

# A Study on the Behavior and Organization of Brazilian Scientific Community, in the Field of Law, their Motives and Selection Criteria for the Publication of Literature, from 2004 to 2006.

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## Introduction

Researchers from different disciplines and fields tend to see the world from different angles, and their respective research communities are organized in different ways. These differences are reflected in their patterns of communication and in the various ways in which they publish their research results (Van Raan, 2003; Velho, 1998; Nascimento, 2005; Abt, 1992). This study, using quantitative data, aims to analyze the communication dynamics of the Brazilian scientific community in the field of law; that is to throw some light in the ways by which the "forensic" researchers systematize and transmit specialized information, as well as to identify the vehicle of communication most used and the audience they aimed at. It is hoped that these data will illuminate the peculiar process of knowledge production and the research system in this knowledge field.

## Methods

The unit of analysis of this study are universities with graduate programs offering master and PhD degrees, in the field of law, which have been evaluated by CAPES (Brazilian Agency for Higher Education), and received at least a grade 5 (on a scale up maximum 7). The selection of the quantitative data was based on the evaluation sheet of the Programs, from which the intellectual output of the 14 programs was extracted. The classification of the publication channels followed Qualis stratification, which is a system developed by the evaluation committees for each knowledge field in accordance with CAPES instructions and criteria. Graduate programs evaluations are performed every 3 years and this study was based on data gathered for the triennium 2004 to 2006. With the quantitative data extracted, this study tries to demonstrate how this field systematizes and transmits its information and which is the vehicle of communication employed.

## Discussion and Results

Based on this latest evaluation of 2007, only 3 Programs of Post-graduation in Law in Brazil received the grade 6, namely, the UFSC, UFPR and USP; the other 11 programs selected for this study have received the grade 5, for master and doctoral programs. This evaluation occurs every three years and analyzes, among several factors, the intellectual production and has prioritized the publication in vehicles with large circulation, such as periodicals/journals. The figures 1 to 3 show the results of the Institutions with the production of articles, published in technical-scientific journals.

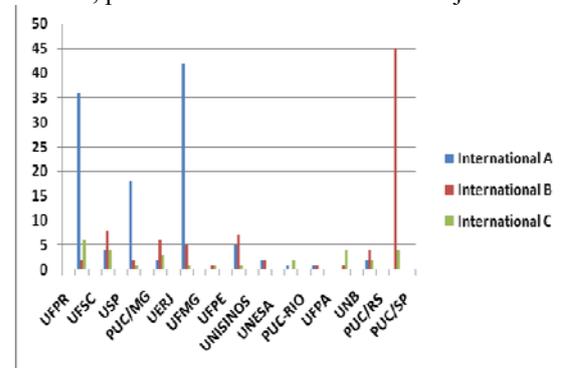


Figure 1. Articles published by Institutions in journal with Qualis International A, B and C.

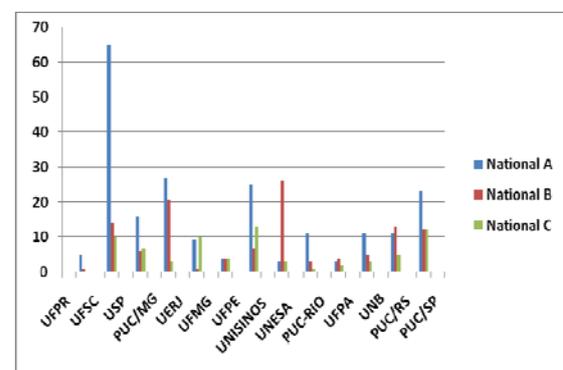
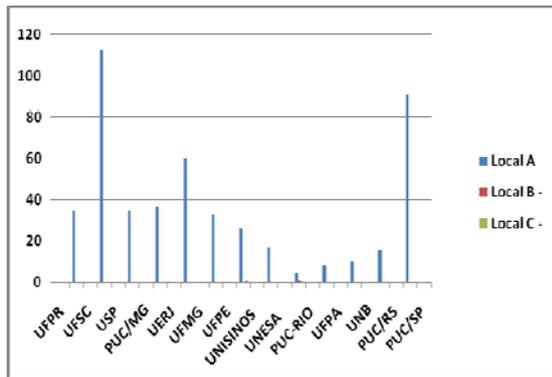
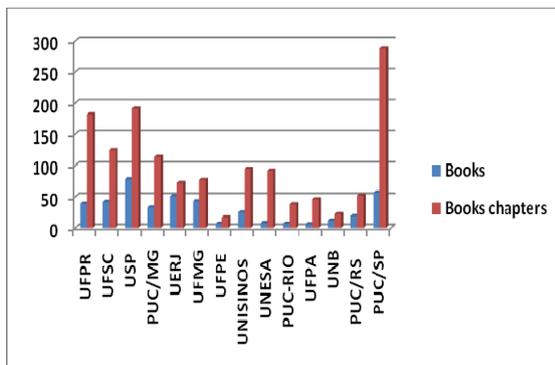


Figure 2. Articles published by Institutions in journal with Qualis National A, B and C.

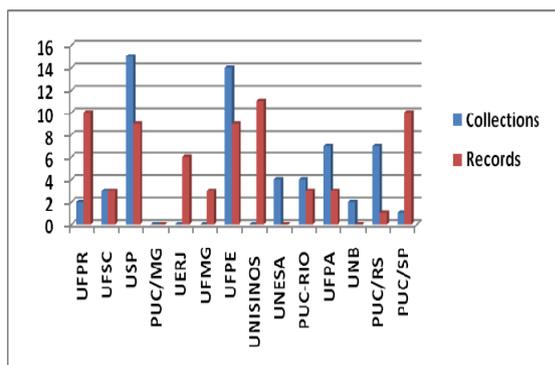


**Figure 3. Articles published by Institutions in journal with Qualis Local A, B and C.**

The data on figures 1 to 3 show that researchers working in the field of law in Brazil disseminate their results of research also in form of articles, but the role of journals was found to be less prominent in communicating research results in juridical research as can be seen on the next figures.



**Figure 4. Publication of books, chapters of books by Institutions.**



**Figure 5. Collections, records and others by Institutions.**

Finally, this study, as shown in figures 4 and 5, observed that the bibliographic production, composed by complete texts of books, chapters, collections and records has achieved a total of 1,965 productions. This shows that the preferred channels of communication in this field are the

books. Following the pattern of human sciences, in which the researchers write about their societies to be read by themselves. In addition, the journals, in these areas, are not the main source of publication, but the researchers publish much more collections or books. (Van Raan, 2003; Velho, 1998) Moreover, and this seems to be a peculiar trait of this research field in Brazil, articles tend to appear in journals edited by the universities themselves (in-house journals).

## Conclusions

Summarising the results, this study provides an overall picture of the field observed. The publication of articles and books may play an important role in knowledge transfer between disciplines, a role which may also differ between fields for those in which books play an important role in the dissemination of new knowledge and practices.

Our study has confirmed findings by other recent studies concerning publication patterns showing that the researchers in the field studied publish, preferentially, books and organize their collections. Similarly, it was observed that they disseminate their results of research also in form of articles, but the role of journals was found to be less prominent in communicating research results in juridical research than it is in many fields in natural and life sciences. As for the latter, they have a strong preference for periodicals edited in their own institutions.

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