

HOW TO CREATE AND USE CONTEXT CODES

#8
TAMAZINE

tempResult FD017748-7E94-439

Workbench Tags? Find record Refresh Browse column Play media Code def. Sort

7/7 | Unlimited

```
{setting>rural}{sound>pig}oink, oink{/sound>pig}
```

#	verse	_code	_data	_comment
1	1	sound>pig	{setting>rur...	
2	1	sound>pig	{setting>rur...	
3	1	sound>pig	{setting>rur...	
4	1	setting>rural	{setting>rur...	
5	2	sound>feline	{setting>rur...	
6	2	sound>feline	{setting>rur...	
	2	setting>rural	{setting>rur...	

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WHAT IS A CONTEXT CODE?*

PART 1: WHAT ARE CONTEXT CODES? WHY SHOULD I USE THEM?

THIS IS A CONTEXT CODE

THIS IS A DATA CODE

VERSE DESCRIBES WHERE THE DATA CODES LIKE SOUND>PIG ARE LOCATED: THEY ARE IN VERSE 1 OR VERSE 2.

*I MAY SOMETIMES CALL IT A CONTEXT VARIABLE. THE TERMS ARE SYNONYMOUS

IN OTHER WORDS VERSE DESCRIBES THE "CONTEXT" OF THE DATA CODES. THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT A CONTEXT CODE.

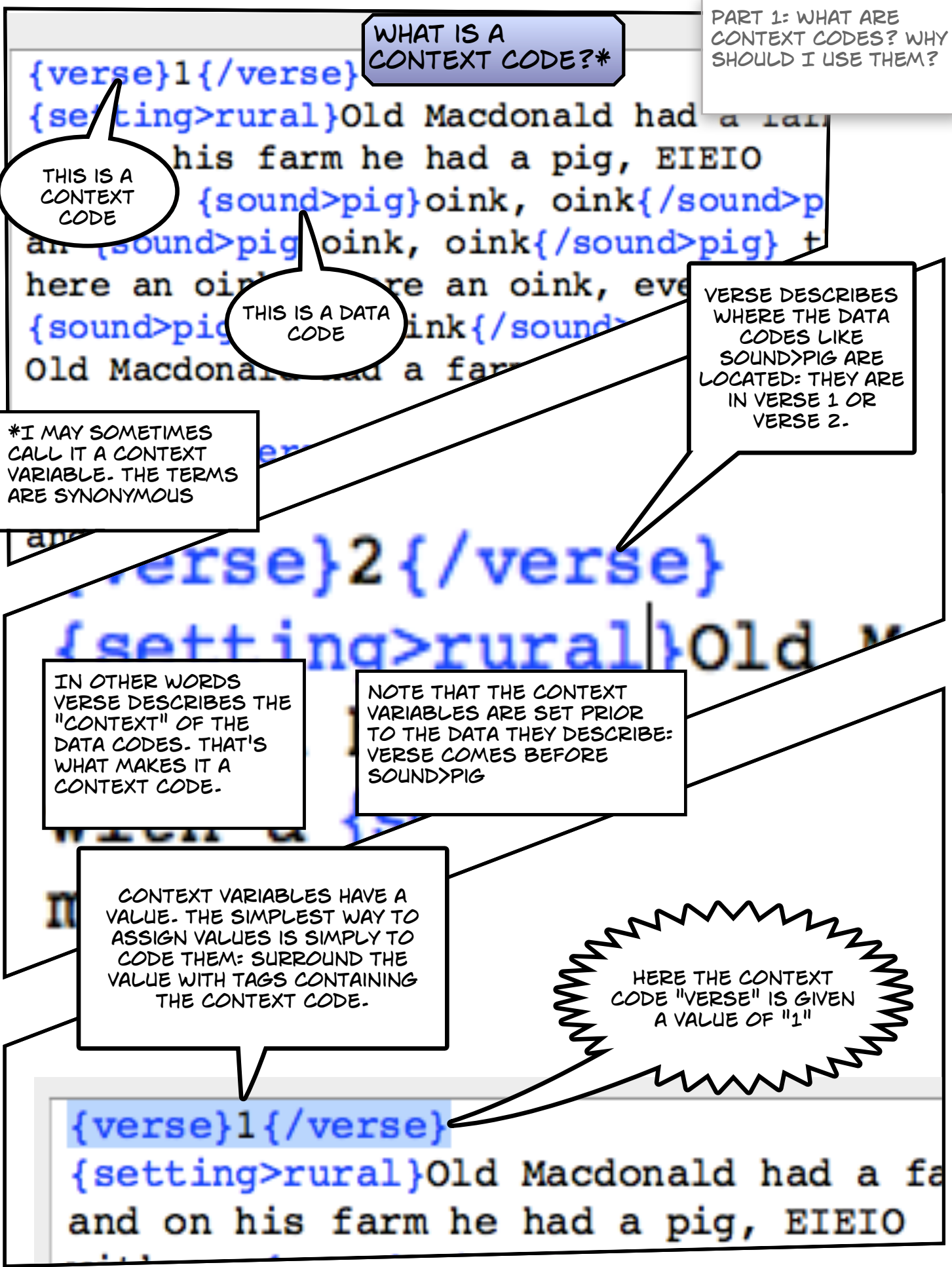
NOTE THAT THE CONTEXT VARIABLES ARE SET PRIOR TO THE DATA THEY DESCRIBE: VERSE COMES BEFORE SOUND>PIG

