

## THE MULTIDISCIPLINARITY OF *INTERCIENCIA*

*Interciencia* was established 45 years ago as a trilingual version of the *Science* journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which would be dedicated to serve the interests and needs of the scientific communities of Latin America and the Caribbean. In the same way as its model, *Interciencia* was conceived as a multidisciplinary publication, and was classified as such for more than 20 years, since 1978, in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) of the *Institute of Scientific Information* (ISI).

After the change from ISI to Thompson Reuters (today Clarivate's WoS), the journal ceased to appear as Multidisciplinary and became classified in the field of Ecology, although its orientation and contents had not been altered at all. The modification was the result of a relational analysis of the citations received and the references included in the published papers, which showed a predominance of that discipline for the period analyzed. From being located around the middle of all the Multidisciplinary journals listed according to their impact factors (headed by giants such as *Nature*, *Science* and *PNAS*), it ended up being among the last ones in Ecology.

*Interciencia* was included from the year 2000 onwards in the database of Redalyc (Network of Scientific Journals of Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal) and the following year in SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online). It is worth mentioning that the journal has remained in the first of these regional systems of scientific information but, was suspended in the latter in 2009. Eight years after having been approved and incorporated in the SciELO collection through an agreement reached by this organization and the Venezuelan science and technology authorities, it was required of the journal to cover processing expenses that it had never agreed to and for which there were no available funds. As a result, it was suspended; it continues to be listed, but the material published since that time is not featured in the system.

In Redalyc, *Interciencia* has continued to be up to date for 20 years. There, the journal appears classified as Multidisciplinary (Social Sciences). In trying to interpret the concept of 'multidisciplinary' in the journals listed as such

in this system, whether in the exact and natural sciences or in the social sciences, it becomes evident that said concept is not referred to the original concept of multiple fields of science from *Nature*, *Science* and *PNAS* (although it must be said that the first of these publications started, since the end of the last century, to publish papers separately in different fields or aspects of science), but refers to the presence of different disciplines within a determined field, applying the corresponding definitions included in the nomenclature of fields of science and technology of UNESCO. The same is the case in Latindex, another system that encompasses the scientific journals published in Ibero-America.

The apparently surprising identification of *Interciencia* as a journal in the field of the social sciences can possibly be understood considering that the publication declares itself as being "dedicated to stimulate scientific research, its humanitarian use and the study of its social context, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to promote communication between the scientific and technological communities of the Americas". Furthermore, the prevailing criterion for the admission and subsequent evaluation of the manuscripts that are received, which has been emphasized since its beginnings, is that of pertinence to the development of the countries of the region and the subsequent wellbeing of its peoples, whatever the field of knowledge to which the contents correspond.

All along its existence, *Interciencia* has been dedicated to publish works that in one way or another contribute to the development and wellbeing of our societies through the results achieved by researchers, be it in the field of mathematics and statistics, in that of the basic sciences, in health, in law, equity, or any other field. Always, to be sure, provided that the review by qualified peers upholds a quality that merits the publication of the presented material.

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