-rich data streams lay important information. Such as directions to get to the docks, or what elevators to take. Whom you were talking to. Layers of it tagged everything, a myriad of ways to view the entire world lay around them. Kids ran around the stall seeing virtual monsters they chased and shot with their friends. Merchants quietly passed information among themselves. The station's public lamina carpeted the sky with up-to-date general information, or provided tags about everything one saw. To be</p>

Narrative analysis (writing a social research story)

- We collect stories and event data
- We assemble these into some kind of narrative account
- We seek to analyse the sequence of events, and causal connections
- We work to integrate these into a narrative that enhances our social/cultural understanding

Setting up for Narrative analysis in NVivo

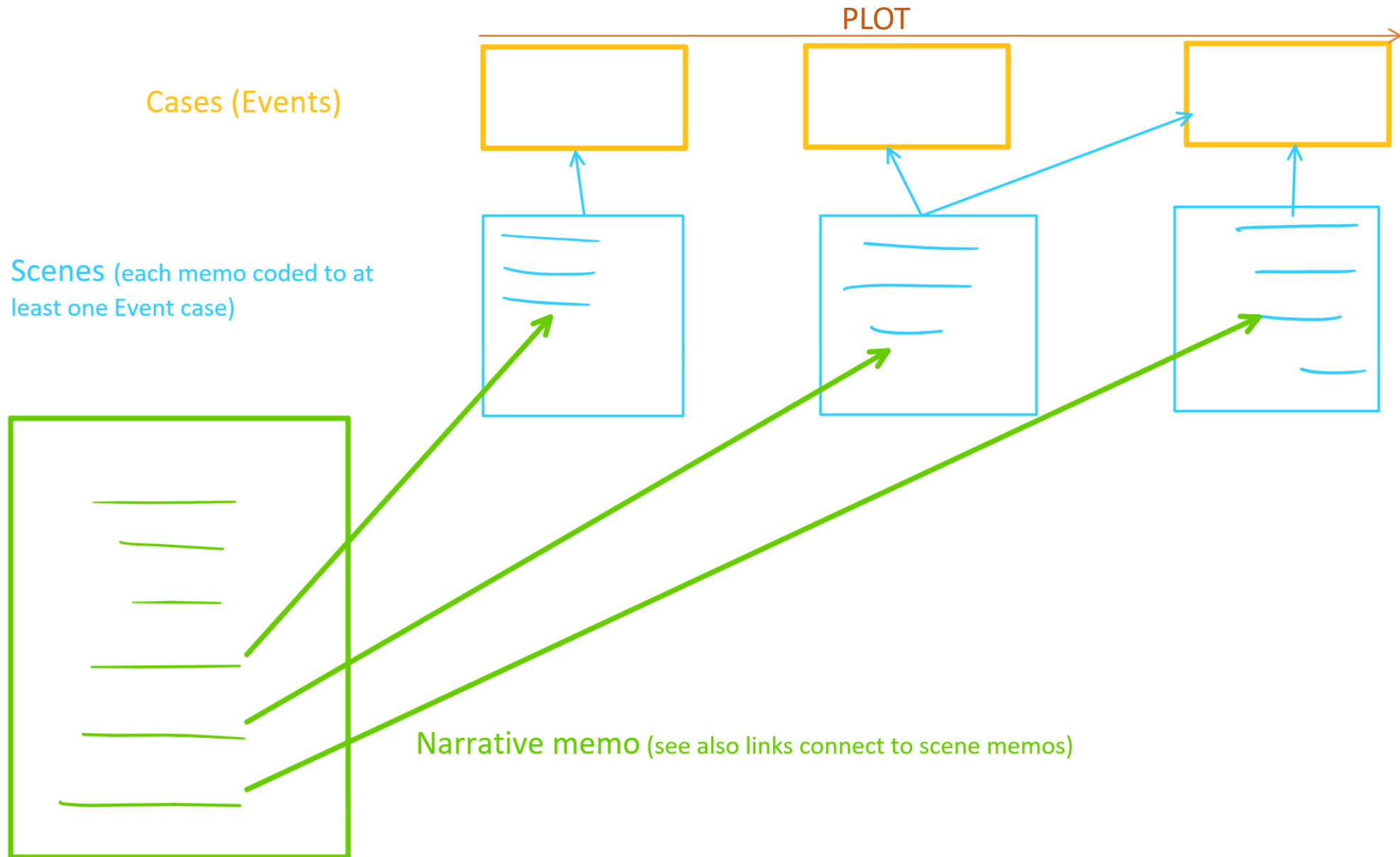
- List all the relevant entities (events, people, places, organisations etc)
- Create a chronology - events in date order
- create a memo containing this chronology
 - create a series of event placeholders in this memo (we can use see also links to connect these events to underlying data about the event):



A screenshot of the NVivo 'Event' table showing a list of events with columns for Name and Files.

