

THE NATURE OF *INTERCIENCIA*

Since it was included, in 1978, in the Science Citation Index and until the year 2007, the *Interciencia* journal was classified as 'Multidisciplinary'. From 2008 onwards it has been classified in the area of Ecology, apparently as a result of a statistical analysis carried out by the company that handles said index. On the other hand, the *Sistema de Información Científica de la Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal* (Redalyc) includes *Interciencia* since the year 2000 and classifies it amongst the multidisciplinary journals in the Social Sciences.

Interciencia has pursued to always maintain itself as a multidisciplinary journal, open to all fields of science and technology, so as to provide a medium for the diffusion of the production of those researchers that, in our region, lack a proper representation in the science publishing world. In the initial decades of the publication, its relationship to the sphere of the 'hard' or 'natural' sciences predominated. Throughout the last years, on the other hand, we have seen a transition in the contents of the journal from the dominance of environmental sciences, ecology and agrosociences, towards the areas of education, management and scientometrics, among others.

Whatever the field to which a particular paper submitted to *Interciencia* corresponds, its initial admission and the contingent acceptance after a strict peer review by academics of the highest possible level will depend upon the pertinence of the study and the quality of its execution. There are very few cases in which thematic filters are applied, so as to give access to the largest amount of possible approaches, although always adhering to universal standards of scientific excellence.

While it is something exceptional, the current issue, being a regular number of the journal and not a special issue dedicated to the social sciences, contains almost exclusively papers that are included within research topics in these fields. Only one of the papers published herein refer to a topic in the agronomical sciences, specifically to the use of residues from the combustion of herbal vegetation that is removed by farmers before sowing time, so as to favor

phosphorus uptake of soils in low rainfall zones.

Three of the papers appearing in this issue correspond to the field of education and are related to two very different aspects. One of them explores the professional competence for the inclusive training in graduating students of a university course for future pre-school and primary school teachers, while the other two focus on financial and organizational aspects related to higher education. One of them deals with the brand value in universities, an aspect of high relevance in the marketing of higher teaching institutions, while the other analyzes the return of higher education, a characteristic that orients the preference by candidates to follow university studies.

Four reports correspond to the area of managing. While one of them attempts to establish a profile of low-income consumers, who are majority in our countries' market, another one tries to establish the perception that project managers have of themselves, as compared to that of other actors involved in the execution of the projects. A third paper presents a methodology for the evaluation of the impact achieved by a program for the promotion of entrepreneurship in small and mid-size industries, and the last one analyzes the relative impact of the production of Latin American authors in the field of administration.

Whatever the classification given to the journal by the indices, its nature will be given by its editorial line and its greater or lesser aperture to papers of diverse character. Following the statement of being a journal "dedicated to stimulate scientific research, its humanitarian use and the study of its social context", *Interciencia* provides a space for very different approaches and subjects, and maintains a holistic approach to science, without refusing or discriminating *a priori* the material that researchers of the region submit to us.

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