

# Collaborative Data Services

## The Case of Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI)

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QUALITATIVE DATA  
REPOSITORY

### Abstract

Providing effective data services often requires collaboration between different organizations with differing goals and cultures. This presentation provides a narrative account of the development of Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI), a collaboration between the Qualitative Data Repository (QDR), a domain repository; Cambridge University Press (the Press); and Hypothesis, an open source software nonprofit.

ATI uses open web annotations (using Hypothesis software) to annotate academic work (published by the Press or other publishers), to data sources (curated and archived by QDR). By collaborating, the three organizations were able to draw on each others' strengths. For example, by using open-source, open-standard software, QDR was able to steer away from some of the problems that previous in-house tool development posed. These and other synergies illustrate the enormous benefits offered by such collaboration.

However, collaborating with diverse partners also poses significant challenges. For example, partners viewed ATI with different levels of priority within their larger operations, were interested in the project for distinct reasons, and on differing timetables.

The presentation concludes by discussing which components made the collaboration ultimately successful and lessons for similar endeavors.

### Project Partners

*“Let each organization do what they do best.”*  
Disclaimer: This presentation is not endorsed by Hypothesis or Cambridge University Press



**QDR**, a social science domain repository, **curates** the annotations and **stores** and preserves underlying data sources  
**Interests:** Advancing research transparency; data acquisition; increase visibility of QDR



**Hypothesis**, a nonprofit software development organization, provides the **open source software** for the integration of annotations into publishing and reading technologies  
**Interests:** Advancing open web annotations; demonstrating use cases; partnership agreements



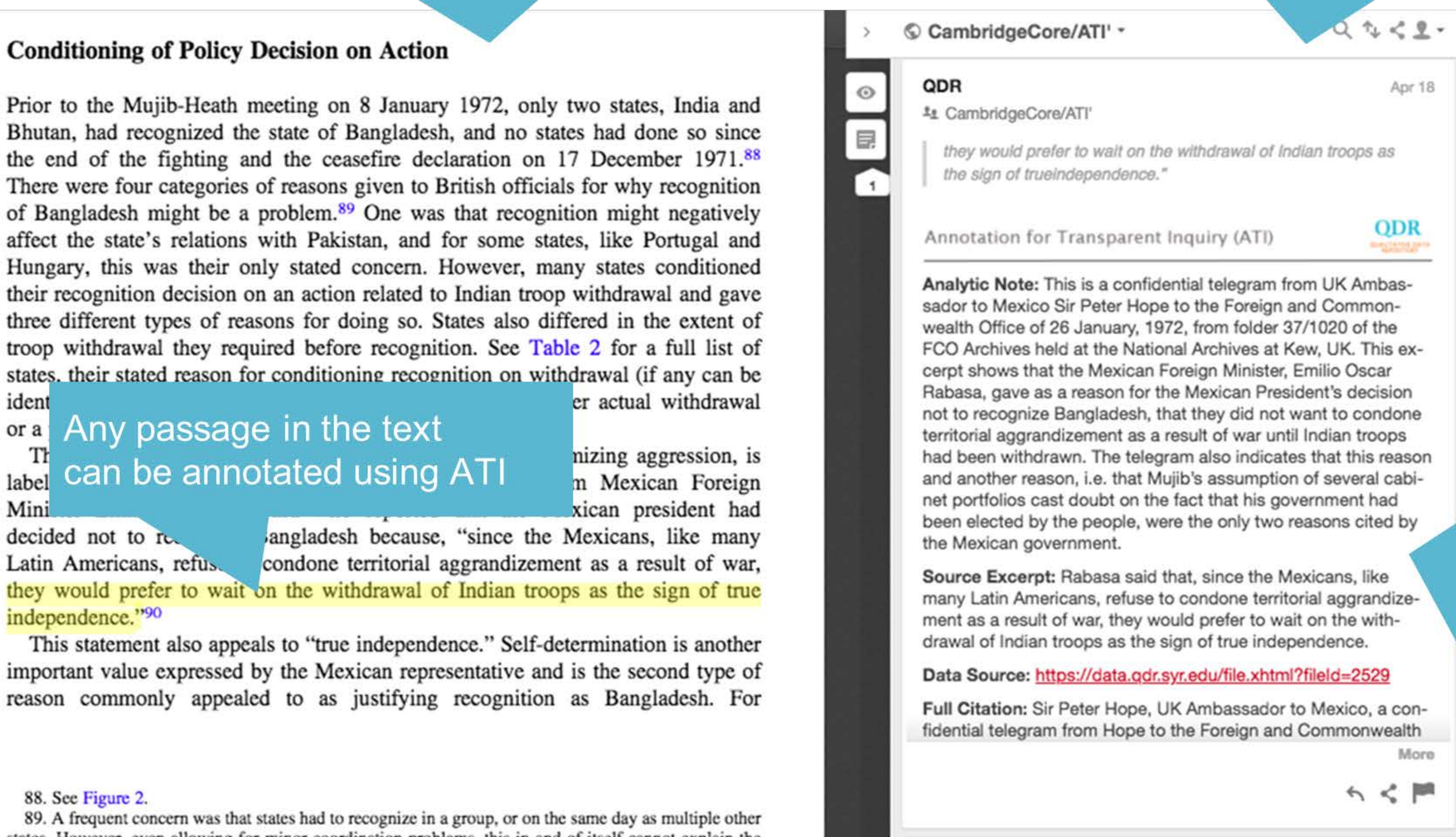
Cambridge University Press continues its long history as an authoritative **publisher of academic work**, now via its new Cambridge Core platform.  
**Interests:** Establish Press as leading publishing partner in (open) social science; show case technical abilities of Core platform

