

ASSIGNING ATTRIBUTES AND RELATIONSHIPS

Attributes are variables (like the ones in SPSS) assigned to cases. Cases can be Sources, Nodes or Relationships. As such, they take one value per case.

By assigning values to cases, Attributes classify them.

To assign attributes, you make the following steps:

1. Make a Classification Sheet. (It is like a spread sheet.)
2. Add and define Attributes on that Sheet. (Those are the columns on that spread sheet.)
3. Link the Classification Sheet to the cases. (Those are the rows.)
4. Assign the values to the cases. (Those are the cells.)

Step 1. To create a Classification Sheet you click on Classifications on the side below. Above you can choose what you want to use as cases. To use Sources, click on Source Classifications.

From the top select Create → Source Classification.

A window pops up, name and add description to the Classification Sheet. The new Classification Sheet will appear on the right. This is a holder for your Attributes. Now you can add Attributes to this Classification Sheet.

Step 2. Highlight the Classification Sheet and click on Attributes on the top (or right click on the folder and choose New Attribute).

In the new window, you name the Attribute and can add a description.

Just as with variables in SPSS, you now have a name and a label. Just as with variables in SPSS, you can choose the type of the attribute. It can be Text (string) but it can be numbers or other things. Choose the type from the drop down menu.

Click on the Values tab. You can assign the values here. There are two pre-assigned values: Unassigned and Not Applicable. Each value can have further description, even color and one can be the default. The default is the value that gets assigned when you don't assign anything. Click on Add and fill out the Value, Description etc. You can add as many Attributes to a Classification Sheet as you want.

You can create several Classification Sheets, each with its own set of Attributes.

Step 3. Now you have Attributes but you still have to connect them with each case (source). First you have to connect each source with the appropriate Classification Sheet. Go to Sources on the side bar. You will get a list of your (internal) sources. Right click on each you want to associate with a particular Classification Sheet. Choose Classification and then the proper Classification Sheet.

Step 4. Now go to the Explore tab. Choose Source Classification Sheets, and choose the proper sheet. In the detail view below, you will find a table. Each row is a source, each column is an attribute. You will see that the default value (Unassigned) will be in all cells. If you hover the cursor over the cell, you will see a downward pointing arrow which indicates a drop-down menu. If you specified the values of that

attribute, you can choose the right one from the drop-down menu. If you did not, you can enter it by typing it in. Fill out the Classification Sheet as much as you can.

You can also assign attributes to Nodes. Highlight Node Classifications. Repeat the process above. Go to Create → Node Classification. Create a Classification Sheet for nodes. Specify the Attributes on that sheet. Connect the Sheet to each node. Explore Node Classification Sheets, and fill out the table where each case (row) is a node and each column is an attribute.

You can also assign Relationships. Attributes connect things with reference to a variable or attribute. Things that share the same value of the Attribute are connected. (E.g., two sources are connected as both sources are interviews.) But you can also connect things directly.

To do that, go to Create choose Relationship Type. You can name the relationship (say, Causes, Results from, Precedes, coincides with, Conflicting, etc.) and describe it. You have to choose the right type. The type can be: Associative, One Way or a Symmetrical. Associative makes no commitment about directionality. The other two do. (Causes, Results, Precedes are One way, Coincides with is Associative, Conflicting is Symmetrical.)

Now that you have Relationships, you have to assign them to pairs of Sources or Nodes.

Click on the Create tab on the top and click on Relationship. In the new window on the left pick what you want to connect. Then you can choose item From. Then repeat it for item To. You can Select the type and even a color. Click OK. Notice that you can connect any type of object (e.g., Node with Source, or Node with Memo, or Memo with Source etc.)