CONTEXT VARIABLES HAVE A VALUE. THE SIMPLEST WAY TO ASSIGN VALUES IS SIMPLY TO CODE THEM: SURROUND THE VALUE WITH TAGS CONTAINING THE CONTEXT CODE.

HERE THE CONTEXT CODE "VERSE" IS GIVEN A VALUE OF "1"

```
{verse}1{/verse}
```

```
{setting>rural}Old Macdonald had a fa  
and on his farm he had a pig, EIEIO
```



{date}SEPTEMBER 01{/date},

TYPICAL CONTEXT CODES, CONTEXT CODES THAT DON'T WORK

FOR TEXT PROJECTS TYPICAL CONTEXT CODES INCLUDE PAGE, DATE, AUTHOR, TITLE, PUBDATE, AND PUBLISHER.

BOOK; Pg. {page}C1{/page}

FOR ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECTS TYPICAL CONTEXT CODES INCLUDE INFORMANT, SPEAKER, LOCATION, TIME, DATE, DATATYPE.

CONTEXT CODES CAN DESCRIBE AN ENTIRE DOCUMENT OR ONE PORTION OF IT. THE VALUE MAY HOLD CONSTANT OVER A DOCUMENT OR CHANGE THROUGHOUT IT.

8 words

{title}Canceled or postponed{/title}

THE NAME OF CONTEXT CODES ARE JUST LIKE DATA CODES AND CANNOT CONTAIN SPACES: USE ONLY LETTERS, NUMBERS AND THE UNDERSCORE CHARACTER.

REMEMBER THAT CONTEXT CODES HAVE A VALUE. MALE AND FEMALE ARE PROBABLY NOT GOOD CONTEXT VARIABLES. SEX IS A PROBABLY A BETTER ONE AND IT WOULD BE ASSIGNED A VALUE OF MALE OR FEMALE.

WHY USE CONTEXT CODES?

CONTEXT CODES APPEAR AS THEIR OWN COLUMNS WHEN YOU DO A SIMPLE OR NON-SIMPLE SEARCH

YOUR DATA AND ITS ASSOCIATED DATA CODE...

