

REDALYC MAKES OUR SCIENCE VISIBLE

REDALYC, the network of scientific journals of Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal, is a project supported by the Autonomous Mexico State University (UAEM) that currently incorporates over 650 scientific journals, both in the social sciences and the humanities as well as in the natural sciences, with the aim of contributing to the dissemination of scientific editorial activity produced in and about Latin America, Spain and Portugal. It comprises a website (www.redalyc.uaemex.mx) where the scientific collection that has been built, and already contains the highly significant figure of 150,000 articles, can be accessed.

For their inclusion in the collection, the proposed journals are evaluated on the basis of updated criteria by a Scientific Advisory Committee and area committees with the participation of international experts, and the material is incorporated after establishing goodwill agreements for its non-exclusive utilization. The project adheres to the declaration of principles of open access of all its contents.

The multilingual website allows, with high efficiency, the consultation of contents from the incorporated journals by area or country, the search of bibliographic material by authors, journals, or keywords, as well as advanced searches. It also allows to share contents with other bibliographic information systems, social networks, etc., and provides access to regional science and technology institutions.

REDALYC also contains a statistical module that provides excellent and updated information about usage by journal and by article, with quantification of visits and discharges by country and institution, as well as comparative statistics by groups of countries or geographical zones, and by areas of knowledge. This module constitutes a powerful

tool for the objective and up to date evaluation of scientific publications.

The project has maintained a continuous evolution since its beginnings, allowing it to increase progressively its reach and to overcome drawbacks such as the occasional but regrettable delay in the incorporation of issues, the fast and timely availability of research results and of ideas being one of the main objectives of electronic media operating through Internet. Also, it is to be expected that the number of multidisciplinary journals included in the collection increases in the future, and that the current predominance of journals in the areas of the social sciences and the humanities be balanced with the incorporation of new publications of quality in the natural sciences.

It is obvious that for the development of science and technology in our countries is becomes indispensable to increase the visibility of the publications that are generated, requiring and maintaining the highest possible quality levels. The number of periodicals included in REDALYC, while being very significant, is only a fraction of those existing. The activities of this project, as well as that of other successful initiatives active in the region, are worth of being imitated so as to eventually reach the most widespread coverage possible and truly reflect the rich science and technology bibliographic patrimony that is generated in the region.

Under the very pertinent lemma of "Science that is not seen does not exist", REDALYC gives an extraordinary contribution to the visualization and dissemination of the scientific literature produced in the region, helping in this manner to effectively reduce the distance that still separates the vast majority of our publications from those in the so-called mainstream of science.

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