

THE MEANING OF MULTIDISCIPLINARITY

In reference to the institutional context, the term 'multidisciplinary' alludes to the general spectrum of disciplines practiced or those that are considered among the activities of the given entity. In the case of scientific disciplines, the term includes those called hard sciences, supposedly exact, and those that are not so exact although not necessarily inexact, which go from anthropology to economics and politics.

On the other hand, in reference to scientific journals, the covered spectrum is narrower. A journal that covers various fields of science, although not necessarily all of them, is generally called 'multidisciplinary'. The most cited journals with a very high impact factor and dominant in the scientific world, such as *Nature*, *Science* and *PNAS*, among others, have traditionally emphasized the hard sciences in their contents. The first of them had to split into several titles to cover separate fields, mainly due to the enormous number of published papers.

In the case of *Interciencia*, although the main journal classifying enterprise placed it within a given specialty after having considered it among the multidisciplinary publications for over 30 years, the object of its existence forces it to remain open to all disciplines. The *raison d'être* to which we make reference is that of serving the development of the peoples of the Americas, without distinction of language nor of disciplines. It is the pertinence of the materials from this optic that determines, once revised and approved by the author's peers, their presence on its pages.

In this way, as an example, the current issue of *Interciencia* includes papers in several different areas that cover from the biology of mollusks to service enterprises, passing through health and bio-engineering topics. In fact, a report deals with the presence of certain bivalve mollusks in a zone of the Venezuelan coast and another one analyzes the effects of the movements of the sea in the abundance and composition of the zooplankton, which are critical themes for the capacity to feed in the future the population of the region and the whole of humanity. A third report presents results about

parasitic diseases in native populations, a key aspect for the knowledge of our aborigine peoples, while another paper, also in the field of health sciences but from a bio-engineering perspective, searches for parameters for the objective classification of the hemiplegic gait, which contributes to a better management of this clinical condition.

In this same issue the ardent problem of energy utilization is also treated from two very different angles. One paper studies the mobility of water during drying wood chips from different species used as energy materials, while another focuses on probabilistic models for the analysis of investment projects in the petrochemical industry. Finally, three articles treat aspects that cover a wide span of current issues in enterprise management, such as the design and development in service industries, the experience in the development of information systems for companies, and the study of the quality and efficiency of data management in enterprises by means of the use of computation at the clouds.

From aspects of basic invertebrate biology and ecology to the organization and management of enterprises in the society of knowledge, intermingling through the knowledge of our populations and health care, they are all relevant elements of undeniable pertinence for the development of the region. The different disciplines included conform a rainbow of knowledge and research in fields that have not been induced by a list of priorities, but by the intellectual production of our researchers.

While being the source of great satisfaction for the editorial staff, it is also a source of frustration, as the journal does not have an audience that being focused on a specific area of knowledge, searches through its contents and refers to it in their own papers, thus allowing to reach an impact factor that corresponds to its large demand. Our public is the scientific community at large and *Interciencia* will continue to work for them.

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