Chapter 3: Finding and reviewing the literature

TRUE/FALSE

1. The literature is the total body of writing that deals with the topic being researched.

   ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Introduction

2. Reviewing literature is the searching for information on databases.

   ANS: F   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Introduction

3. Financial constraints are considered a valid reason for failing to obtain and review relevant literature in a PhD.

   ANS: F   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Preparing to search

4. Reviewing the literature is essential to gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

   ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Why review?

5. In some qualitative approaches, justification is given for not reviewing the literature prior to the study.

   ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Why review?

6. One of the first steps is to start by defining your topic in sufficient detail to find relevant information.

   ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Preparing to search

7. Being systematic in both searching and record keeping is the key to an efficient search.

   ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Preparing to search

8. Qualitative research has a different approach to conducting a literature review than quantitative research.

   ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Beginning your literature search

9. It is important that reading of the literature is focused so as to promote an analytical approach and purposive reading.

   ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Setting boundaries to the search

10. If the topic is producing too much literature, it may be too complex and you should narrow it to make it more manageable.

    ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Setting boundaries to the search

11. Lecturers can give you hints on appropriate resources and topics to research.

    ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Lecturers

12. Primary sources are those written by the author and have the advantage of being the author's own ideas.

ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Types of literature sources

13. Refereed journal articles are considered less scholarly than non-refereed journal articles.

ANS: F   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Types of literature sources

14. The Internet is an efficient resource for conducting a literature review.

ANS: F   PTS: 1   DIF: Difficult   TOP: Types of literature sources

15. Research evidence is strongest with a study that uses a meta-analysis of experimental studies design.

ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Types of literature sources

16. Some libraries have specific reference libraries for particular areas of knowledge.

ANS: F   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Library staff

17. Conference papers and proceedings are useful and can be listed as references.

ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Conference proceedings

18. Reports from government and institutions are not useful sources of information.

ANS: F   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Reports

19. A thorough search of the literature will include a search for relevant theses.

ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Difficult   TOP: Theses

20. Professional journals are the most valuable resources for researchers.

ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Journals

21. For nursing, CINAHL, Medline and PubMed are important databases for searching the literature.

ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Identifying relevant and credible literature

COMPLETION

22. When searching for literature, you can eliminate many items by reading the _____.

ANS: abstract

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Selecting literature

23. The system of _____ entails the journal editor sending out the article to two identified reviewers who critique the article.

ANS: peer review

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Selecting literature

24. Secondary resources have the disadvantage of being filtered through the writer's own attitudes and _____.

ANS: biases

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Types of literature sources

25. Eliminating literature is normal and shows an ability to _____ between useful and irrelevant literature.

ANS: discriminate

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Selecting literature

26. Scholarly language includes research _____ and statistics.

ANS: terminology

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: A report's language

27. In a research report, the _____ comes first.

ANS: title

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Reading a research report

28. At the end of the research report, the _____ will be given.

ANS: references

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Reading a research report

29. A _____ is a balanced assessment of both the positive and negative qualities of a research report.

ANS: critique

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Critiquing a literature review

30. If you are reading about research in a clinical area, become familiar with the clinical _____.

ANS: terminology

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: A report's language

31. Attributing the idea to its rightful sources avoids _____.

ANS: plagiarism

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Documenting key ideas from the reading

32. A _____ is a balanced assessment developed through a process of critical appraisal of the positive and negative qualities of a study or publication.

ANS: critique

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Critiquing a literature review

33. The introduction will give the problem being researched its scope and its _____.

ANS: significance

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Reading a research report

34. After the discussion is the place where the researcher is able to make conclusions and _____.

ANS: recommendations

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Reading a research report

35. There are software programs such as Endnote that enable you to _____ bibliographic information electronically.

ANS: catalogue

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Acquiring your own collection of information

36. In order to become familiar with the _____ of research on your topic, you will have to read research reports.

ANS: body

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Reading a research report

37. The _____ system helps to maintain a standard of excellence in research scholarship.

ANS: peer-review

PTS: 1   DIF: Difficult   TOP: Selecting literature

38. The bibliography or reference section of _____ journal articles will probably contain references to other useful articles.

