



George Mason University and Thammasat University Publishing in Peer-Reviewed International Journals

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Introduction

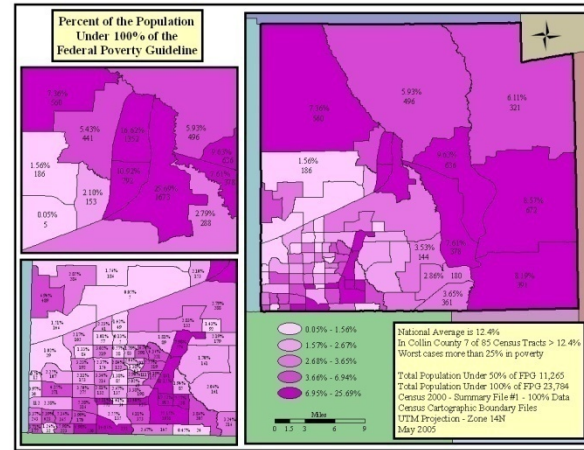
▶ Who are we?

- Kevin M. Curtin, PhD

- curtin@gmu.edu
- Geographer
- Specializations GIS and Location Science
- Education
 - PhD University of California, Santa Barbara

- Lisa R. Pawloski, PhD

- lpawlosk@gmu.edu
- Anthropologist
- Chair Department of Nutrition and Food Studies
- Education
 - PhD, Indiana University



▶ Who are you? Our belief that there is a range of experience.

We've Published in...

- ▶ Geographical Analysis
- ▶ Journal of Geographical Systems
- ▶ Networks and Spatial Economics
- ▶ Cartography and Geographic Information Systems
- ▶ IJGIS
- ▶ Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics
- ▶ American Journal of Human Biology
- ▶ Annals of Human Biology
- ▶ Obesity Surgery
- ▶ Pediatric Nursing
- ▶ Public Health Nutrition
- ▶ Public Health Nursing
- ▶ American Journal of Physical Anthropology
- ▶ World Medical and Health Policy
- ▶ Journal of Pediatric Nursing
- ▶ Socioeconomic Planning Sciences
- ▶ URISA Journal
- ▶ African Journal of Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition
- ▶ Archives of the International Journal of Medicine
- ▶ Revista Chilena de Nutricion
- ▶ The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine
- ▶ European Journal of Obesity
- ▶ Journal of School Nursing
- ▶ Self-care and Dependent Care Nursing
- ▶ Nutritional Anthropology
- ▶ Collegium Antropologicum
- ▶ Nurse Education in Practice
- ▶ Journal for Healthcare Quality
- ▶ Journal of Food Composition and Analysis
- ▶ Computers, Environment, and Urban Systems
- ▶ Transactions in GIS
- ▶ European Journal of Operational Research
- ▶ Studies in Conflict and Terrorism

Reviewer for Peer-Reviewed Journals

- International Journal of Geographical Information Science
- Computers, Environment, and Urban Systems
- Geographical Analysis
- Annals of Operations Research
- Cartography and Geographic Information Science
- International Journal of Emergency Management
- Networks and Spatial Economics
- Transactions in GIS
- International Journal of Sustainable Transportation
- The Professional Geographer
- Medical Anthropology Quarterly
- Public Health Nutrition
- Pediatric Nursing
- Collegium Antropologicum
- American Journal of Human Biology
- Annals of Human Biology
- Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior
- World Medical and Health Policy
- Ecology of Food and Nutrition
- Environment and Planning A
- Socio-Economic Planning Sciences
- Annals of the Association of American Geographers
- European Journal of Operations Research
- Spatial Cognition and Computation

Overview

- ▶ Practical advice about the publication process
- ▶ Practical advice about manuscript preparation process
 - What is the formula for building a manuscript?
 - What are Editors expecting?
 - What format will make them most likely to accept a paper?
 - How can you choose the journal to which you submit your paper?

Overview of Publication Process

- ▶ Used for dissemination of data and information collected and determined in research process
- ▶ First generate research... see next few slides on documenting research
 - Present your findings in a more informal setting to generate feedback. i.e Faculty presentation or International meetings/proceedings
 - Make a habit of converting your presentations into a manuscript submission
- ▶ Determine authorship
- ▶ Determine which journal
- ▶ Write and Submit
- ▶ Revise and Re-submit

Is there a Formula for Documenting Research?