...IS MATCHED WITH THE VALUES OF THE CONTEXT CODES

gender	FileName	Li	_code	_data
F	Amy		reason>equi...	{reaso
F	Amy	P	reason>variety	{reaso
F	Amy	P		
F				
F				
F				

THAT MEANS YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE AND WHO AND WHAT IS CONNECTED WITH YOUR DATA

E.G., WHEN YOU SEE A QUOTE AT THE TOP OF YOUR RESULTS WINDOW, YOU CAN SEE THAT IT IS A QUOTE FROM A WOMAN NAMED AMY ON 3/21/2007

Axis summary
X: Code set (negative reason...)
Y: gender

Data Elements
Count on: [dropdown]
Include total: Include total
Don't count duplicate: Don't count duplicate

Fields
time
speaker
gender
FileName
L
W

Comparison of gender by Code sets

gender	negative reason	positive reason
F	19	48
M	7	8

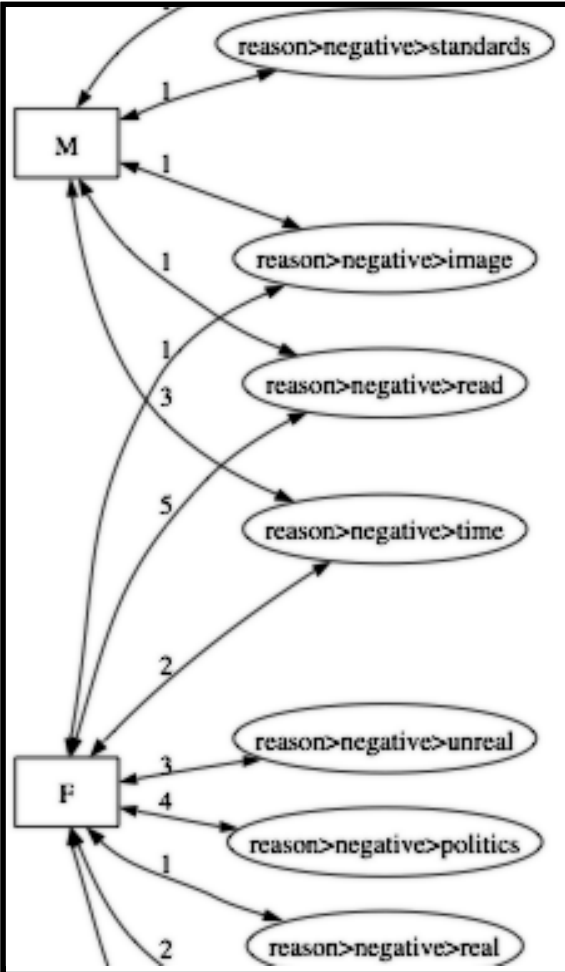
On click: [dropdown] select/highlight
Open in browser
Save
Print
Generate report

A DATA COMPARISON TABLE

FINALLY, ONCE CONTEXT CODES ARE ORGANIZED INTO COLUMNS IN RESULTS WINDOWS, THEY CAN BE PART OF TABLES AND REPORTS.

HERE, A CONTEXT VARIABLE "GENDER" IS COMPARED AGAINST TWO CODE SETS (POSTIVE AND NEGATIVE REASONS FOR USING FICTION IN SCIENCE TEACHING) THROUGH A COUNT.

USE THE "OTHER COLUMN" MENU ITEMS IN DATA COMPARISON TABLES TO ACCESS YOUR CONTEXT CODES



THERE ARE MANY REPORTS THAT ALLOW YOU TO ACCESS YOUR CONTEXT VARIABLES AND COMPARE THEM WITH THE DATA CODES, SETS OR EACH OTHER.

YOU'VE SEEN HOW TO ASSIGN A CONTEXT VARIABLE...

...BUT YOU STILL NEED TO KNOW HOW TO TELL TAMS ANALYZER WHICH CODES ARE CONTEXT CODES.

TAMS ASSUMES YOUR CODES ARE DATA CODES BY DEFAULT.

PART 2: DECLARING
CONTEXT CODES

TAMS ASSUMES ALL
YOUR CODES ARE DATA
CODES. YOU HAVE TO
"DECLARE" WHICH
ONES ARE CONTEXT
CODES.

THIS DECLARATION HAS
TO HAPPEN BEFORE
TAMS RUNS INTO ANY
CODES.

Init file: oldMacDInit.rtf

Path mode: R

TO ASSURE THAT TAMS FINDS
YOUR DECLARATION FIRST YOU
PUT THEM IN A SPECIALLY
DESIGNATED FILE CALLED
THE INIT FILE

MAKING THE INIT FILE...

