

## **Overview of scientific publication: challenges for national editors**

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The scientific publication process is quite complex in that it is eminently human, conveyed in an intricate network of subjects such as authors, editors-in-chief, associate editors, ad hoc reviewers, funding entities, scientific associations and publishers, among other institutions. This makes the process both unique and plural, since these stakeholders have different interests in terms of scientific publication.

These interests are sometimes veiled, but perceived mainly by those who bear the responsibility of offering the scientific community from a certain field of knowledge a quality journal, that is, those who outline competitive editorial management. Promptness, agility, high impact indexes, indexation in international databases and visibility are just some of the excellence criteria on the agenda of Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Boards, under penalty of losing vital ground gained in the scientific world.

It is through these channels that authors select a journal in which to publish their scientific articles, and rightly so, since they are disseminating the construction of knowledge or science *in natura* in order to transform realities, re(direct) views and/or paradigms.

However, it is important to note that these plural expectations are not always consistent with the reality of what goes on behind the scenes<sup>(1)</sup> during the scientific publication process. This often goes unnoticed by authors and particularly funding agencies and/or those responsible for imposing criteria and metrics that do not always consider the everyday operations of journals in their efforts to ensure the quality of the product offered to the scientific community.

It is against this backdrop that I conducted a national overview of scientific publication: challenges for editors.

In recent years, criteria and strategies to ensure the visibility of national journals have been a continuous feature of debates at scientific publishing events. These include criteria adopted to classify journals, such as Qualis CAPES in the field of nursing<sup>(2)</sup>, and those recently established to maintain and/or submit new journals to SciELO Brasil<sup>(3)</sup>, as well as a project to internationalize CAPES' Brazilian scientific journals, which proposes the adoption of international publishers with a view to improving production, hosting and visibility. These fall into three major categories: *internationalization, professionalization and financial autonomy*.

Although this intention is noble and in line with the goal of visibility and consumption of Brazilian researcher's scientific articles by the international community, an analysis of these journals reveals that their creators lack understanding of the reality of Editors-in-Chief responsible for editorial management. There are relevant regional conditions specific to Brazilian research that must be carefully considered in these analyses given their importance in the national context.

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Countless editors and/or national publications have long experienced a variety of difficulties in terms of editorial management and, consequently, in honoring their commitments to authors and the scientific community.

A national scientific publication that exemplifies internationalization, professionalization and financial autonomy presents real challenges for editors-in-chief and/or publications in terms of maintaining this status and perhaps insertion into the international publications market.

In deference to these issues and in order to achieve its goals, the *Revista Gaúcha de Enfermagem* (Rio Grande do Sul Nursing Journal) has made volume 35 no. 4 of December 2014 available to the nursing scientific community. Furthermore, it reiterates that all stakeholders responsible for its publication/editing do so from a human, social and scientific interactionist perspective.

## ■ REFERENCES

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