

Dataturgy

-urgy: Greek *-ourgia*, akin to *érgon = To work*

E.g. metallurgy: The science of metals; their extraction from ores, purification and alloying, heat treatment, and working.

Dataturgy: The science of *data*; their extraction from *activities, settings, and experiences*; their *scrubbing, analyzing, synthesizing*, and *working*.

Dataturg: A person who works with data. A data worker.

Scaffolding

. . . is simply a way of building and working with a data corpus with the aim of creating a performance. A play. A performative event. A happening. An experience.

I call this a **dataturgical** process.

Dataturgy is not a method itself. It's more like a set of tools that can be wielded in any way that is useful. In any way that the user sees fit. The nature of one's inquiry, the **force** of one's interest will drive how the tools are managed and how decisions get made.

Don't be put off by the word "data." Data are just raw stuff that's waiting to be turned into information. Words, images, numbers, memories, feelings, stories, memos. Stuff.

Qualitative Data

Qualitative data are **narrative** data, largely in the form of **words**. These may be texts such as books, poems, diary entries, interviews, observational memos, quotations, and the like. They may also be things that "work" like texts, that can be "read" in some way – images and media, artworks and artifacts, environments and settings, even feelings and phenomena.

Tasks and Frames

Drawing on **qualitative** research methods not only lends an organizing structure and conceptual frame to **Scaffolding**, but it also provides writers-creators-devisors with a number of tasks and frames not typically found in traditional playmaking/writing situations.

In **Scaffolding**, building and working with the data corpus extends over three overlapping phases. It's an iterative process, with much circling back as meanings emerge and ideas flow.

1. Data collection

- Why, strategies, how

2. Data management

- What to do with all those data?

3. Data analysis and synthesis

- Breaking stuff down and putting it back together