Chapter 1

How can a meta-analysis be defined? What differentiates a meta-analysis from other types of literature reviews?

A meta-analysis tries to summarize the results of multiple studies on a similiar topic in a mathematical way. It differs from other kinds of literature reviews by being quantitative and by aiming to select studies in a systematic ways. A meta-analysis is therefore also a kind of systematic review.

Can you name one of the founding mothers and fathers of meta-analysis? What achievement can be attributed to her or him?

Gene V. Glass: Developed a technique to pool SMD across studies and termed it **meta-analysis**. He was also part of the first ever published meta-analysis

Peter Elwood and Archie Cochrane: used meta-analysis to show that aspirin has a small, but relevant preventive effect on the recurrence of heart attacks