

The journal: Medicina, Ribeirão Preto, trying to be admitted to the Scientific Electronic Library Online - SciELO

Revista Medicina, Ribeirão Preto, tentando chegar à Scientific Electronic Library Online - SciELO

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Since I became the Editor of the journal *Medicina* (Ribeirão Preto), in 2009, I elaborated a program for the regulation of its periodicity on a medium-term basis. In an initial editorial, I wrote about the causes of the lack of periodicity of the journal and the ways to regulate it so that it could be later incorporated into the Scientific Electronic Library Online – SciELO¹. The periodicity and punctuality of publication of a journal are the main factors analyzed in the indexing process, while the remaining ones practically depend on regularity. As an administrator of the journal for more than one year, I was unable to regulate its periodicity, which requires a more efficient collaboration on the part of the authors, who can maintain its periodicity by submitting their papers to the appreciation of the editors.

Of all the criteria listed in Table 1, we can see that our Achilles' heel definitely is Periodicity. Regarding the remaining items listed, I believe that there are all the necessary conditions for applying for indexation consistent with the excellence of our institutions and clinical staff and faculty.

Figure 1 illustrates how the natural flow of articles from the source (author/authors) to the Editor/Editorial Board should be, with the desired quantity and quality, favoring the regularity of publication and facilitating the indexing process.

Table 1
Summary of the main criteria for the evaluation of journals for admission to the Scientific Electronic Library Online – SciELO

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Scientific properties	Originality and significance for the area
Peer review	Peer review
Editorial council	Recognized specialists from different institutions and localities
Periodicity	Minimum: Quarterly, with 60 papers per year Desirable: Bimonthly, with 72 papers per year
Punctuality	According to periodicity
Language	Minimum: Title, key words and abstract in the language of the text and in English Desirable: Text in English
Style	To be rigidly followed according to clearly specified norms References: ABNT, ISSO or Vancouver
Citations	Compatible with journals in the area indexed in SciELO, Brasil
Admission of Papers	Compliance with the norms (80% for approval) Content: Ensuring scientific quality

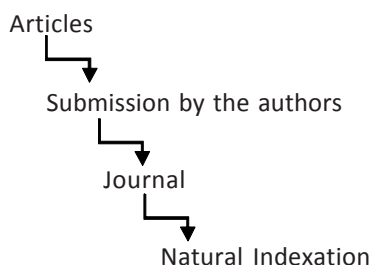


Figure 1: Natural flow of submission of papers and indexation of journals.

However, this flow is not so simple. Before submitting a paper to the editorial board of a journal, the authors should take into account its impact factor, periodicity, and language of publication, among other items. Now, if the journal has a low impact factor, or none at all, or if it has no periodicity, there is no attraction for the authors to submit articles. Then, an obvious vicious cycle forms, as illustrated in Figure 2.

There have been no problems with lack of financial resources for the publication of the journal *Medicine* because, since the journal started to be published only in its version online, the cost of printing on paper no longer exists. Indeed, we again emphasize that the main problem faced by the Journal today is the scarcity of papers, which ultimately generates its irregular periodicity.

Figure 2 clearly illustrates the inexorable vicious cycle perpetuated by a large series of factors. It is necessary to break this cycle by stimulating the act of publishing, and this should be understood at this time especially by our professors and by the community in general.

Obviously, good indexing services are desirable. However, there is a long and difficult way to go before we reach this level. It would be desirable for the local scientific community to submit papers of invariable good quality, preferably written in English, regardless of the criteria of publication to which we are generally exposed, so that we could regulate and maintain the desired periodicity and then increase the vitality of our journal.

As the Editor, together with the publishing committee, I invite our authors to collaborate with this project of obtaining indexation of the journal *Medicine*, Ribeirão Preto, in services that will consider its potential, the requirements of our financial support agencies, and the University.

Reference

1. Castro e Silva Jr O. "Revista Medicina" in the electronic version: an important step towards a new era. *Medicina (Ribeirão Preto)* 2009;42(2):125-6. Disponível online: http://www.fmrp.usp.br/revista/2009/vol42n2/editorial_42n2.pdf

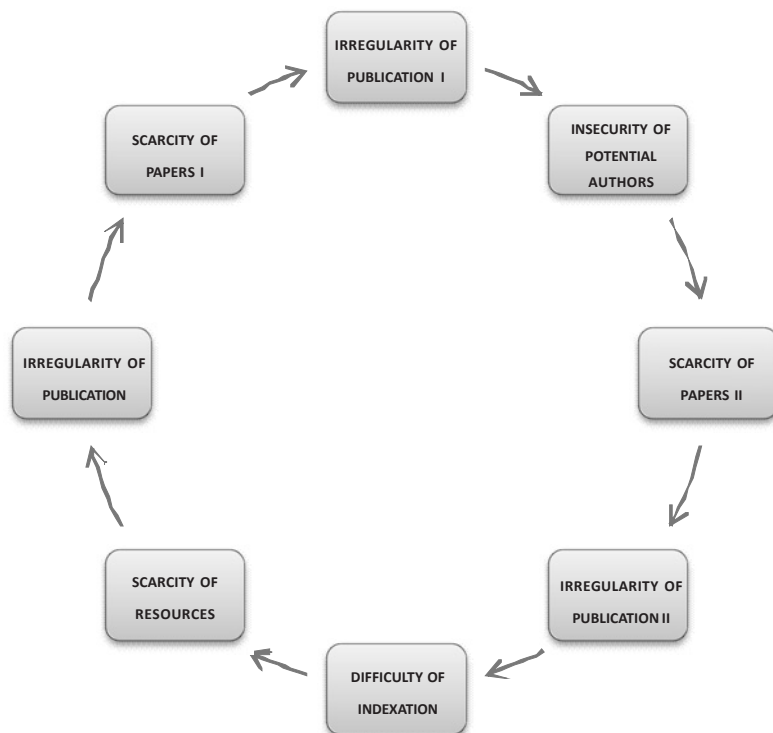


Figure 2: Basic mechanisms causing irregular periodicity of scientific journals.