The screenshot shows the TAMS software interface with the 'Files' tab selected. A callout box points to the 'New' button in the 'Files' panel. Another callout box points to the 'Init File' field, which is currently empty. A third callout box points to the file type selection area, which is currently set to 'RTF'. A fourth callout box points to the 'Name' field, which is currently empty. The interface also shows a 'Tags & Sets' panel on the right and a 'Search' field at the bottom.

STEP 1: MAKE A
NEW FILE IN YOUR
PROJECT.

GO TO THE FILES TAB
OF YOUR PROJECT
WINDOW

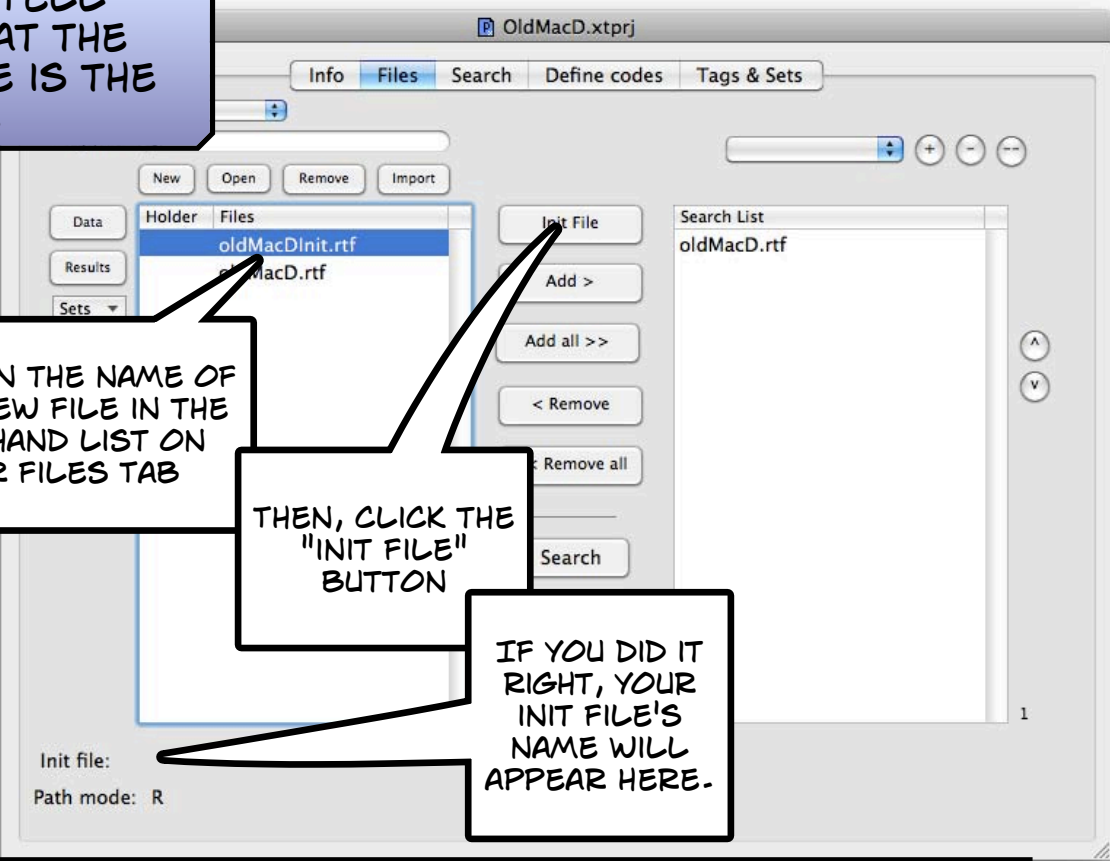
CLICK THE NEW
BUTTON

PICK RTF OR TEXT AS
THE FILE TYPE

NAME IT SOMETHING LIKE
"MYPROJECT INIT"

Init file: oldMacDInit.rtf
Path mode: R

STEP 2: TELL TAMs THAT THE NEW FILE IS THE INIT FILE



CLICK ON THE NAME OF YOUR NEW FILE IN THE LEFT HAND LIST ON YOUR FILES TAB

THEN, CLICK THE "INIT FILE" BUTTON

IF YOU DID IT RIGHT, YOUR INIT FILE'S NAME WILL APPEAR HERE.

