Peer Reviewed Journals: *The Creation of New Knowledge*
The Peer Review process begins with a researcher and a new idea.
The researcher reviews the “literature” of her/his field to see what else has been done on the topic.
A researcher may secure funding to help pay for her/his research.
Conducting the actual research can be an involved and time consuming process.
Gathering, analyzing, and interpreting the data is where much of the thought in research occurs.
Researchers often present preliminary findings at conferences. These can provide good feedback too.
With the input from the conference, the researcher will prepare her/his findings for publication.
The manuscript is sent to the editor of a suitable journal.
Experts on the topic review the manuscript (More about this in a moment)
The journal publishes the article which will inform, enlighten, and prompt new ideas…
The Researcher submits her/his manuscript to a journal

- The editor reviews for:
  - Content
  - Creativity
  - Clarity
  - Contribution to the knowledge of the field

- If the editor likes it…
It gets sent to other experts to review
The Peer Reviewers

- Look to see what is new about the research
- Determine if the methodology is sound
- Decide if the conclusions are supported
- Verify that this is a contribution to the field
The Peer Reviewers

- Don’t know who wrote the manuscript
- Are not known to the author of the manuscript
- Hence, this is often called a “blind” review
- It is also called a refereed process
The Referees/Reviewers:

- May recommend it be published as is
- Often suggest rewriting and revising
- May not like it at all—
  - Journals typically reject more articles than they accept
  - Prestigious journals may have a 90% rejection rate or higher
The Editor:

- Ultimately decides what will and will not be published.
- Works with the author to see the work through to completion.
- May be a full-time professional or professor taking on the responsibility.
Criticisms of the Peer-Review Process:

- Time consuming
- Limited number of experts
- May suppress dissident points of view
The Peer Review Process

- Spots errors or weaknesses prior to publication
- Ensures articles are substantial and unique
- Is considered crucial in establishing the validity of research