- ▶ Yes...to some extent
- ▶ Implement the Scientific Method
 - Introduction / Research Question
 - Literature Review (Background)
 - Methods
 - Data
 - Results
 - Conclusions and Future Research
 - References
 - Remember this list!!!
- ▶ Every time you wonder what is expected from you with regard to a publication, return to this list.
 - This IS how Basic Research is done
 - There may be slight differences based on discipline practices

Where can we find Scientific Analyses?

- ▶ Sources used in Scientific Analysis (generally...what types?)
- ▶ What are the peer-reviewed journals in your field? (specifically?)
- ▶ Your literature review is NEVER done
 - There is always more literature to review
- ▶ The importance of the literature review
 - Shows that you know the:
 - General research area you are working in
 - The specific research area you are working in
 - The methods that you are proposing to use
 - Shows that there is a place for your work in the literature
 - You are adding something that hasn't been done before
- ▶ The literature is where the conversation about Scientific Analysis takes place at the highest level

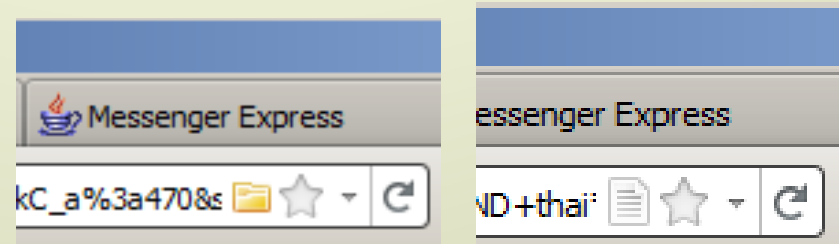
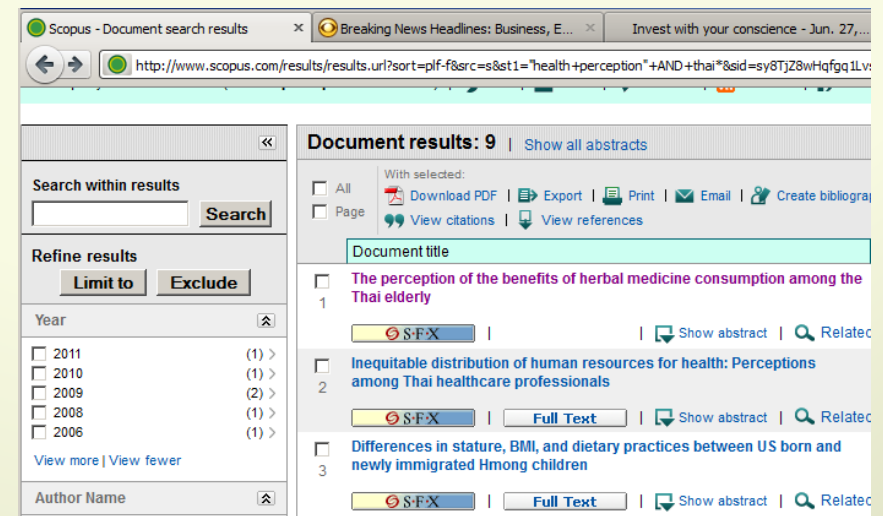
Performing a Literature Search

- ▶ Use the online databases of journal articles
 - Your library may have access to several databases
 - SCOPUS, Web of Science
 - Pick keywords that you believe are relevant to your research
 - Phrases in double quotation marks, e.g. “health perception”
 - Use the wildcard character *
- ▶ Many times Full-text is available online
- ▶ No “Book Reviews” – they aren’t research articles
- ▶ If you can’t get to the article you want online
 - Go to the library
 - Ask them to help you search for a print copy
 - No print copy – ask them about Interlibrary loan



