All websites and links accessed 13/03/07.

**General**
As background reading for the module, you may wish to dip into a textbook. There are now numerous British and North American research texts available, and it is important to select one that you will enjoy reading.


**Journal articles**

The following articles tend to centre on research critique and utilisation. For your own professional development, we advise that you read research publications that pertain to your own area of nursing practice. Please see your programme handbook for more details on accessing library resources in your field of work.


This resource could be drawn on when you encounter research studies (particularly clinical trials) that make significant use of quantitative research approaches. It offers a succinct (but not especially simple) account of the different ways in which researchers use quantitative data to build arguments based on inference and the use of samples.


Descriptive research in Denmark into whether a research course increased nurses’ research activities and commitment to research in general. A useful paper from two perspectives, firstly the research approach and secondly the topic of undertaking a research methods course.


This article discusses the relevance of the newer nursing research methodologies and links these to the purpose of professional nursing. A very interesting set of propositions are explored.


A short and accessible article on a research method that is widely employed.


This study is a qualitative study using a very specific type of attitude survey. The findings are particularly interesting.


The study guide highlights the fact that research does not operate in a vacuum. This paper discusses research in the funding context, and asks a range of questions about what sort of research is attractive to fund holders. When you have read this paper, pause to consider what it means for nursing. Should nurses prepare research to a previously determined agenda, or is this unduly restrictive? This is an important issue, given that nurses sometimes struggle to demonstrate the contribution of nursing in terms of patient outcomes.
Qualitative data research poses a number of problems when we come to evaluate the findings. This article explores three approaches to this issue. One position is to insist on the rigorous standards imposed in positivist research; another is to suggest that we cannot critically evaluate the data at all. However, the authors suggest a third approach – using criteria to critique the findings that are well suited to the nature of the data.

This article tackles an important general issue, that of ethical considerations when conducting research with vulnerable patients.

This is an interesting piece of research that involved looking at how specialist nurses use research. The researcher looks at the criteria they used to judge which research to utilise in the workplace.

Randomised controlled trials are part of the fabric of medical research and are also used in nursing research. This paper provides a useful overview of what to ask of this type of (positivist) research.

This is a useful update on the enduring debate about quantitative (positivist) research and qualitative (naturalistic) research. If you have little experience of engaging with this debate, this paper will help orientate you to some of the views expressed by nurse researchers. The authors present a well-constructed argument that is also a model of good practice in academic writing in general.

This paper offers practical advice and an explanation of how networking research can become part of everyday nursing practice. It will be worth reading to see if you can apply any of the tips in your own workplace, and this would certainly contribute to the clinical governance agenda.

This author examines ‘intervention bias’ and study outcomes. A solid critique of one of the problems associated with the use of RCTs in nursing research.
This is a short article outlining the major challenges and concerns when a researcher conducts observation research. It is particularly interesting because it neatly summarises some of the ethical concerns and problems of deciding whether the researcher is gathering or analysing data.

This research uses a method of randomising the subjects in the sample into two distinct groups. This poses interesting ethical issues, especially as the researchers discovered that the nursing intervention resulted in a statistically significant change in patient outcomes post-intervention.

An interesting exploration of the way in which qualitative research can be deemed rigorous. This useful article gives a welcome overseas perspective.

The author discusses structured and unstructured observation, relating the two to the overarching research paradigm. She centres her paper on naturalistic research using unstructured observation.

This is a good example of a pilot study which led to the development of a questionnaire designed to measure the needs of families who accompany critically ill relatives in the emergency room.

Robinson, S., Marsland, T., Murrells, L., Hickey, G., Hardyman, R. and Tingle, A. (1998) Designing questionnaires and achieving high response rates in a longitudinal study of nurse diplomates’ careers, *NT Research*, 3 (3), pp.179–198. Questionnaires are a popular, if often misused, data-collection tool in nursing research, so this paper offers some helpful insights into the process of questionnaire design and usage. After reading this paper, it is unlikely that you will regard questionnaire-based research as an easy option.

This paper addresses some of the issues surrounding the growing emphasis on consumerism and consumer involvement and consultation in health-related research. The authors describe and analyse research approaches that take account of ‘user/carer’ issues and provide thought-provoking commentary on some of the factors that need to be considered.


**Useful websites**

The Cochrane Library  
[www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com)  
The Cochrane Library is a product of the worldwide Cochrane Collaboration, which prepares and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare trials. The library is regularly updated and offers bibliographic information on over 112,000 trials.

Health Web  
[www.healthweb.org](http://www.healthweb.org)  
This website has an excellent search facility with extensive links to journals, research groups, research activities and related databases.

Karolinska Institutet  
[ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=130&l=en](http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=130&l=en)  
Karolinska Institutet is one of Europe's largest medical universities, and Sweden's largest centre for medical training and research. Its website has a vast and inclusive search facility with a strong research and nursing focus.

RDInfo  
[www.rdinfo.org.uk](http://www.rdinfo.org.uk)  
This website provides a range of information for researchers at all levels in the health and social care field. The varying sections provide much useful information on research approaches, processes and sources of evidence.

SCHARR (University of Sheffield School of Health and Related Research)  
[www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/](http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/)  
This site offers a review of published research related to evidence-based practice. It encompasses sections on critical appraisal, economic evaluation, dissemination and changing practice.

University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination  
[www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/)  
The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York undertakes reviews of research about the effects of interventions used in health and social care.

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