**Appendix A: Initial Measurement Items of the Researcher's Knowledge Anxiety Scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number | Measurement Item |
| Q1 | I often save, collect, and screenshot various knowledge content that I find useful. |
| Q2 | When I discover substantial knowledge in a certain field, I feel an immediate urge to learn. |
| Q3 | I often feel that my own knowledge structure is not comprehensive and balanced, causing anxiety about the gap between myself and others. |
| Q4 | I frequently do not know where to find knowledge content related to my research. |
| Q5 | I sometimes don't know how to transform the research ideas I have into a paper. |
| Q6 | The rapid rate of forgetting the knowledge I've learned makes me feel annoyed. |
| Q7 | Sometimes, I feel lost because the knowledge I acquire cannot be monetized. |
| Q8 | I often encounter difficult-to-understand professional terms or complex concepts in my studies. |
| Q9 | I often worry that my knowledge may lag behind the latest developments in the research field. |
| Q10 | I sometimes doubt the practical significance of my experiments and published papers. |
| Q11 | I often worry that my knowledge achievements will not be recognized, questioned, or criticized by others. |
| Q12 | I often worry that the literature and materials I find are not comprehensive and may miss important knowledge. |
| Q13 | I sometimes feel nervous because I cannot clearly define my knowledge needs. |
| Q14 | I can clearly distinguish the differences between knowledge in different fields. \* |
| Q15 | I can flexibly use existing knowledge to propose innovative theoretical viewpoints. \* |
| Q16 | I can discern and filter high-quality knowledge from the vast ocean of information. \* |
| Q17 | I can adjust the knowledge I learn flexibly to adapt to future research topics. \* |
| Q18 | I enhance my knowledge reserve by participating in paid knowledge courses, workshops, training camps, etc. |
| Q19 | I can flexibly use various channels to obtain the knowledge I need. \* |
| Q20 | I often feel lonely on the road of research. |
| Q21 | Sometimes, I feel frustrated because of the high cost of knowledge consultation. |
| Q22 | Knowledge courses pushed by platforms like WeChat and academic new media make me feel nervous and uneasy. |

Note: Items marked with an asterisk (\*) are reverse-coded.