

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY PRESS WELCOMES YOU TO

Peer Review:
It's Not That
Scary!

Agenda

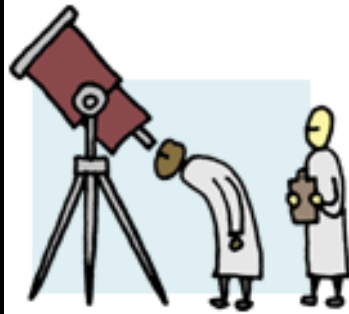
- Introductions
- What is peer review? Why is it important?
- Who are these “peers,” anyway? What do they look for? Who shouldn’t be a reviewer?
- Peer review for journals
- Peer review for books
- Questions/wrap-up

Introductions

- Name
- Department and position

SO WHAT IS PEER
REVIEW, ANYWAY???

**Peer review refers to the
evaluation and
assessment of research
by experts in a
particular field of study.**



Scientists study something.



Scientists write about their results.



Journal editor receives an article and sends it out for peer review.



Peer reviewers read the article and provide feedback to the editor.



Editor may send reviewer comments to the scientists who may then revise and resubmit the article for further review. If an article does not maintain sufficiently high scientific standards, it may be rejected at this point.



If an article finally meets editorial and peer standards it is published in a journal.

The peer review process

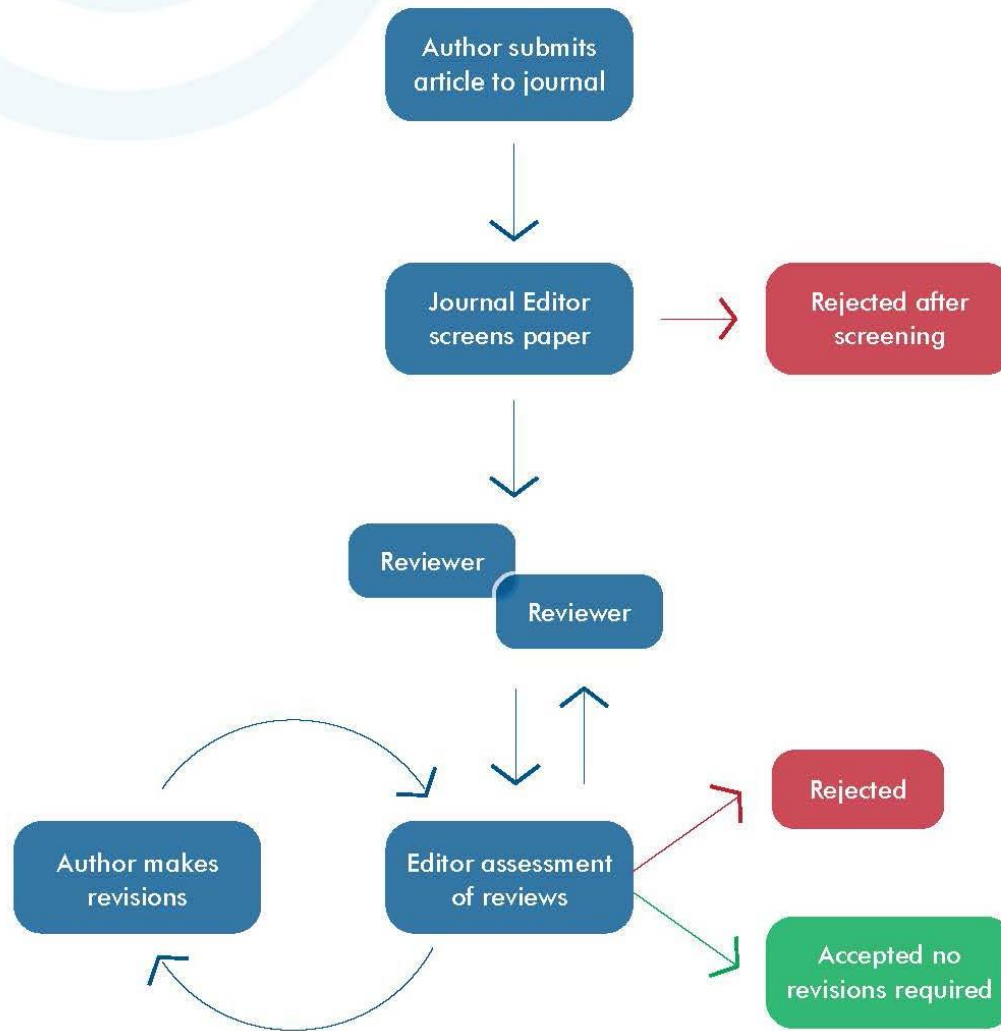


Figure 1: Diagram of a "typical" peer review process (there are many varieties)

Why is peer review important?

