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# Which Online Resources Help with Nursing Literature Reviews in Australia?

A Practical Guide for Australian Nursing Students

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# Understanding Nursing Literature Reviews

## What is a Nursing Literature Review?

A literature review helps nursing students understand what existing research says about a healthcare topic and identify areas that need further investigation.

**Why is it important?** Literature reviews form the foundation of evidence-based nursing practice, helping you build credible arguments supported by peer-reviewed research.

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## Key Purposes

### Review Existing Research

Reviewing existing research and evidence in nursing and healthcare

### Identify Best Practices

Identifying evidence-based nursing practices and clinical standards

### Understand Gaps

Understanding healthcare challenges and areas needing further investigation

### Build Critical Skills

Supporting academic assignments and developing critical thinking skills

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# Best Online Resources for Nursing Literature Reviews

These six essential databases and platforms provide Australian nursing students with access to high-quality, peer-reviewed research and evidence-based healthcare information.

### PubMed

Comprehensive database for biomedical and nursing research with millions of citations from MEDLINE and life science journals.

### CINAHL

Specialised database designed for nursing and allied health literature, covering clinical practice and research.

### Google Scholar

Discover scholarly articles, research papers, citations, and grey literature across disciplines.

### Cochrane Library

Systematic reviews and evidence-based healthcare research with rigorous quality standards.

### AIHW

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare — authoritative Australian health statistics, reports, and healthcare information.

### Informit

Access to Australian and international academic publications, theses, and research materials.




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# Australian Nursing Research Resources

## Local Resources for Australian Nursing Students

### AIHW

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

### ABS

Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Dept. of Health

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

### ANMF

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation

### University Libraries

Library databases and academic research portals

## Research Areas Supported

- Aged care nursing and gerontology
- Mental health nursing and psychological wellbeing
- Chronic disease management and prevention
- Emergency nursing and acute care
- Community healthcare and public health
- Patient safety and clinical practice standards

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# How to Search for Relevant Nursing Literature

## Step-by-Step Search Strategy

### 1 Select a Clear Topic

Choose a focused nursing research topic with a defined scope

### 2 Identify Keywords

List important keywords and related terms for your topic

### 3 Use Boolean Operators

Combine terms using **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** to refine searches

### 4 Apply Date Filters

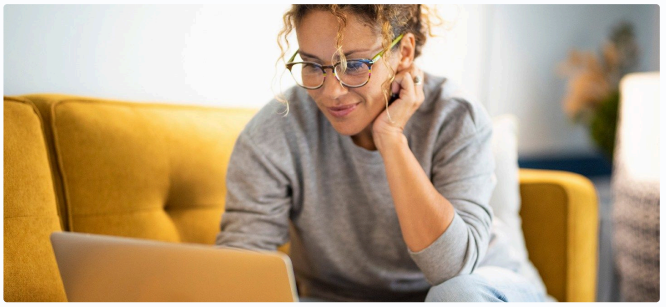
Filter by publication date to find current, relevant research

### 5 Target Peer-Reviewed Articles

Search specifically for peer-reviewed journal articles

### 6 Use University Library Access

Access full-text articles through your university library portal



**Example Search Query:**
"nursing AND evidence-based practice AND Australia"

**Pro Tip:** Combine multiple databases and use your university's library portal to access full-text articles and research materials.

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# Evaluating Academic Sources

Use the **CRAAP evaluation method** to assess source quality before including any reference in your nursing literature review.

## Currency

Is the information recent enough for your topic? Check publication dates and updates to ensure relevance.

## Relevance

Does it directly answer your research question? Is it appropriate for nursing practice and your academic level?

## Authority

Is the author or publisher credible? Check qualifications, institutional affiliation, and expertise in the field.

## Accuracy

Is the information supported by evidence? Are claims backed by citations, data, and verifiable sources?

## Purpose

Is the source educational, research-based, or promotional? Identify potential bias or conflict of interest.

**Key Principle:** Always prioritise credible, peer-reviewed research and verify important findings using reliable academic sources.

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# Writing an Effective Nursing Literature Review

## Basic Structure

01

### Introduction & Research Question

Clearly state your focus and scope of the review

02

### Search Strategy & Source Selection

Explain databases, keywords, and inclusion criteria used

03

### Thematic Organisation

Group findings by themes or concepts for clarity

04

### Critical Analysis & Comparison

Evaluate and synthesise findings across multiple sources

05

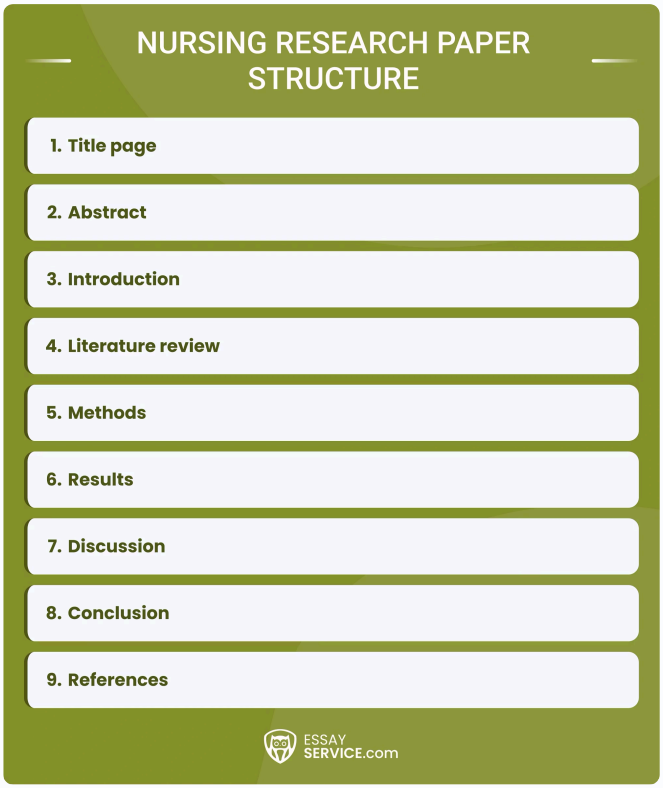
### Discussion of Research Gaps

Identify areas needing further investigation

06

### Conclusion & Reference List

Summarise key findings and cite all sources correctly




**Important:** Follow your university guidelines and use the required referencing style, such as **APA 7th edition**, consistently throughout your review.

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# Build a Stronger Nursing Literature Review

## Key Takeaway

Online academic databases, Australian healthcare resources, and university libraries provide nursing students with access to reliable research and evidence-based information. By mastering literature review skills, you can develop stronger academic work and contribute to evidence-based nursing practice.

## Need Guidance with Your Nursing Literature Review?

BookMyEssay offers academic guidance to help students understand research sources, literature review structure, referencing, and evidence-based writing.

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