Managing your References

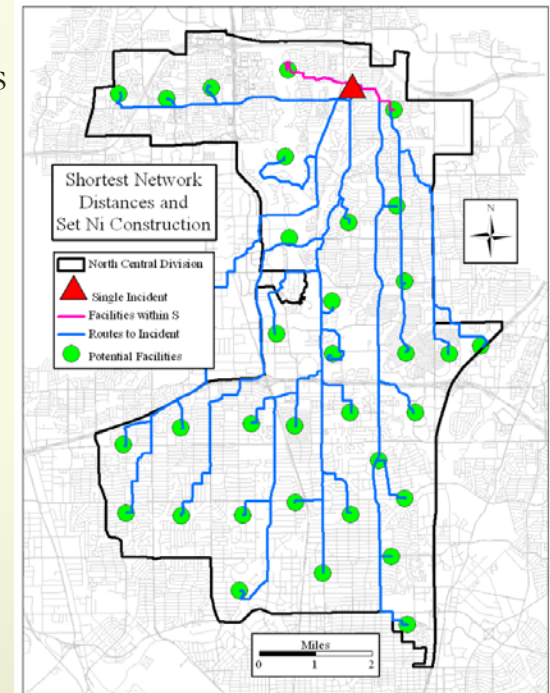
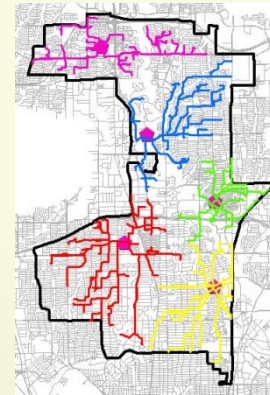
- ▶ Managing references can be a nightmare
- ▶ Use Zotero to help you
 - Free citation management software
 - Developed at George Mason University
- ▶ Installation
 - Download and install the Firefox Extension
 - Download and install the Word Processor Plugin
- ▶ Capture your citations from the web
 - Look for the Zotero Folder icon
 - When you have multiple citations on a page
 - Look for the Zotero document icon
 - When you have a single citation on a page
- ▶ Use Zotero in your Word document to generate
 - In text Citations
 - Your list of References Cited



Stating your Research Question – Summarizing your project

► Police Patrol Areas

- Research Question
 - How to determine the optimal spatial arrangement of police patrols
- Literature review
 - Police procedures/geography
 - Optimization methods
 - Covering models
- Methods
 - Maximal covering
 - Backup covering
 - Integration of GIS and Linear Programming
- Data
 - Dallas police areas
 - Calls for service
- Results
 - Optimal solutions gave significant improvements in total distance traveled, # of calls covered, and furthest distance traveled



Determine authorship

- ▶ Determine who are authors and co-authors
- ▶ Determine order of authorship
 - Sometimes order is specific to discipline
 - i.e. in Nutrition Sciences, last author is usually person who is responsible for lab (considered high ranking to be last)
 - In Geography first author is considered most important, with the most contribution to the paper



What is Authorship?

JAMA says:

- “Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. One or more authors should take responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole, from inception to published article. Per the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE),⁴ authorship credit should be based only on (1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; and (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (3) final approval of the version to be published. Conditions 1, 2, and 3 must all be met.^{3,4} “
- “All other persons who have made substantial contributions to the work reported in this manuscript (eg, data collection, analysis, or writing or editing assistance) but who do not fulfill the authorship criteria should be named with their specific contributions in an Acknowledgment in the manuscript.”

Group Authorship

“If authorship is attributed to a group (either solely or in addition to 1 or more individual authors), all members of the group must meet the full criteria and requirements for authorship as described above.⁶ If that is not the case, a group must designate 1 or more individuals as authors or members of a writing group who meet full authorship criteria and requirements. Other group members who are not authors may be listed in an Acknowledgment.^{3(pp135-138)} “



Determining which journal



▶ Look at several factors:

- Scope and objectives of journal
- Talk with others who have published in your field
- Look at current and past issues to get an idea what kind of articles are typically published
 - Many journals change scope and topics (i.e. American Journal of Physical Anthropology)
 - Now publishes more in paleoanthropology and genetics
 - Previously more in human biology and human variation
- Impact factor
 - Measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published
- Distribution (International?)
- Is there a cost to submit?
- Time from submission to publication
- Write to the editor to determine if topic is of relevance to journal

Writing the Manuscript

- ▶ Some general thoughts before specifics:
 - When writing with co-authors, ensure there is a flow throughout the paper, rather than several sections put together
 - Read the manuscript aloud.. to your dog, to your child.. whomever.. just read it aloud so that it makes sense
 - If writing in a second language, have a NATIVE speaker review
 - If you are aiming for a US journal, have someone who is a native English speaker from the US review your paper
 - Ensure that your literature review is the most current
 - Use more than one database to conduct your literature review
 - Not all databases include the same journals. Ex. Medline vs CINAHL
 - Most journals want very few figures, graphs and maps
 - They are expensive
 - Recognize that often color figures are charged to the author

