

## THE FAREWELL TO THE PRINTED VERSION

In view of the current situation in Venezuela it has become ever more difficult to produce the printed version of our journal. Given the fact that paper is an imported commodity, it has been very hard to get an adequate supply for more than a year now. From the twelve monthly issues that conform volume 38, corresponding to 2013, close to one half had to be produced with paper of a lesser quality, with color and weight differing from the traditional ones. The currency control regime being enforced, which makes it difficult to obtain foreign currency to cover the costs of imports, also leads to an important inflationary process, making production more costly each time. To this it has to be added the lack of regularity and even the virtual disappearance of the science and technology periodical publications program that was implemented by the Ministry of Science and Technology, which allowed to obtain grants to cover the costs of publication and distribution of journals.

To top off the chain of difficulties encountered, the distribution from this country has turned to be impossible. For a whole year now, the *Instituto Postal Telegráfico* has been extremely irregular and careless with the journal distribution by mail. In recent days the international shipping services were officially suspended. In view of this situation it becomes impossible to think of distributing the journal in the more than thirty countries where *Interciencia* is subscribed.

Given the situation that has developed, two options remain. The first one is to suspend the printed version and say good bye to it. Such sudden farewell has its shortcomings. It would represent a great thoughtlessness to our subscribers. There are still many libraries that maintain the journal in its collections, since their services in digital media do not reach

the whole population of users. Additionally, many institutions in the region still require of their members the presentation of original printed material in order to give full recognition of their publications.

The second option is that of looking for a different place where to produce *Interciencia* and proceed to a gradual farewell. This option would be facilitated by the regional, supranational nature of the Interciencia Association, our parent institution. The attempts to arrive to establish the journal, or produce it, in another country, without cutting the ties that have been maintained since its creation, four decades ago, with the scientific community and the local authorities, go back to a couple of years. Concrete possibilities have been explored in Mexico and in Chile. So far the expected results have not been reached, but they will probably be arrived at in the short term and, for some time at least, they will offer the means to maintain the journal while the time of the effective farewell arrives.

If moving is accomplished, it will be a convenient opportunity to attempt giving the journal a renovating thrust, enlarging its International Editorial Consulting Committee and recuperating sections that in the past gave a characteristic regional presence to *Interciencia*, as were the Internews, the Open Forum, and the reviews of Institutions of the Americas. It could also be considered to increase the number of pages in each issue, so as to be in better conditions to satisfy the growing demand that the journal has from the scientific communities of the region and, possibly, even increase the frequency of special issues dedicated to a particular topic or to a specific institution.

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