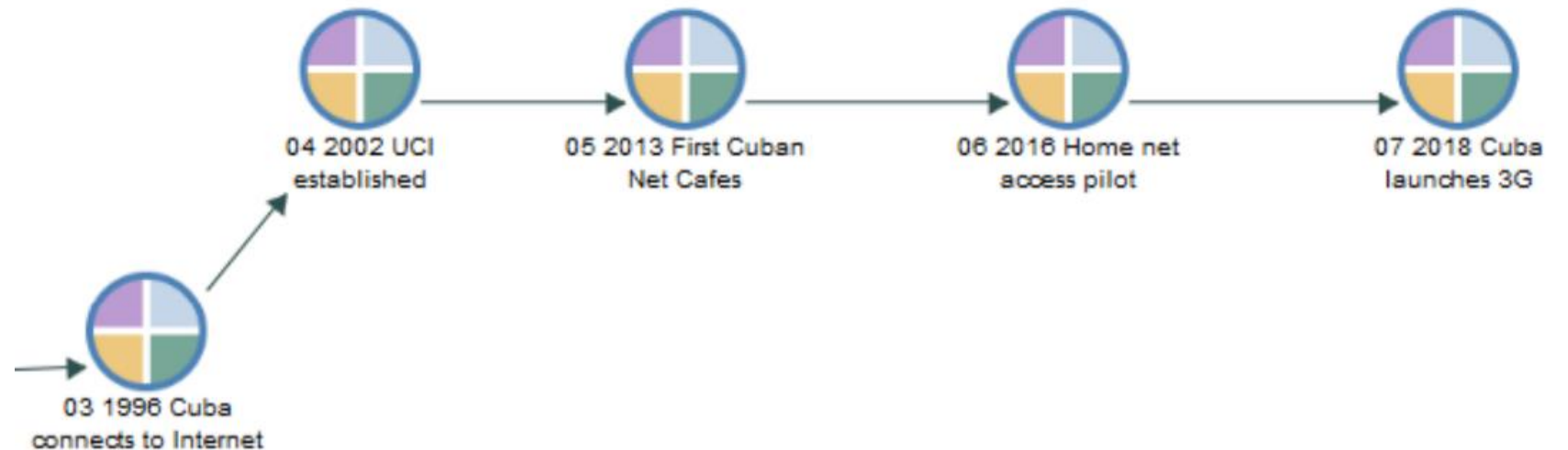
Name	Files
00 1927 First IBM tab machine in Cuba	
01 1958 First Computer in Cuba	
02 1962 First post revolution computing unit	
03 1996 Cuba connects to Internet	
04 2002 UCI established	
05 2013 First Cuban Net Cafes	
06 2016 Home net access pilot	
07 2018 Cuba launches 3G	

Using NVivo for Narrative Modelling



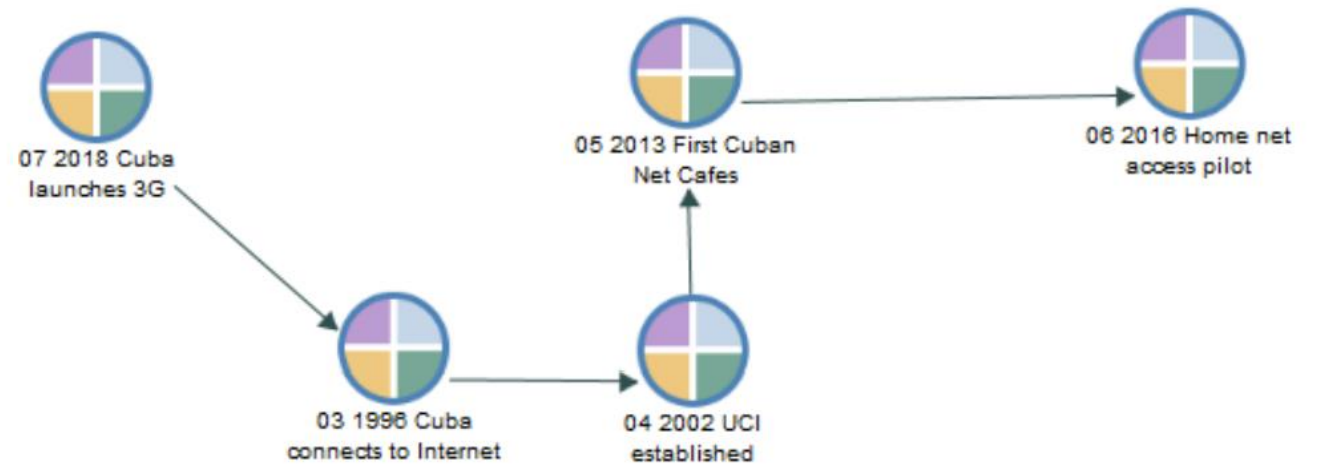
Narrative modelling in NVivo – chronology concept map

- Bring in your event cases, and arrange them in in chronological order from left to write
- You now have the basic timeline set out



Narrative modelling in NVivo – plotted concept map

- Bring in your event cases, and arrange them in different plots; make a new map for each plot (and save each one)
- After you set out the key events for your plot, you can bring in related items to check that your data supports this narrative model, but beware overcrowding the map with related items!
- When you have a plot, you want to write up, save the map, then export the plot image and copy into a new memo. In that new memo, set up place holders for each event, and use see also links to connect the event place holders to the relevant source documents.
- You now have the first draft of a plotted narrative with inks to the sources



Summary – Narrative Work with NVivo

Analysis of Narrative: Compare and classify story texts

- Collect story texts
- Code by structure or theme
- Code schemes can be deductive or inductive
- Create a case for each text
- Code texts
- Generate a Framework Matrix
- Drill into cells for deeper analysis

Narrative Analysis: Assemble entities into stories

- Create cases for events, places, people etc.
- Create a detail memo for each case
- Use Concept Map to explore different plots of the key events
- Create a Narrative memo with 'see also' links to implement your plot
- That Narrative Memo is the first draft of your research report

Contact

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