Manuscript Preparation – Research Questions and Introductions

▶ State your Problem Statement / Research Questions

▶ Introduction

◦ 3 Paragraphs

• General Research Area

- Introduce the reader to the topic you're getting into
- Set the stage for your particular part of that area

• Specific Research Area / Research Question

- Within that larger area what is your focus?
- Specifically lay out what you want to contribute / answer / research in your paper
- Must end with a punch line statement

• TOC paragraph

- Table of Contents paragraph
- “In the following section the literature in the areas of police districting and optimization methods in police work are reviewed. This is followed by a formulation of a maximal covering location method...”

◦ Throw a few citations in

▶ Want to do a few more paragraphs?

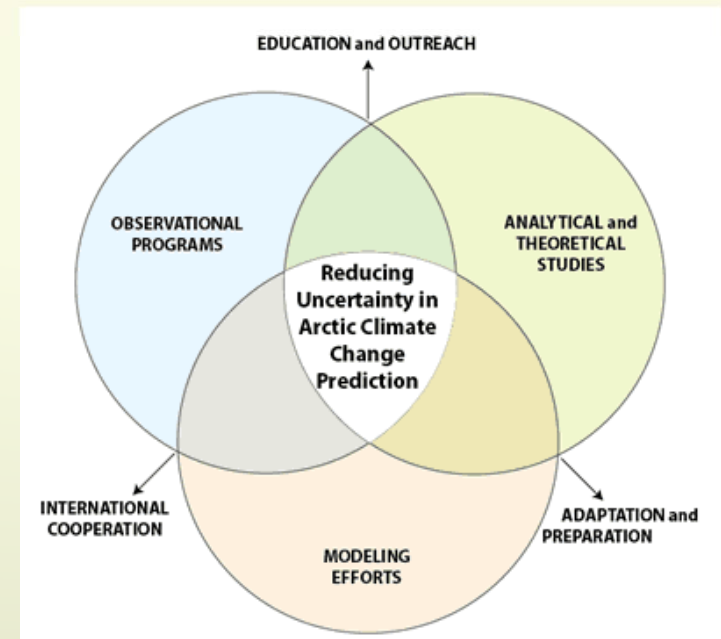
◦ Fine...make them pertinent to either the General or the Specific Research Area



Manuscript Preparation – Literature Review

Synthesis

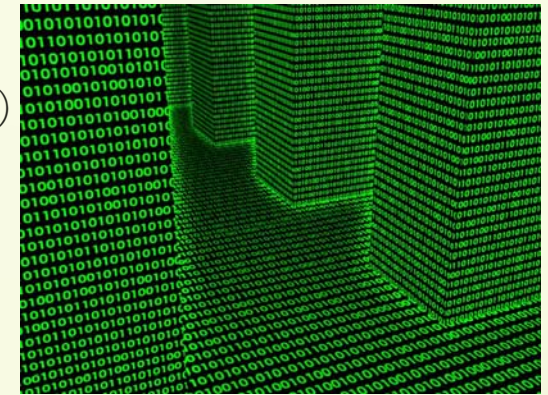
- ▶ Literature review
 - Review is not memorization or reporting
 - Lit review is NOT a series of book reports
 - The lit review should be a synthesis of what is important from the literature
 - How do the pieces fit together? Synthesize the literature
 - MOST IMPORTANTLY
 - How does the literature justify the importance of your work?
 - How does your work fill a gap in the literature?



