Triangulate

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Step 2
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Basic Approach to Data Triangulation: Step 1

- first the goal of triangulation must be agreed
  - since triangulation is a collaborative process, it is essential that stakeholders agree on an achievable goal
  - it is important not to overreach because this can become complicated and time consuming

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Triangulation Overall

- Cohen and Manion (2000) define triangulation as an "attempt to map out, or explain more fully, the richness and complexity of human behavior by studying it from more than one standpoint."
- The purpose of triangulation in qualitative research is to increase the credibility and validity of the results.
- Triangulation gives a more detailed and balanced picture of the situation by cross-checking data from multiple sources to search for regularities in the research data.
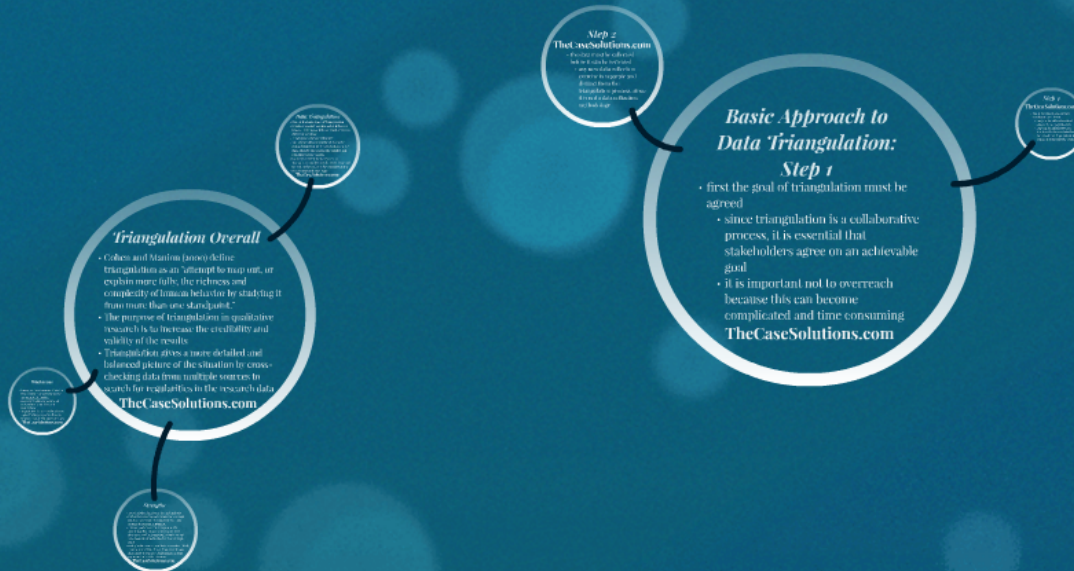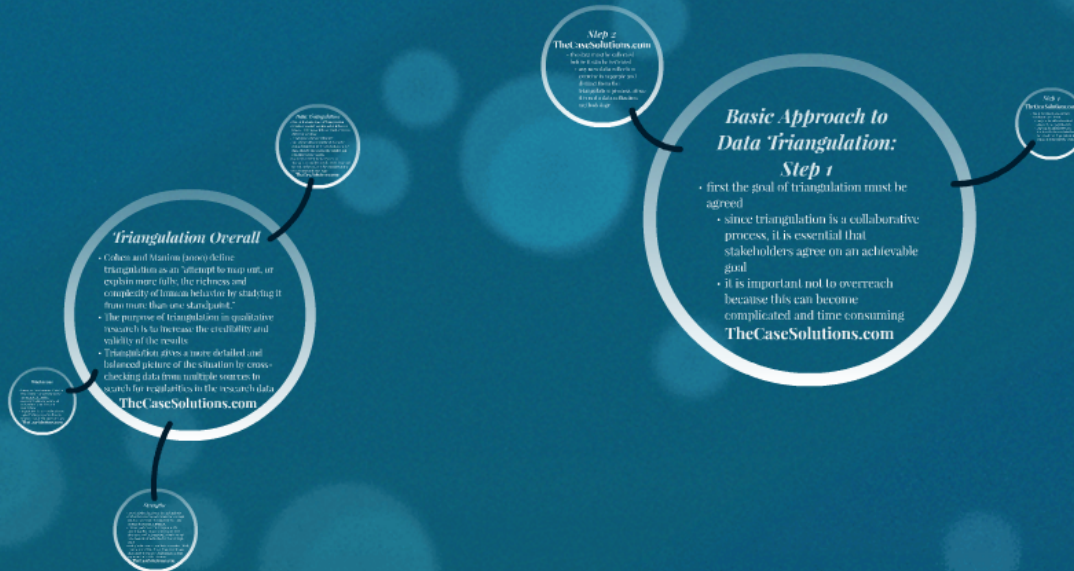
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- the data must be collected before it can be triangulated
- any new data collected is going to organize and distinct from the triangulate is present, often it is vital data to illustrate methodology

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Weaknesses

- having too few data means that data triangulation is unlikely to provide any meaningful insights
- poor quality data can completely undermine the usefulness of triangulation
- if qualitative data are analysed from a quantitative perspective this can lead to a false or misleading analysis

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Data Triangulation

- One of the four types of Triangulation
- involves research conducted at different times consisting of different individuals in different locations
- Findings can be corroborated
- and any weaknesses in the data can be compensated for by the strengths of other data, thereby increasing the validity and reliability of the results
- has been used in many sectors to strengthen conclusions about findings and to reduce the risk of false interpretations
- most commonly used type

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Strengths

- use of existing data for review and analysis
- rather than drawing conclusions from a single study, data triangulation uses multiple data sources to examine a situation
- a larger pool of relevant data practically guarantees that areas of convergence and divergence will be discovered, which may not have been identified in the data from a single study
- multiple data sources and data sets make it likely that the data will be drawn from a much more diverse set of sources, which ensures a more expansive look at the situation

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- the data must be collected before it can be reviewed
  - any new data collection exercise is separate and distinct from the triangulation process, since it is not a data collection methodology

Step 3

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- finally the data is analyzed and conclusions are drawn
  - analysts should make critical observations about the data
  - analysts should identify any trends in the data and whether they are drawn from a single data source or from multiple sources