NOW YOU CAN OPEN THIS FILE AND DECLARE YOUR CONTEXT VARIABLES

STEP 3: ADD CONTEXT CODE DECLARATIONS TO YOUR INIT FILE

lit-and-sci-init.rtf

OPEN THE INIT FILE BY DOUBLE CLICKING ITS NAME IN THE PROJECT'S FILES TAB.

FOR MOST PROJECTS THIS MEANS PUTTING IN THE INIT FILE A !CONTEXT METATAG

SIMPLY LIST YOUR CONTEXT VARIABLE NAMES SEPARATED BY COMMAS, E.G. →!CONTEXT TIME, DATE, LOCATION, INFORMANT←

```
{!context time, speaker}
```

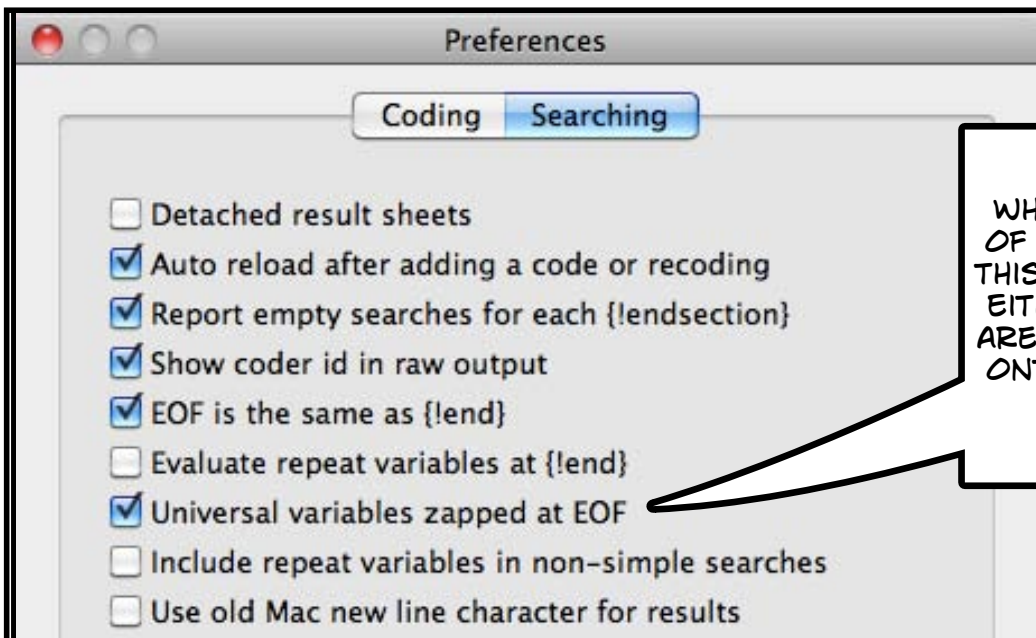
THAT WILL DECLARE THESE TO BE CONTEXT CODES WHEN SEARCHES ARE EXECUTED.

PART 3: CONTROLLING CONTEXT VARIABLES

BY DEFAULT YOUR DATA IS TREATED AS "UNSTRUCTURED". THIS MEANS IT IS TREATED AS A LONG SCROLL.

IN UNSTRUCTURED PROJECTS CONTEXT VARIABLES KEEP THEIR VALUES UNTIL THEY ARE ASSIGNED A NEW VALUE

FOR MORE ON STRUCTURED AND UNSTRUCTURED DATA, SEE TAMSZINE #1



Preferences


Coding Searching

- Detached result sheets
- Auto reload after adding a code or recoding
- Report empty searches for each {!endsection}
- Show coder id in raw output
- EOF is the same as {!end}
- Evaluate repeat variables at {!end}
- Universal variables zapped at EOF
- Include repeat variables in non-simple searches
- Use old Mac new line character for results

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF FILES IS DETERMINED BY THIS PROGRAM PREFERENCE. EITHER CONTEXT VARIABLES ARE SET TO BLANK, OR HOLD ONTO THEIR VALUE INTO THE NEXT FILE.