Manuscript Preparation - Data

▶ Data

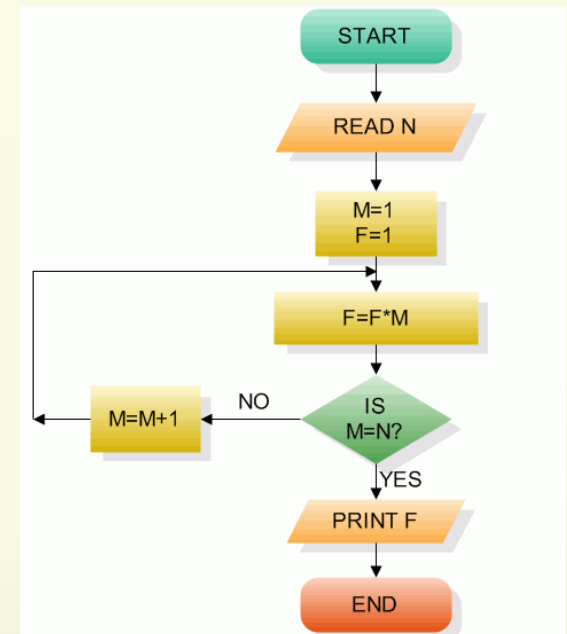
- Use the old journalism trick (Who? What? Where? When? How? Why?)
- Who?
 - Who collected the data? Who were the subjects? Who will analyze the data?
- What?
 - What were the questions (or types of questions asked)?
- Where?
 - Where was the data collected? Where will the data be analyzed? Include a map if possible
- When?
 - When were the data collected? Over a year? A month? A week?
- How?
 - What survey instruments were used? What sampling strategy was used?
- Give details of your data
 - What are the limitations? What are the benefits?
 - HOW WILL THE DATA ALLOW YOU TO ANSWER YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION
 - Give some summary stats
- List pre-processing here (Coding of variables, Geocoding, Clipping, Joining attribute tables)



Manuscript Preparation - Methods

► Methods

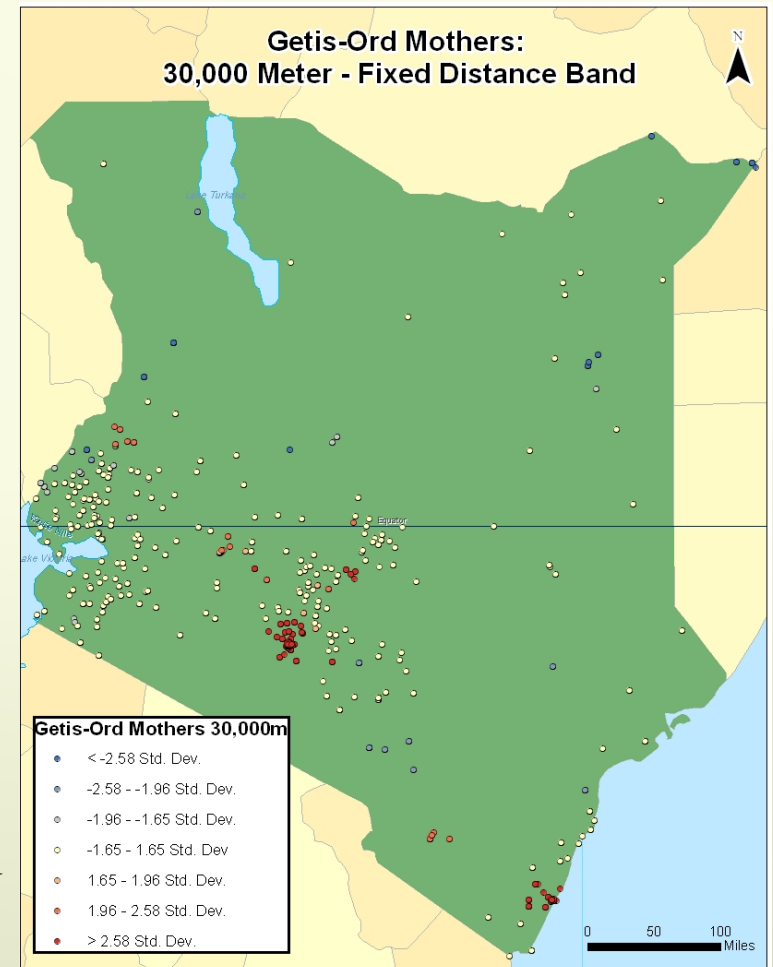
- How are you going to answer the research question?
- BE SPECIFIC!!!
- How about a FLOW CHART?
 - Show the path that leads to answering the question
- Explain your methods at least briefly
- Specify the parameters
 - If you say “visualization” what will looking at a map tell you?
 - If you are doing cluster analysis, what spatial realization are you using and why?
 - If you are using regression, what are the dependent and independent variables, and why do you believe that relationship exists?
 - If you are doing network analysis...what type of network analysis and how are you choosing the network structure, network weights, etc.
- Keep asking yourself “How?” until it is silly to ask it any more



