Checking out orders

Having produced a shopping cart page, described on pages 174-181, you can now create a PHP script to process the user's selected items as a "checkout" order. This is the culmination of the shopping cart process and will store the cart selections in the "orders" and "order_contents" database tables for subsequent fulfilment by the supplier.

1. Launch a plain text editor and begin a PHP script with a statement to allow access to session data
   ```php
   <?php
   session_start();
   ```

2. Now, add statements to redirect the browser to the Login page if the user is not already logged in
   ```php
   if ( !isset($_SESSION[ 'user_id' ] ) )
   { require ( 'login_tools.php' ) ; load() ; }
   ```

3. Next, add statements to set the page title and include a page header
   ```php
   $page_title = 'Checkout';
   include ( 'includes/header.html' ) ;
   ```

4. Add statements to store the shopping cart items in the database or provide a default message
   ```php
   if ( isset($_GET[ 'total' ] )
       && ( $_GET[ 'total' ] > 0 )
       && ( !empty( $_SESSION[ 'cart' ] ) ) )
   {
       // Statements to be inserted here (Steps 5-10).
   }
   else
   { echo '<p>There are no items in your cart.</p>' ; }
   ```

5. Now, insert a statement to open the database connection
   ```php
   require ( '../connect_db.php' ) ;
   ```

6. Next, insert statements to store the user ID, total order value, and current date/time in the "orders" database table
   ```php
   $q = "INSERT INTO orders ( user_id , total , order_date ) VALUES (" . $_SESSION[ 'user_id' ] . "," . $_GET[ 'total' ] . ", NOW() ) " ;
   $r = mysqli_query ( $dbc , $q ) ;
   ```

The total value of the shopping cart is appended to the URL of this web page by the cart page's PHP script.