- No one knows everything. And sometimes researchers and writers miss stuff!
- Reviewers assess work that may be outside the expertise of the editor (i.e., editors NEED peer reviewers!)
- Scholarship is a collaborative effort. Period!

Who are these “peers,” anyway?

- An “expert” in a specific field
- ANONYMOUS.** This allows the reviewers to be as candid as possible.

**Sometimes manuscript reviewers choose to reveal their identity (for books, not journals)

What do reviewers look for?

- What did the researcher do? What did they find?
- What did and did not work?
- Why is this research important?
- What questions should be asked next?
- What is the market for this work? (in the case of books)
- Should the press or journal editor: accept the work, accept but require revisions, or reject it?

Who should **not** be a reviewer?

- Anyone with a perceived conflict of interest;
- Individuals on your dissertation committee or your dissertation advisor;
- Close friends or collaborators;
- Colleagues at the same institution as you; or
- People who have communicated in depth with you about the article or manuscript.

QUESTIONS SO FAR?

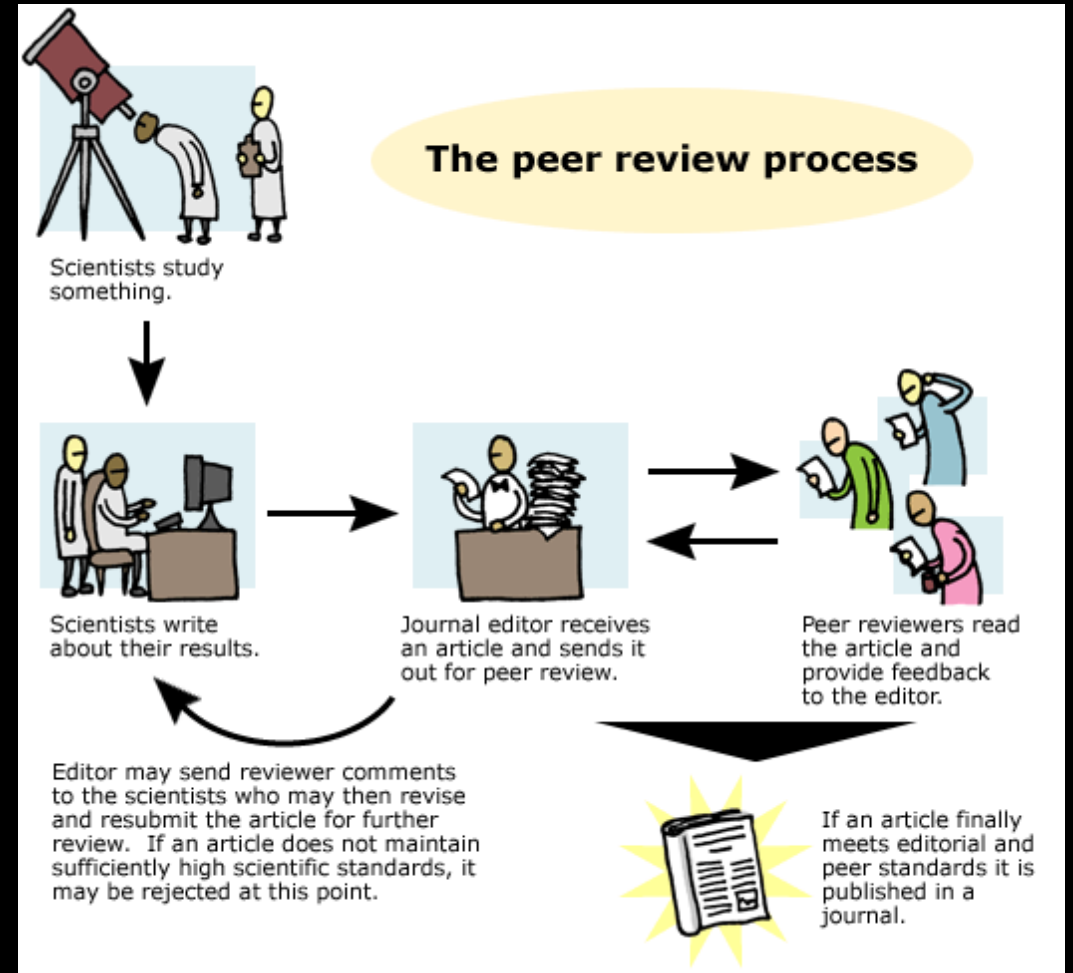
But this process can vary, depending on if you are submitting an article to a journal or a book proposal to a university press...

