

ARE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNALS STILL NECESSARY?

Contemporary science is advancing at an unprecedented pace. Every year, millions of scientific articles are published, expanding the frontiers of knowledge in increasingly specialized areas. This evolution has made it possible to deepen our understanding of complex phenomena and develop technologies that transform our societies. However, growing specialization also raises a question that deserves consideration: how can we connect knowledge that, although generated in different disciplines, is necessary to understand and address the major challenges of our time?

The fragmentation of knowledge is a natural consequence of scientific progress. As discoveries increase, fields of study become more specific and researchers concentrate their efforts on increasingly delimited areas. This process has generated important advances, but it has also created barriers that hinder communication among disciplines and limit the construction of comprehensive perspectives on problems that transcend the traditional boundaries of science.

The challenges currently facing humanity clearly illustrate this reality. Climate change, food security, biodiversity loss, health crises, energy transition, sustainable management of natural resources, and the development of artificial intelligence cannot be understood or solved from a single discipline. Each of these issues involves environmental, social, economic, technological, cultural, and political dimensions that require the participation of multiple areas of knowledge.

In this context, multidisciplinary ceases to be an academic aspiration and becomes a practical necessity. The ability to create spaces where researchers from different fields can share perspectives, methods, and results is essential for advancing toward more comprehensive and sustainable solutions. The objective is not to replace specialization, which is indispensable for scientific progress, but rather to complement it through mechanisms that promote dialogue among disciplines.

Multidisciplinary journals play a unique role within this process. While highly specialized publications allow for deeper exploration of specific areas of knowledge, broad-scope journals offer opportunities to establish connections among scientific communities that rarely interact directly. Their function is not limited to disseminating research results; it also involves facilitating the exchange of ideas among disciplines that, although different in their approaches, share common concerns and objectives.

This role acquires particular relevance in Latin America and the Caribbean. The region faces complex challenges that require integrated approaches and solutions adapted to diverse contexts. Interaction among natural sciences, social sciences, engineering, health sciences, and environmental studies is essential for understanding the dynamics affecting our societies and for generating relevant responses at the local and regional levels.

Since its inception, *Interciencia* has upheld the conviction that science advances more solidly when communication exists among disciplines. This vision has made it possible to bring together contributions from different fields of knowledge and to promote a scientific dialogue that transcends geographic and institutional boundaries. Over more than five decades, the journal has witnessed profound scientific and technological transformations while maintaining as a fundamental principle the promotion of a science open to exchange and committed to a comprehensive understanding of the problems affecting the region.

Today, as specialization continues to deepen and information systems provide access to unprecedented quantities of data and publications, the need for spaces capable of connecting knowledge appears more important than ever. Contemporary challenges do not merely demand more information; they also require the ability to integrate diverse perspectives, identify relationships among phenomena, and build solutions that recognize the complexity of today's world.

Multidisciplinary journals continue to offer a privileged space for this purpose. Their relevance does not lie in competing with specialized publications, but in complementing their contributions through the promotion of scientific dialogue and the integration of knowledge. In an era marked by the constant expansion of knowledge, perhaps one of the greatest challenges is precisely to prevent that knowledge from remaining fragmented. Fostering its convergence, exchange, and articulation remains an essential task for the development of a science capable of responding to the needs of our societies. This conviction has accompanied *Interciencia* since its creation and continues to guide its commitment to science and to Latin America and the Caribbean.

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