ANS: professional

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Articles

39. A literature review may be used to provide _____ or context for the study.

ANS: background

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Types of literature reviews

40. Frequently, nursing knowledge _____ knowledge from other disciplines.

ANS: incorporates

PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Journals

41. A refereed journal article is one that has been sent for _____ review before being accepted for publication.

ANS: peer

PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Types of literature sources

MATCHING

Match each item with the correct statement below.

A.	primary sources	K.	keywords
B.	Boolean operators	L.	secondary sources
C.	teachers, librarians, supervisors	M.	setting boundaries
D.	Endnote	N.	methodology section
E.	review of the literature	O.	Australian Bureau of Statistics
F.	FINER	P.	refereed journal articles
G.	Global Books in Print	Q.	critique
H.	Medline	R.	bibliography
I.	peer review	S.	historical research
J.	CINAHL	T.	literature

42. To read, sort and analyse the literature, putting it into some kind of order, and critiquing individual research reports
43. Pieces of literature to which an author refers
44. Intentionally limiting a literature search
45. The total body of writing that deals with the topic being researched; mainly comprises theoretical and research papers
46. People who can most likely help you with a literature search
47. Narrows the search parameters in electronic databases
48. Using this software program, citations can be directly linked to computer Word documents
49. The most scholarly publications, because they have been sent out for peer review before being accepted for publication
50. Institution for statistics
51. Pieces of literature written by the author that have the advantage of being the author's own ideas
52. All references accessed, listed at the end of a publication
53. Research question tool
54. A balanced assessment via critical appraisal of studies
55. Helps maintain a standard of excellence in research scholarship
56. Outlines the design of the study in a research report
57. A database relevant to the medical profession
58. Research requiring a search of the archives
59. A database relevant to Nursing and Allied Health
60. Lists all books in print in English
61. Words used to locate literature in literature searches

42. ANS: E   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Introduction
43. ANS: L   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Types of literature review
44. ANS: M   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Setting boundaries to the search
45. ANS: T   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Introduction

46.	ANS: C	PTS: 1	DIF: Easy	TOP: Possible sources
47.	ANS: B	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Preparing to search
48.	ANS: D	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Acquiring your own

collection of information

49.	ANS: P	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Journals
50.	ANS: O	PTS: 1	DIF: Easy	TOP: Reports
51.	ANS: A	PTS: 1	DIF: Easy	TOP: Types of literature sources
52.	ANS: R	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Articles
53.	ANS: F	PTS: 1	DIF: Difficult	TOP: Why review?
54.	ANS: Q	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Critiquing a literature review
55.	ANS: I	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Selecting literature
56.	ANS: N	PTS: 1	DIF: Easy	TOP: Reading a research report
57.	ANS: H	PTS: 1	DIF: Easy	TOP: Journals
58.	ANS: S	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Library
59.	ANS: J	PTS: 1	DIF: Moderate	TOP: Journals
60.	ANS: G	PTS: 1	DIF: Difficult	TOP: Useful sources of literature
61.	ANS: K	PTS: 1	DIF: Easy	TOP: Preparing to search

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

62. A literature review enables the researcher to:

   A. provide a rigorous background and justification for the research
   B. acquire funding for the research to be granted
   C. achieve clarification of the current literature
   D. ensure the research is feasible

   ANS: A   PTS: 1   DIF: Difficult   TOP: Why review?

63. Primary sources of literature:

   A. are written by the author
   B. are sources which the author refers to
   C. convey the essence of the work but are not the work itself
   D. are best avoided in postgraduate studies

   ANS: A   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Types of literature sources

64. CINAHL refers to:

   A. Context, interesting, novel, abstract, hierarchy, level
   B. Collaborative Index of Nursing and Assistive Health Literature
   C. Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature
   D. Cumulative Index of New Abstract Health Literature

   ANS: C   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Journals

65. Which of these is not a way to review the literature:

   A. analysing
   B. logical reasoning
   C. reflection
   D. predicting

ANS: C   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Introduction

66. The abstract:

    A.   discusses the problem being researched
    B.   outlines the design of the study
    C.   discusses the significance of the findings
    D.   summarises the study

ANS: D   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Reading a research report

67. The literature review in a quantitative study:

    A.   identifies the design of the study
    B.   identifies the findings of the study
    C.   identifies the specific hypotheses and variables
    D.   summarises the study

