

Proposal of Evaluation of the Abstracting and Indexing Services and Analysis of the Effects of the Model in the Transformation of the Visibility of the Colombian Scientific Journals

Diana Usgame¹ and Giovanni Usgame²

¹dusgame@ocyt.org.co, ²gusgame@ocyt.org.co

Colombian Observatory of Science and Technology(OCyT), Cra 15 No. 37-59, Bogotá (Colombia)

Introduction

Faced to the need of setting evaluation parameters for the international scientific journals comparable to the Colombian journal analysis perspectives, In 2002 the Colombian observatory of science and technology –OCyT- was formulated the model to evaluate the abstracting and indexing services that index scientific journals. From now it will be mentioned as A&IS. As a result of the policies for the assessment of academic production that under this model formulated Colciencias, has presented substantial transformations in the dynamics of publication of Colombian researchers and in the regional and international visibility of the Colombian scientific journals.

Objetives:

To explain the model developed in Colombia for the assessment and classification of the A&IS.

To point at the transformations in the dynamics of publication of the Colombian researchers and the regional and international visibility that the Colombian journals have reached.

To point at the current possibilities and limitations of the model contrary to the demands of the academic Colombian community.

Methodology:

Sources:

91 A&IS were chosen from Ulrich's periodical directory database and Publindex database where colombian journals or colombian researcher's articles has been indexed.

Model for the assessment of A&IS:
the following aspects was designed:1) quality profile 2)periphery of visibility 3) level of accessibility.

The following aspects were established to analyze the quality profile: a) identification of the editorial board of the A&IS that verifies the scientific and editorial quality of the journals; b) identification and analysis of the explicit integration and permanence criteria demanded to the journals;

c)edition by an academic or scientific institution or society; identification of the scientific nets linked to the A&IS.

The following aspects were established to analyze the visibility and accessibility: a) Identification of the levels of bibliographic indexing; b) systems of retrieval information; c) Geographical coverage

Matrix description of A&IS:

A matrix description was made to evaluate the objectives and specific characteristics for every A&IS. The classification of the A&IS according to the area of knowledge and geographical coverage was taken into account by the matrix.

Typology of A&IS:

Bibliographic databases-BD: A&IS integrated by academic institutions or publishing companies cover the bibliography about an area or topic, so it is not exhaustive on the scientific demands for the entrance and permanence.

Bibliographic databases with a selection committee-BBCS: Made up by scientific societies. academic institutions or publishing companies. they select research articles published in scientific journals, have an editorial committee that verifies the quality of the articles and the performance of the international editorial rules establishes to publish scientific articles.

Bibliographical index-IB: A&IS that select scientific journals according to strict scientific and editorial rules. the committees analyze the documents of the journals (editorial boarding), the assessment of the scientific quality, originality and pertinence of the published documents(scientific committee), these indexes are made by scientific associations, universities, academic institutions, institutions dedicated to analyze the scientific information or agencies that support the scientific activities.

Bibliographic indexes of citation -IBC: A&IS that accomplish all the characteristics of the bibliographical indexes and select journals according to impact factor.

Results:

As a result of the implementation of the model of assessment to the 91 A&IS selected the following typology was defined: 3 IBC: SCI, SSCI, A&HCI; 3 IB: SciELO, Medline, PsycINFO; 20 BBS and 66 BB.

(http://scienti.colciencias.gov.co:8084/publindex/docs/Sires_2003-2005.pdf)

As an effect of the assessment policies of the academic production defined by The administrative department of science, technology and innovation-Colciencias, significative transformations have happened in the dynamics of publications by colombian researcher. The publication of researcher's articles linked to Colombian institutions in international journals for the period 2000- 2007 raised substantially: 99% in SCI Expanded, 129% in Scopus and 2.616% in SciELO (where the number of articles increased from 37 in 2000 to 1005 in 2007).

During the term 2000-2004, Scopus and SCI Expanded showed an equitable coverage respecting the number of articles, but from 2005 on, Scopus shows a growth trend far above SCI Expanded.

Figure 1 shows how the Colombian journals have grown in international visibility. From 2004 on, there is an increase in the visibility thanks to the inclusion in IB by SciELO, Medline, and PsycINFO, as well as the inclusion in BBS for different areas of knowledge. Twenty-one BBS are currently covering the Colombian researchers' scientific production.

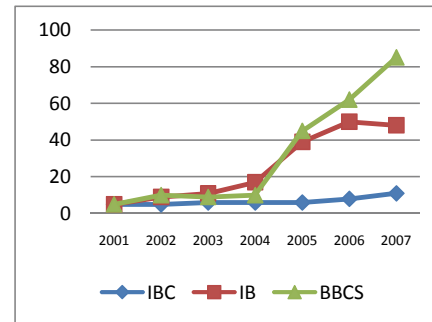


Figure 1. International indexation of Colombian journals according to A&IS categories.

Conclusions:

Colombia shows one of the highest annual growth rates in Latin America respecting the number of article published in indexed journals according to SCI Expanded. The annual rate estimated for the term 2002-2007 is 7.41%. When compared to the annual rates for the same term in other countries, like Mexico (2.9%), Argentina (1.77%), Chile (6.88%), and Venezuela (-2.77%), Colombia exceeds them and get closer to Brazil, whose annual growth rate is 7.75%.

Although the model proposed for evaluating and classifying the indexation and summary services has had some positive impacts on the Colombian publication visibility, it has also brought about some asymmetries when it comes to acknowledge how journals with social sciences, arts, and humanities topics are circulating. Therefore, the model requires some adjustments respecting this fact and considering the open Access circulation dynamics.

References

Colciencias, OCyT (2003). Servicios de indexación y resumen utilizados para los procesos de indexación y homologación de revistas especializadas de CT+I 2003-2006.. Retrieved March 6, 2009 from: (http://scienti.colciencias.gov.co:8084/publindex/docs/Sires_2003-2005.pdf)

Charum, J., Murcia, C., Usgame, D. & Silva, A. (2003). La búsqueda de la visibilidad a través de la calidad: el reto del editor. Bogotá: Icfes.