

## THE REACH OF *INTERCIENCIA*

*Interciencia* was established, in 1976, as a regional and multidisciplinary journal, in order to serve specifically the Latin American and Caribbean scientific community concerning needs felt in those times. One of these needs resulted from the lack of appropriate diffusion media for the research that in the area of science and technology was carried out in our countries. Another was the reduced distribution of mainstream journals in the region and the restricted local availability of up to date information. It was also necessary to count with journals dedicated to the publication of results of research about problems that affect the population of the region, in the languages of the region.

With time, the emphasis in the contents of the journal has changed in accordance to the interests of the community served, inasmuch as it is reflected in the papers that are submitted to us in order to be considered, evaluated and published. Among the important changes that have taken place stand out the disappearance of papers from researchers of Caribbean countries, the diminution of the number of papers received in areas such as ecology and their increase in fields from the social sciences, relatively absent before, to which we have opened the doors as they are also considered as sciences.

In recent years we have witnessed a new phenomenon, probably associated to the abundant, harmful and shameful work of hackers that has prompted us to warn our potential authors of the danger that represents the fact that unscrupulous people have been offering the 'express' publication of scientific papers in a fraudulent manner, making use of the name of our journal. We have received numerous offers of

'collaboration' from individuals and institutions that supposedly would be interested in publishing complete packages of papers in *Interciencia*. Their origin corresponds to countries in the Middle East, Asia and East Europe. Our answer has always been the same: the journal is the publication of the Interciencia Association, whose objective is to bring together the Associations for the Advancement of Science in the countries of the Americas and, consequently, it attends to the researchers of this continent.

It is not easy for the journal to evaluate the seriousness and honesty of some of the proposals received, but in times such as the present, when we have gone through crisis that endanger our survival, it has been necessary to adopt a position where the regionalist criterion predominates over the natural and widespread tendency to globalization. The isolated papers published in *Interciencia* that are produced by researchers and/or institutions from countries like China or Turkey have been individually submitted by their authors, considered pertinent and of interest to the scientific community of our region by the Editorial Committee and subjected to the usual process of refereeing by specialists of the highest possible academic level. The publication only takes place after it has been recommended by the consulted referees.

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