### What Is Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI)?

Any digitally published manuscript can be annotated using Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI), like this example "Making the Real: Rhetorical Abduction and the Bangladesh Liberation War" by Joseph O'Mahoney.

#### ATI Annotations

- Displayed alongside publisher's digital manuscript
- Created by authors
- Curated by QDR
- Hosted and served by Hypothesis



Any passage in the text can be annotated using ATI

#### ATI Annotation Elements

One or more of the following:

- Analytic note
- Source excerpt
- Source excerpt translation
- Link to data source hosted by QDR
- Full citation

### Successes

- Successful grant application (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
- Partners have different networks: increases reach
- Division of labor
  - Little technical debt for Cambridge and QDR
  - Rich use-case information for Hypothesis
  - Connection to authors via Cambridge
- Information sharing
  - QDR learned about publishing and details of web annotation
  - Hypothesis learned about open science/data and further engaged with publishers
  - Cambridge learned about open science/data, gathered initial experience with web annotations

Recognition



### Challenges

- Different cultures: Academic research group, large publisher, non-profit tech company:
  - How decisions are made
  - Accountability to stakeholders
  - Different time horizons
- Interests broadly aligned but:
  - Different revenue models
  - Different priority of ATI for larger mission
  - Different overarching mission

### Lessons

- ATI would not have been successful without partnership
- Knowledge exchange, division of labor, and network extension are main benefits
- Clear communication about respective expectations imperative
- Having 1-2 "champions" for each partner helps. Champions move the project internally, but also build relationships to other organizations and facilitate communication
- Timelines for software features are often tentative
- Funders and other organizations believe that heterogeneous partnerships can produce innovation and powerful collaboration

### Contact

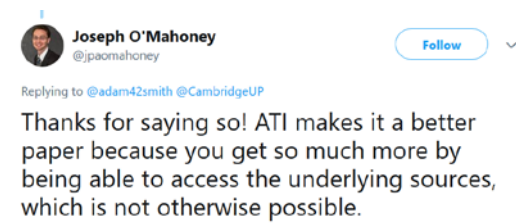
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### Project Activities

#### ATI Workshops:

- 2 Workshops 40- 50 participants each
- Workshop 1: Commissioned *retrospective* annotation of recently published articles with qualitative data in social & health science
  - Drawn heavily from **Cambridge-published** journals
- Workshop 2: Commissioned annotation of articles *during writing process*
- For both workshops, commissioned reviews of the annotations. Reviewers first read papers without, then with annotations and commented
- Authors and reviewers provided detailed written feedback
- Joint notes during all workshop sessions
- Presentations from all three project partners during workshops



Participant's comment



Wider impact

#### ATI Challenge

- Papers for Workshop 2 were solicited with "ATI. Challenge," a paper competition with multi-disciplinary selection committee
- Received 80 submissions – international and multi-disciplinary

#### Publishing ATI

- Most projects from Workshop 1 published
- Cambridge integrated Hypothesis functionality into Core platform and provided open access to papers
- <https://qdr.syr.edu/ati/ati-models>

#### See ATI in action

Historical sources: <http://bit.ly/ati-omahoney>



Linguistics (audio): <http://bit.ly/ati-audio>

