

Setting Initial Benchmarks of the Portal de Revistas da USP: for a Culture of Assessment

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Introduction

Complete assessments are facilitated when there is a set of initial data available for future comparisons. This study sought gather initial data of the newly created *Portal de Revistas da USP* – Portal of Journals of the USP, an electronic library that collects journals published under the responsibility of the University of Sao Paulo – USP (2008), contributing to a culture of assessment that allows the study of initiatives since its beginning, establishing benchmarks for future evaluations.

Background and Purpose

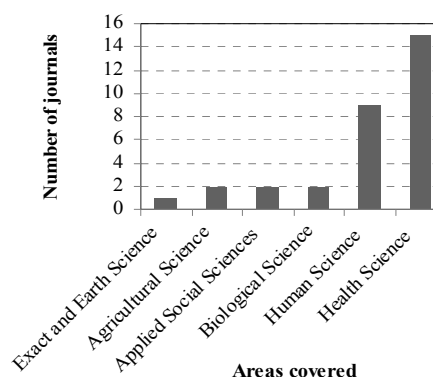
Since 1986 USP keeps the Program of Support for Scientific Periodic Publications, managed by the Commission of Accreditation, which in 2006 updated its rules to adapt to the context of internationalization and the need to modernize the scientific journals, and in 2008 adhering to the philosophy of Open Access, has created the *Portal de Revistas da USP*, aiming to increase the visibility of those USP journals published in the national and international context. With the partnership of the BIREME adopted the model of electronic publishing SciELO to provide easy and free access to the full text to users and allow obtain indicators of scientific production, as reports of citations and co-authors (Meneghini, 2001).

The purpose of this work is show the current configuration of the *Portal de Revistas da USP*, focusing on the areas covered, the current number of journals in total and by area, amount indexed in Web of Science - WoS (Thomson Reuters, 2009), Scopus (Elsevier, 2009) and SciELO (2009) databases and its relationships, to reveal the current state and facilitate the monitoring of its evolution.

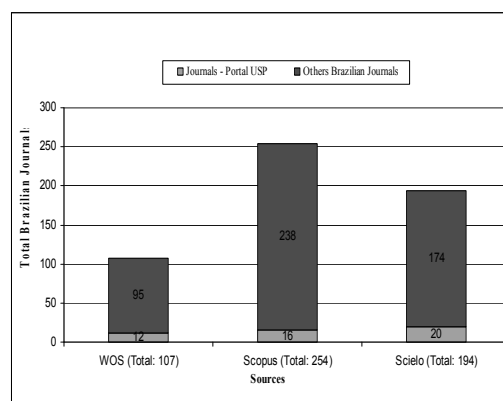
Methods

The data about the journals were obtained from the *Portal de Revistas da USP* in its official website, and it was consulted those which are indexed solely and simultaneously in the indicated sources, and their percentage in the total of Brazilian journals indexed in them.

Findings



Graphic 1. Areas covered and number of journals by area



Graphic 2. Number of journals USP indexed in WoS, Scopus and SciELO X the total of Brazilian journals indexed

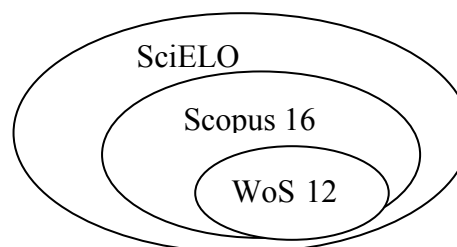
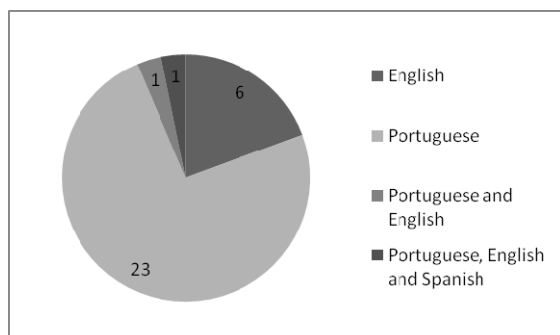


Figure 1. Journals indexed solely and simultaneously in WoS, Scopus and SciELO



Graphic 3. Journals of *Portal de Revistas da USP* by language of publication

Discussion

Today there are 31 scientific journals in *Portal de Revistas da USP*, the area more covered is the Health Sciences (15 titles), followed by the Human Sciences (9 titles). Other areas - Agricultural Sciences, Applied Social Sciences, Biological Sciences (2 titles each) and Exact & Earth Sciences (only 1 title) still do not have a good coverage in number of journals. The major number finding in the Health Sciences follows the trend in science communication in general, where this area has a strong tradition in papers publication, and reflects the contribution of the USP in scientific publications in the area of Life Sciences (Leta, Pereira & Chaimovich, 2005).

SciELO database indexes the most of the journals (20 titles) followed by Scopus (16 titles) and finally, the WoS (12 titles); while 10 journals are in all resources, 4 both in SciELO and Scopus, and 1 in SciELO and WoS. And 11 journals are not indexed in any of these sources.

The language of publication in 6 of those journals indexed simultaneously in all databases is English only, 1 both English, Spanish and Portuguese, and 1 the English and Portuguese. The Portuguese is used in 2 journals indexed in these three databases, there are 5 journals indexed simultaneously in SciELO and Scopus in this language, 1 in both SciELO and WoS, and 4 in SciELO only, while all of the 11 not indexed journals are in Portuguese.

This fact reflects the goals of the journals that have adopted the appropriate language to reach the target audience, national or international (Meneghini, Mugnaini & Packer, 2006). Those journals published in Portuguese have goals to a national audience with thematic areas and particular interest. The journals to international audience necessarily must be published in English since it is the dominant language in science (Meneghini & Packer, 2007), especially those that look for visibility and are not part of the Mainstream Science, from non-English-speaking and developing countries, under the risk of 'losing' their

published scientific production, hidden beneath an unfamiliar language (Gibbs, 1995). In relation to the total of Brazilian journals indexed in each source, today the *Portal de Revistas da USP* makes 11,2% of the 107 Brazilian journals indexed in WoS, 6,3% of the 254 indexed in Scopus, and 10,3% of the 194 indexed in SciELO. It is necessary to monitoring its evolution in future.

Conclusion

The evolution of these journals in the future may enable them to enlarge and improve the indexing in these databases, and the initial data shown here can be useful as benchmarks for future comparisons, monitoring its trajectory.

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- ¹BIREME: Centro Latino-Americano e do Caribe em Informação em Ciências da Saúde – Latin-American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (www.bireme.br).
- ²SciELO: Scientific Electronic Library on Line (www.scielo.br), a non-profit electronic metapublisher for scientific journals launched in 1997 by BIREME, the Pan American Health Organization – PAHO, and the World Health Organization -WHO; in partnership with the State of São Paulo Research Foundation - FAPESP, supported from 2002 by the Brazilian National Science Research Council – CNPq.