**Data Life Cycle**

1. **Plan:** Decide what kind of data is needed, how it will be managed, and who will be responsible for it.
2. **Capture:** Collect or bring in data from a variety of different sources.
3. **Manage:** Care for and maintain the data. This includes determining how and where it is stored and the tools used to do so.
4. **Analyze:** Use the data to solve problems, make decisions, and support business goals.
5. **Archive:** Keep relevant data stored for long-term and future reference.
6. **Destroy:** Remove data from storage and delete any shared copies of the data.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uses the following data life cycle:

1. Plan
2. Acquire
3. Maintain
4. Access
5. Evaluate
6. Archive

## The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The USGS uses the data life cycle below:

1. Plan
2. Acquire
3. Process
4. Analyze
5. Preserve
6. Publish/Share

Several cross-cutting or overarching activities are also performed during each stage of their life cycle:

* Describe (metadata and documentation)
* Manage Quality
* Backup and Secure

## Financial institutions

Financial institutions may take a slightly different approach to the data life cycle as described in [The Data Life Cycle](https://sfmagazine.com/post-entry/july-2018-the-data-life-cycle/), an article in Strategic Finance magazine:

1. Capture
2. Qualify
3. Transform
4. Utilize
5. Report
6. Archive
7. Purge

## Harvard Business School (HBS)

One final data life cycle informed by Harvard University research has eight stages:

1. Generation
2. Collection
3. Processing
4. Storage
5. Management
6. Analysis
7. Visualization
8. Interpretation