
NATURAL SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

In the editorial vision of *Interciencia* a permanent goal, although a difficult one, has been the inclusion, under a wide concept of 'sciences', of those disciplines that explore nature, including artificial elements and often exact, together with those that, although they also study what is natural, are referred to aspects of the relation of human beings, as members of society, with other humans. Not only their languages differ, but the mental schemes of those who practice them and the development of their thoughts are also different.

Albeit the foregoing, it is possible to attempt, and also to achieve, formal approaches that allow to share the pages of a given journal. The presentation formats, linguistic expressions, syntactic conventions, numerical units, manners of citation and structure of reference lists, among many others, are elements that lend themselves to homogenize the published material. They become key elements to reach the desired cohabitation and also constitute factors that allow the necessary understanding among professionals and academics of different disciplines.

One of the central elements to be considered in common is the usefulness of that which is published. Usefulness for science itself, for society in general and, for the scientific community in particular. This becomes, in essence, the interest of researchers in the diffusion of the results of their activity. This is how it comes to point to consider the contents of the current issue, where papers of very diverse characters, but always pertinent, are brought together.

Historic investigations, the object of the two initial articles in the present issue, contribute to the knowledge of the situation created in Northern Chile and Southern Peru as a consequence of the War of the Pacific, the last armed struggle between countries of Latin America. In one of the articles the institutional aspects of the occupation by the first of these countries is analyzed, while the other work centers on the political and economic consequences resulting, in the Chilean city of Arica, from the bilateral treaty that was signed by the two countries in conflict and which ended the above referred occupation. In a third article, aspects of the

accessibility and utilization of the installations of science museums, institutions of first order for the dissemination and popularization of science, are analyzed, emphasizing the evaluation of the design of the facilities by the users.

Three communications include results of research in the area of biosciences, in themes of great ecological and economical repercussion. The first of them, in the field of pisciculture, a most important source of food in the future, informs about the effects of different diets in the post-larval growth of a river species that is common in the region and of a great productive potential. In the second one, the authors analyze the deleterious effect of agrochemicals in the colonization by micorrhizae in avocado crops, an agricultural staple of very high yields in some countries of the region. The third communication presents a prediction model for the bark thickness of the stem of one of the most widespread timber trees.

The issue is completed by an essay that incorporates reflections about the concept of incommensurability of scientific theories in the work of the North American thinker Thomas Kuhn, one of the most influential writers on the philosophy of science in the twentieth century.

Based on the principle that all serious research about a pertinent matter deserves being published, *Interciencia* caters to the demands of the scientific community as reflected on the submission of papers and, follows the rules of a severe and scrupulous peer review process. In this manner it gives room to scientific topics of very diverse nature. This is nothing else than the reflection of the diversity of scientific research that is carried out in the centers of knowledge of Latin America.

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Editor