TRIANGULATION

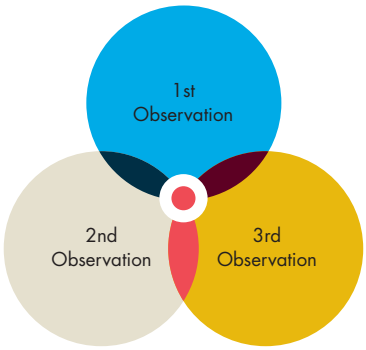
Confirm Research Findings

Triangulation is the process of combining several different research methods to illuminate one area of study, in other words using several research tools to examine the same thing. Triangulation is commonly used by the social sciences and adds credibility to qualitative research. By incorporating different tactics, the researcher can overcome issues of validity inherent with many singular qualitative approaches. The goal of triangulation is to confirm the findings of each individual tactic by focusing on where the collected information overlaps. This area of overlap, called convergence, is considered to be the most accurate representation of truth.

Research findings can be triangulated in a number of ways. For example, secondary research triangulation would compare a variety of previously published data (perhaps aggregated via articles, books, journals, and reports). Method triangulation would compare the findings of multiple and varied research tactics (perhaps collected via focus groups, user testing, and observational research). Investigator triangulation would compare the findings of multiple researchers (perhaps collected over a period of time, or from multiple sessions in the field). To be unequivocally thorough a researcher might employ multiple variations of triangulation, comparing areas of convergence.

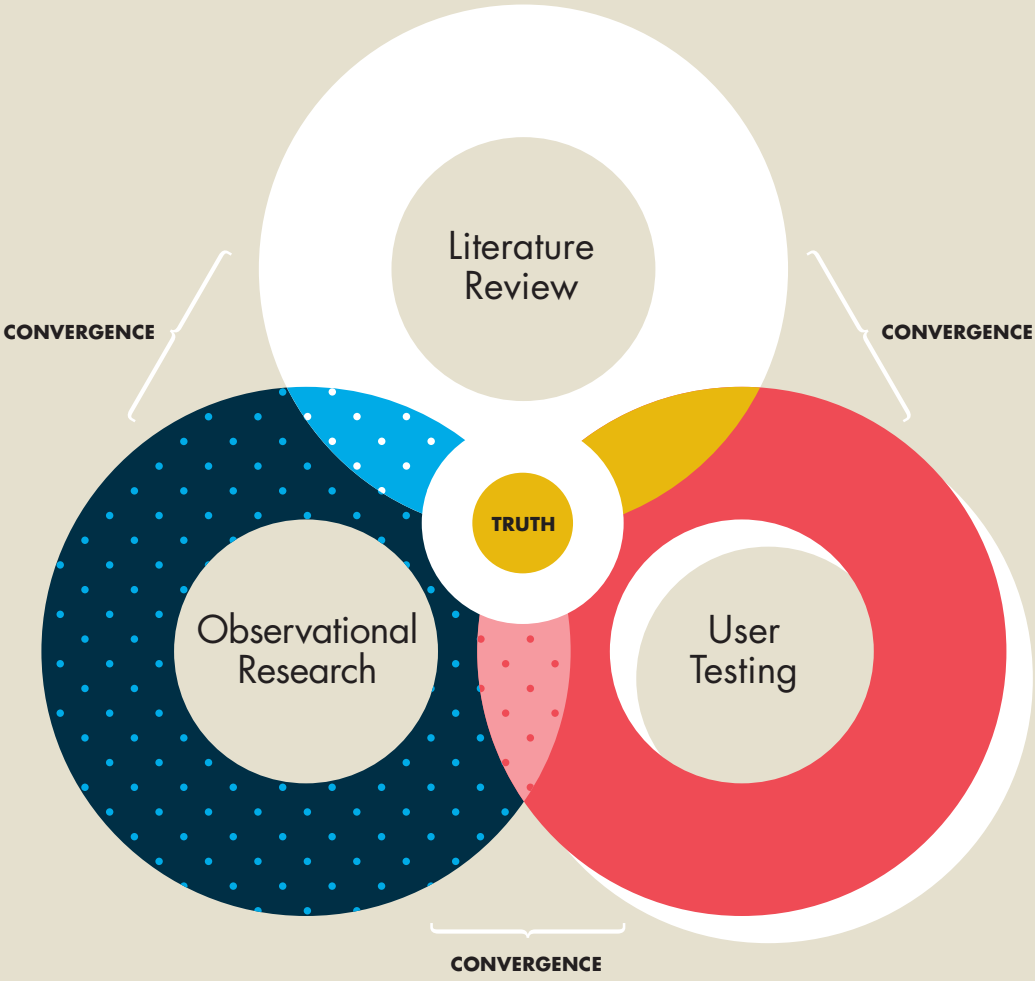
The concept of triangulation doesn't just apply to the use of multiple research methods. You can also triangulate results from observations collected over a span of time, or use the process to compare notes from multiple investigators.

TRIANGULATION OF **OBSERVATIONS**



TRIANGULATION OF **INVESTIGATORS**

TRIANGULATION OF **METHODS**



Triangulation is a process that compares and validates findings from qualitative methods by looking for overlapping and common results. Where findings begin to overlap is called convergence, which is the best representation of truth in the information gathered.