Manuscript Preparation - Results

► Results

- General Rule is to give most important findings first
- Reality
 - Give anything you've got
- Take the low hanging fruit first
 - Descriptive statistics
 - Initial findings
- Sometimes the results build to the most important
- Give your interpretations of the results
 - Do not just give tables and lists of facts
 - The reader needs to have the results explained to them
- Many ways to show results
 - Tables, text, maps, images



Writing Conclusions

- ▶ Conclusions and Future Research are frequently combined in journal articles
 - I suggest you keep them separate, or at least in distinct paragraphs
- ▶ Conclusions
 - The results section describes what you found
 - Do NOT just summarize the results section
 - Make an argument for the importance of your research
 - What do you think the results will mean for this research area?
 - The conclusions describe the significance of the results
 - Not necessarily quantifiable
 - How will the results influence policy or practice?
 - How will the results change the way we research the problem in the future?
 - Balancing act between:
 - Asserting the significance of your findings
 - Stretching the importance of your results too far
 - The conclusions have to logically follow from the results
 - Tie this back to the hint of the significance that you put in your Introduction

Writing Future Research

▶ Future Research

- Unless you have discovered and presented a Unifying Theory, you will have additional research questions raised during the process
- State those additional research questions
- Dirty little secret of the Future Research Section
 - Surely you've already thought of things that are beyond the ability to complete in your project timeline
 - Keep a to do list
 - If it gets done...it's results
 - If it doesn't get done...it's future research

▶ References

- We've already discussed this...but make sure you follow the journal's style

Abstract

- ▶ How does one write an Abstract for a peer-reviewed journal article?
- ▶ Guess what...it is exactly the same formula we've been working with
 - One sentence for each of the main sections of the paper
 - Introduction, Literature Review, Data, Methods, Results, Conclusions, Future Research (last priority)
 - Do NOT summarize the first paragraph or the Introduction section

The Spread of Obesity in Developing and Transitional Countries: A Focus on the Mekong Region, Southeast Asia

Lisa R. Pawloski, *George Mason University*
Shaneka Thurman, *George Mason University*
Kevin M. Curtin, *George Mason University*
Manyat Ruchiwit, *Thammasat University*

Abstract

Introduction: Obesity policies in transitional countries are limited as most have needed to focus resources on reducing hunger, poverty, and infectious diseases. The Mekong Region is one such area that is still facing issues of undernutrition and infectious disease, yet has a growing population at risk of obesity related diseases. Such a dual burden creates a dilemma regarding which issue to address first, given limited resources. This review addresses this problem from a policy perspective.

Materials and Methodology: Comparative analyses of literature reviews, existing policy, and previous research were synthesized among countries within the Mekong Region.

Results: Traditional diets, quickly emerging fast food markets, and urbanization add levels of complexity to managing and creating obesity policy. Existing policies have not been successful and there are few measurable outcomes.

Conclusion and Policy Implications: Obesity-related policies have been initiated in the Mekong Region, but with few resources and conflicting priorities, several countries are at risk of being left behind. Suggested policies in the region include utilizing mass media education campaigns, modeling other successful public health programs, and promoting culturally and regionally appropriate interventions.

KEYWORDS: obesity, Mekong Region, nutrition transition, obesity policy

Manuscript Submission

- Carefully read the guide for authors to ensure that overall formatting is correct, length of pages is correct and bibliography and citations are in appropriate format.
 - Often there are requirements for numbers of words for abstract and manuscript.
 - Conflict of interest statement.
 - IRB approval statement.
- Most are online, review the required fields before starting and gather what you need first.
- Many journals want recommendations on potential reviewers. Have three ready to provide.
- Then be ready to wait...
 - Most journals take about 3 months to review.

Peer review process

- ▶ Revising and resubmitting
 - Ensure that you address each and every comment. This is very time consuming, but important for the reviewers. Be professional and respectful to reviewers' comments.
- ▶ Rejection..:(
 - It is OK to cry
 - ...Then find another journal and resubmit
 - If your paper went through the peer-review process use those reviews to help you revise and refine your paper
 - Sometimes it is hard to take, and sometimes criticism is not appropriate..
- ▶ The publication process may take a long time
 - We have many stories...