

THE NEEDED JOURNAL

In times when it is required to make decisions about the orientation and the objectives of an activity such as a science and technology journal that should serve in an effective manner the needs of the scientific community of Latin America, it is a must to consider the available options and possibilities.

The current issue of *Interciencia* offers several samples of the contents that have marked its character in recent times, upon opening its pages to the inclusion of papers that deal with aspects that have progressively occupied more space. It has to do with the transition of a multidisciplinary journal of natural sciences to a multidisciplinary journal of sciences in general, including the social sciences. Before, the latter were not considered to be formal enough so as to share a common diffusion medium. However, the demands by the scientific community and the will to admit any study that is pertinent to the region and its progress, and that would have been carried out with scientific rigor and positively evaluated by peer reviewers of recognized professional level, have resulted in a mixture of themes and approaches that deserve analysis.

It is thus how we observe the presence of traditional subjects such as the report that informs about experiments relative to the adhesion of microorganisms of common presence in the mouth to plastic materials used in implants, and how the incorporation of silver nanoparticles to the material affects said adhesion and colonization and, in consequence, reduces the occurrence of prosthesis-induced gum inflammation and the apparition of caries. Also in a sphere that can be considered as traditional for *Interciencia*, as is biodiversity, is encompassed a paper that intends to characterize, by means of a methodology of free design that is typical of the social sciences, the perception of primary school students of rural or urban residence about the biome of the Brazilian Atlantic forest. This study identifies how the locus of residence and the gender influence such perception and point to the need to incorporate in school programs contents related to biodiversity, as well as a greater interaction of the students with nature. It is nature and society hand on hand.

Related as well to both nature and society, but in this case even closer to the social sciences, is located a study

of the manners in which some indigenous communities in Northern Chile cooperate in the presence of extreme climatic events due to drought or severe flooding, following patterns inherited from their ancestors.

Two papers in an eminently social sphere concerning history and law, and not being of an experimental character, are classified as essays. The first one is a study of how different national and local sectors considered and handled the policies of organization and regional development of Northern Chile after the incorporation of the city of Arica to the country, and their relationship to the treatment of aspects concerning the indigenous communities present in the region, until the military dictatorship interrupted, in 1973, the planning process in course. The second one analyzes from a juridical perspective the presence and consideration of uses and costumes of the Aymara people in the Chilean legislation, which turns invisible the consuetudinary practices of their culture. It proposes modifications to the judicial process that are respectful of the way of being of the indigenous people that have been translocated.

Finally, two areas of knowledge that are distant from the natural sciences but are very relevant in our times are those of managing and marketing. Two reports belong to the latter. One of them quantifies the diverse factors that modulate the purchase intent of sustainable and environmentally adequate products, finding that the most determinant elements are the consumer attitude towards green brands and the eco-labeling of products. The other report experimentally characterizes the effects of the presence or absence of segments associated to fast food chains in the preferences shown by those who are exposed (or not) to such segments in a cinematographic production and, determines those factors with a greater predictive value.

The table is served so that the future orientations and the corresponding priorities in the journal contents be defined by the board of the *Interciencia* Association and by those who are to lead the editorial production of *Interciencia*.

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