
INTERCIENCIA, A MANAGEMENT JOURNAL?

The character, the orientation and the audience of a periodic scientific publication are given by its contents, rather than by the formal pronouncements that intend to define them in one way or another. The evolution of *Interciencia* shows the manner in which those elements have changed and determined the path covered along its 45 years of uninterrupted publication. Initially proposed as a mechanism for the integration of the scientific community of the Americas, in its beginnings the journal emphasized the review articles of the works of recognized experts and the publication of news about the scientific and technological activities of the member countries of the Interciencia Association, in an effort to disseminate important advances of the sciences among the scientists in our region and to inform them about the progress achieved in our countries.

The priorities declared by the journal covered in its beginnings almost all the fields of the natural sciences, besides sectorial planning, in its intention to be a multidisciplinary journal. It was in the latter category where *Interciencia* was incorporated into the highly coveted *Science Citation Index* (SCI) two years after it was established. The journal has continued to be included in that index to the present, as well as in other indices, but its location has changed. A larger proportion of papers in the areas of biodiversity, environment and natural resources led the SCI to change its classification, listing it thereafter among the journals in the field of ecology. In the *Scielo* collection, from which it has been suspended close to ten years due to lack of payment, *Interciencia* has been placed among the agricultural, biological, exact and earth sciences, and engineering. Years after, another important initiative for the indexation and visualization of the regional science, *Redalyc*, has included *Interciencia* in the group of multidisciplinary journals in the social sciences.

An examination of the titles and contents of the papers that integrate the current issue of *Interciencia* reveals that the terms enterprise and management appear with a dominant frequency, indicating a clear orientation towards the social sciences and, in particular, towards social management. This fact does not follow an orientation established by the declared priorities of the journal nor by any other editorial tendency, but the demand that the journal has as a means for the dissemination of the results of the research carried out by the academics of the region that constitute its audience.

The scientific journals are the main means of dissemination of the findings of those who pursue, with their professional activity, to extend the horizon of knowledge of humanity. They constitute a niche, more or less appropriate, to fulfill such a function, and it is the criterion of that audience or researchers what determines its demand. As a result, the papers published are not anything other than the decantation, after a rigorous process of peer review, of the manuscripts submitted by their authors in search of a channel of dissemination for the new knowledge attained.

This situation is the reflection and consequence of non-declared, but certainly felt, necessity of the scientific community in our region. More than the pronouncements and the intentions, it is the need on the side of the researchers to have at their disposal an adequate vehicle for the presentation, validation and dissemination of their work, what determines in the first instance the themes covered by the papers published in *Interciencia*.

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