Peer review for journals

For *Sign Language Studies*:

- Submit full article
- Journal editor reviews article, thinks it's a good fit
- Sends manuscript out to one reviewer**
- Usual situation: "Accept with revisions."
Author must also prepare a report explaining how they plan to revise.
- Time to review: 4 weeks

**Reviewers are anonymous.



Peer review for books

University presses (including GUP):

- Submit proposal or manuscript
- Editor reviews manuscript, thinks it's a good fit
- Sends manuscript out to a minimum of two reviewers
- If both reviews are positive, manuscript gets seen by board
- If reviews are split, the editor usually gets a third one
- If both reviews are positive, manuscript gets seen by board for final approval
- Time to review: 4-8 weeks (or more!)

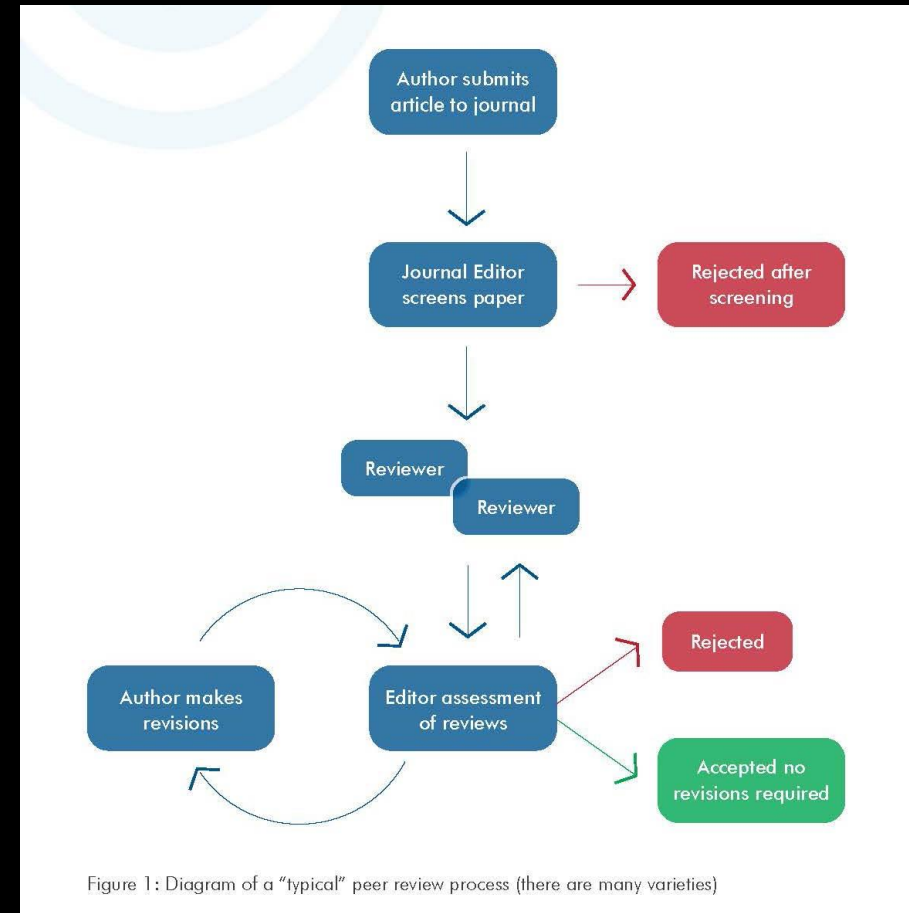


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Questions?

THANK YOU
FOR COMING!