EOF = END OF FILE

YOU CAN OVERRIDE THIS BEHAVIOR BY SETTING THE "HORIZON" FOR THE CONTEXT CODE.



THE HORIZON IS THE POINT IN YOUR DATA WHEN THE CONTEXT VARIABLE IS BLANKED, I.E., TURNED TO AN EMPTY STRING.

```
{!context verse}  
{!var name="verse", horizon="never"}
```

THAT POINT CAN BE AN ENDSECTION METATAG OR END METATAG OR THE END OF EACH FILE OR THE END OF ALL THE FILES (NEVER).

THE TOOL FOR SETTING THE HORIZON IS THE !VAR METATAG

to button Code del

```
{!name "truth-init.rtf"}
{!var name="author", horizon="eof"}
{!var name="title", horizon="eof"}
{!var name="date", horizon="eof"}
```

IN THE !VAR TAG YOU INDICATE THE NAME OF THE CONTEXT CODE FOR WHICH YOU ARE SETTING THE HORIZON, AND THEN THE HORIZON ITSELF (SEPARATED BY A COMMA). IT ALSO DECLARES THE CONTEXT CODE IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DECLARED.

THE HORIZON CAN HAVE A VALUE OF ENDSECTION, END, EOF, OR NEVER

NOTICE THAT THE VALUES ARE PUT IN QUOTES.

ALL OF THIS GOES IN YOUR INIT FILE

```
{!universal site="Belmont"
form="document"}
```

Depart

P

A ÷!UNIVERSAL VARNAME="VALUE"≤ METATAG CAN BE PUT AT THE TOP OF DOCUMENTS TO SET A CONTEXT CODE WITH A HORIZON OF EOF AND SET ITS VALUE AT THE SAME TIME. THE CODE STILL HAS TO BE DECLARED IN THE INIT FILE

HERE YOU CAN SEE A CONTEXT CODE NAMED "SITE" BEING SET TO A VALUE OF "BELMONT". AGAIN, SITE WOULD STILL NEED TO BE DECLARED IN A !CONTEXT STATEMENT IN THE INIT FILE

PRINCIPLES

SOMETIMES A GROUP OF VALUES FOR CONTEXT VARIABLES TRAVEL TOGETHER.

FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU ARE SETTING A "SPEAKER" CONTEXT CODE TO THE NAME OF AN INTERVIEWEE, IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT IF VALUES OF OTHER CONTEXT CODES SUCH AS AGE, SEX, BIRTHPLACE, AND ETHNICITY COULD AUTOMATICALLY BE SET AS WELL.

ADDING AN !IF METATAG TO YOUR INIT FILE ALLOWS YOU TO INDICATE WHAT THE VALUES OF THESE OTHER CONTEXT CODES SHOULD BE

```
{!if site ="NCSU" => zone = "East"}
{!if site ="KSU" => zone ="Midwest"}
{!if site ="Stony Brook" => zone = "East"}
```

THE "=>" SYMBOL MEANS "IMPLIES.

THE FIRST LINE OF THE LAST PANEL READS IF THE CONTEXT CODE NAMED SITE HAS A VALUE OF "NCSU" THAT IMPLIES THAT THE CONTEXT CODE NAMED ZONE HAS A VALUE OF "EAST"

ALL CONTEXT CODES (E.G. SITE AND ZONE) MUST BE DECLARED BEFORE BEING USED IN AN !IF STATEMENT

YOU CAN CHAIN THE IMPLIES LIKE THIS:
÷!IF A="B"=>C="X"=>D="Y"≤

WHENEVER CODE A IS SET TO A VALUE OF B, C WILL BE SET TO A VALE OF X AND D WILL BE SET TO A VALUE OF Y.