ANS: C   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Reading a research report

68. A critique is:

    A.   research requiring a search of the archives
    B.   pieces of literature to which an author refers
    C.   a balanced assessment developed through a process of critical appraisal of the study
    D.   the total body of writing that deals with the topic being researched

ANS: C   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Critiquing a literature review

69. In terms of research evidence, which of the following is the strongest?

    A.   a meta-analysis of experimental studies
    B.   correlative studies
    C.   qualitative studies
    D.   descriptive studies

ANS: A   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Types of literature sources

70. In terms of research evidence, which of the following is the weakest?

    A.   a meta-analysis of experimental studies
    B.   correlative studies
    C.   qualitative studies
    D.   descriptive studies

ANS: D   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Types of literature sources

71. Which of these is not a method of cataloguing literature?

    A.   Endnote
    B.   summarising articles electronically
    C.   photocopying articles
    D.   storing on a USB

ANS: D   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Documenting key ideas from the reading

72. The Australian Bureau of Statistics:

   A.   is specific to nursing
   B.   holds theses of doctoral studies
   C.   is a repository of international studies
   D.   has a large number of Australian statistical reports

   ANS: D   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Reports

73. The peer-review system:

   A.   intentionally limits a literature search
   B.   uses a three-number prefix
   C.   is also called the information superhighway
   D.   helps to maintain a standard of excellence in research scholarship

   ANS: D   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Selecting literature

74. The references section:

   A.   answers the how, when, where and to whom questions
   B.   reports findings of the study
   C.   outlines the design of the study
   D.   summarises the study

   ANS: A   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Reading a research report

75. Which is characteristic of a well-conducted literature review?

   A.   it consists mainly of secondary sources
   B.   it is presented in the form of an annotated list
   C.   it replicates the abstract of previous studies
   D.   it expresses opinions about the quality and importance of the cited research

   ANS: D   PTS: 1   DIF: Difficult   TOP: Characteristics of a well-conducted literature review

76. Which is characteristic of a poorly conducted literature review?

   A.   it is presented in the form of an essay
   B.   it lacks analysis and critique
   C.   it includes current research
   D.   it highlights trends, themes and gaps in the literature

   ANS: B   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Characteristics of a weak literature review

77. Why review the literature?

   A.   to allow you to replicate studies
   B.   to assist you to broaden the topic to study
   C.   to identify whether the topic needs to be studied

D.   reviewing the literature is not necessary in quantitative studies

ANS: C   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Why review?

78. Boolean operators:

A.   widen the search
B.   narrow the search
C.   need specific phrases
D.   are used only to find authors

ANS: B   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Preparing to search

79. Purposive reading means:

A.   accepting what the author has written
B.   not blindly accepting what the author has written
C.   unfocused reading
D.   restricted reading

ANS: B   PTS: 1   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Setting boundaries to the
search

80. Reliable sources of contemporary research literature do not include:

A.   books
B.   conference proceedings
C.   government reports
D.   theses

ANS: A   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Books

81. The most valuable resources for researchers conducting a literature review are:

A.   newspapers
B.   professional journals
C.   anecdotal reports
D.   books

ANS: B   PTS: 1   DIF: Easy   TOP: Journals

CRITICAL THINKING & ANALYSIS

82. Using Figure 3.2 Critiquing an article (p. 54), find an article on a topic that you are interested in and complete a critique of this article.

ANS: Refer to figure 3.2 to complete this activity.

PTS: 2   DIF: Moderate   TOP: Acquiring your own collection of information

83. Using the topic 'the efficacy of syringe drivers for pain management in palliation', choose five articles and complete an annotated bibliography (ref p. 60).

ANS: You may be asked to complete an annotated bibliography as an exercise in formulating a

literature review. This requires you to identify a number of key publications and in your own words demonstrate that you understand the content and meaning of the articles. The annotations usually include the full reference, with approximately 200 words in description. You may, for example, need to explain or critique the populations and methods used, how findings were interpreted, the reliability of the findings and the strengths and limitation of the text. Annotations can be added to your own reference library and are useful as they are often superior to notes made on the article, which you may find are biased or too brief when you return to the works later on in your research.

PTS: 2   DIF: Difficult   TOP: References and bibliographies