

What is Triangulation in Research?

Triangulation is a research method used to improve the **validity** and **credibility** of findings by combining multiple sources, methods, or perspectives to study the same phenomenon.

Purpose

Triangulation helps reduce **bias**, increase **accuracy**, and validate **self-reported data** with more objective evidence.

Example in Context

In alumni surveys using a **cross-sectional, self-report design**, triangulation might involve verifying:

- Survey answers against **publication databases**
- Reported achievements with **grant records**
- Career outcomes using **institutional data**

Types of Triangulation

| Type | Description | Example |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Data triangulation | Using multiple data sources | Self-report + publication records |
| Methodological | Applying different methods | Surveys + interviews |
| Investigator | Multiple researchers reviewing data | Independent analysis by several evaluators |
| Theory triangulation | Using different theoretical lenses | Analyzing results using both feminist and economic theories |

Summary

Triangulation strengthens research by validating findings through **multiple independent approaches**, rather than relying on a single, potentially biased method.

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