Thematic focus of the content

In historical research, it is often a matter of supporting thoughts or ideas with quotes or sayings. Once the transcript is complete, certain recurring themes will emerge. In order to address these thematic clusters, it is recommended to use colour coding to associate various interventions to a select thematic group. For example, it is possible to highlight all the statements dealing with the settlement of communities with the same colour. These thematic groups can then be grouped together by indicating the themes that link them together.

When audiovisual content is involved, this step can also be carried out at the same time as the verbatim transcription or summary. By using a chart which includes time codes, themes, people, important events and a summary of the content, it is possible to create a very practical tool that enables to quickly search for specific themes among all audiovisual content. An example of a content chart and an adaptable version are available for download in this section.

Available tools

Miro : This tool provides access to an interactive board on which it is possible to make graphics and models, insert Post-its, etc. It is a very useful tool when processing thematic documents (particularly to establish links between emerging themes), but also during team brainstorming sessions, since it allows several people to modify the board simultaneously.
https://miro.com/app/dashboard/

Xmind : Xmind is a software for the creation of tree-based structure. It is a particularly useful tool when it comes to displaying the themes and highlighting the links among them. This software can also be useful when it comes time to reflect on the content and means of transmission.
https://www.xmind.net/