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INGENIARE: CHILEAN JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING

Scientific journals are an essential tool for the diffusion of scientific and technological knowledge. Knowledge, a fundamental part of human identity, is increased and enriched when scientists and scholars publish the results of their research in scientific articles and reports

As in the rest of the world, in Latin America, the publication of scientific journals is a way of bringing to the scientific community the results of the research conducted in the countries of the region. Therefore, identifying, preserving, stimulating and supporting journals from each country, become of fundamental importance for strengthening the process of creating new knowledge.

Within this context, considering that the objective of scientific communication is recording, evaluating, disseminating and gathering knowledge for its advancement, the researcher assumes this responsibility by publishing the results of his/her research in journals that are visible and accessible to the community.

In this process, changes in the way information is communicated and the emergence of new technologies that have innovated the way science is organized represent a new paradigm, where interpersonal relationships are more important and so is interaction between groups and research institutions, which influence the communication process as well as scientific and technological development for a global world.

In this changing scenario, researchers are becoming more concerned about the quality of their contributions, as they are aware of the fact that these are subject to closer peer evaluation, a situation that makes them more cautious when selecting journals for submitting their manuscripts, as the author's success in submitting articles depends on the journal's editorial policies and norms recommended by international instances.

Therefore, it is not difficult to understand why editors not only perceive the scientific journal as a vehicle for perpetuating knowledge, but also as a chance to get involved in the dynamic process of generating and diffusing information, through the channels of new communication technologies.

Scientific studies are not only relevant to those who work in the field, but also for those who have to do with the dissemination of knowledge. Interestingly, nowadays there is a marked absence of formal training to support scientific editorial work. Chile, where this task is taken on with much enthusiasm but little knowledge, is not an exception to this rule.

Recent studies regarding the publication process point out inequality of criteria in bibliographical references, publication requirements and editorial directions. These inconsistencies are coupled to the risks of editorial consultation, when articles are sometimes submitted only to peer evaluation for validation or rejection, ignoring factors such as competitiveness, cost, and acceptance by the scientific community.

Also, in every scientific field there are prestigious journals that receive high numbers of manuscripts for publication and for that reason have to be more rigorous in the selecting process. The evaluation of scientific journals and the processes related to research evaluation and research grants awarding are generally complex procedures that are not open for discussion. Among the criteria used for evaluating scientific journals there are:

- Determining the formal and content quality of a journal.
- Improving the quality of the journal as instance of scientific diffusion and as evaluative instruments of scientific activity.
- Increasing the journal's national, regional or international recognition.
- Assessing the social impact of new knowledge using alternative forms of access.

This new system is flexible and can co-exist with the traditional system. It also allows rapid diffusion of results, certification of priority and simultaneous or a posteriori evaluation by the same community that maintains the system. Another alternative form of access is “Open Access,” whereby the format of the journal and the previous system for evaluating articles are maintained. The costs of the procedure are covered by the authors. The information is accessible, open and free to the entire community as pre-prints are.

Ingeniare – Chilean Journal of Engineering

“Revista de la Facultad de Ingeniería - Universidad de Tarapacá” began in 1994, publishing one volume per year. Since 2005, the journal has published three numbers a year, each number containing unedited studies by academics and professionals from public and private institutions, who wish to report new knowledge in the areas of engineering science, technology and related disciplines.

Our journal is evaluated according to pre-established criteria and norms that aim at preserving its quality. The criteria are defined as it follows:

1. **Impact:** This factor is taken from the publication Journal Citation Reports of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) of Philadelphia. This index shows the ratio between the number of times a journal is quoted in any given year, and the number of articles that the journal published in the two previous years.
2. **Quality of contributors:** *Ingeniare* receives significant contributions from important national and foreign authors. At this time the editorial board is implementing a plan so as to improve the quality of the journal to meet ISI index requirements.
3. **Continuity of the journal:** Our journal has been consecutively published for 12 years, starting with one annual number, increasing to three numbers per volume in 2005.
4. **Reputation of the journal's sponsoring institution:** The institution that sponsors *Ingeniare* is the Universidad de Tarapacá, which is a state university, member of the Consejo de Rectores de Universidades Chilenas (Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities), with national recognition in engineering programs.
5. *Ingeniare* publishes in English, Spanish and Portuguese, with English translations of all abstracts and the editorial.
6. The journal is indexed by SciELO Chile and it complies with international editorial norms established by the Scientific Electronic Library Online.
7. *Ingeniare's* Editorial Committee and the external peer review board are conformed by scholars and researchers from well known Chilean and international universities, as well as highly ranked publications, among them Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brasil, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad de Brasilia, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Universidad Autónoma Nacional de México, Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Francia, General Command of Aerospace Technology, Institute of Aeronautics and Space, Brazil, and the Instituto Superior Politécnico José Antonio Echeverría, Cuba.

The main objective of evaluating scientific and professional journals is to preserve the quality of their content and to increase prestige and acceptance of the journal within the academic community. As an emerging publication, *Ingeniare* has the opportunity to innovate and excel in the process of communicating scientific knowledge. This is the challenge that we hope to meet in the years to come.

Carlos Villarroel González
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