

Revista Medicina, now published bimonthly. On the way to broader indexation

Revista Medicina, agora de periodicidade bimensal. A caminho de indexação mais ampla

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"If you don't know where you are going, every path will lead you nowhere" (Henry Kissinger)

The regular periodicity of a journal, also called "periodical" for this reason, essentially depends on the availability of articles for publication. Backing this process an entire structure should be constructed in order to establish a logistic of agile work, facilitating the entire editorial process. It is important to point out that the lack of regularity of a scientific journal contributes significantly to the lack of interest on the part of the authors to submit articles for publication, with the obvious creation of a vicious cycle that interferes with the survival of the journal.¹⁻⁴

Figure 1 shows the natural flow of the editorial work which, when well ordered and coordinated, maintains the periodicity of the journal. The editorial work depends on several factors: secretarial office located in a suitable place with high-quality electronic

informatics equipment, a well stocked library, properly qualified secretaries, an active publication committee, an up-to-date editorial board, and a group of ad hoc referees of high scientific level. This ultimately permits agility in the analysis of the papers received and their rapid publication.¹⁻⁴

The Journal Medicina had long experienced difficulty in maintaining periodicity, with a consequent low interest on the part of authors to submit their investigations for publication. Additionally, the scarcity of financial resources for publication in paper form, the lack of an impact factor and the general delay in emitting reviews on the part of the ad hoc referees represented additional factors with a relevant effect on the delay of publication of each issue, even though the journal was published quarterly. It is also necessary to consider that irregular periodicity also fails to stimulate the reviewers to accept their indications and to emit their reviews, interfering with the desired flow of the papers shown in Figure 1 and with the regularity of publication.

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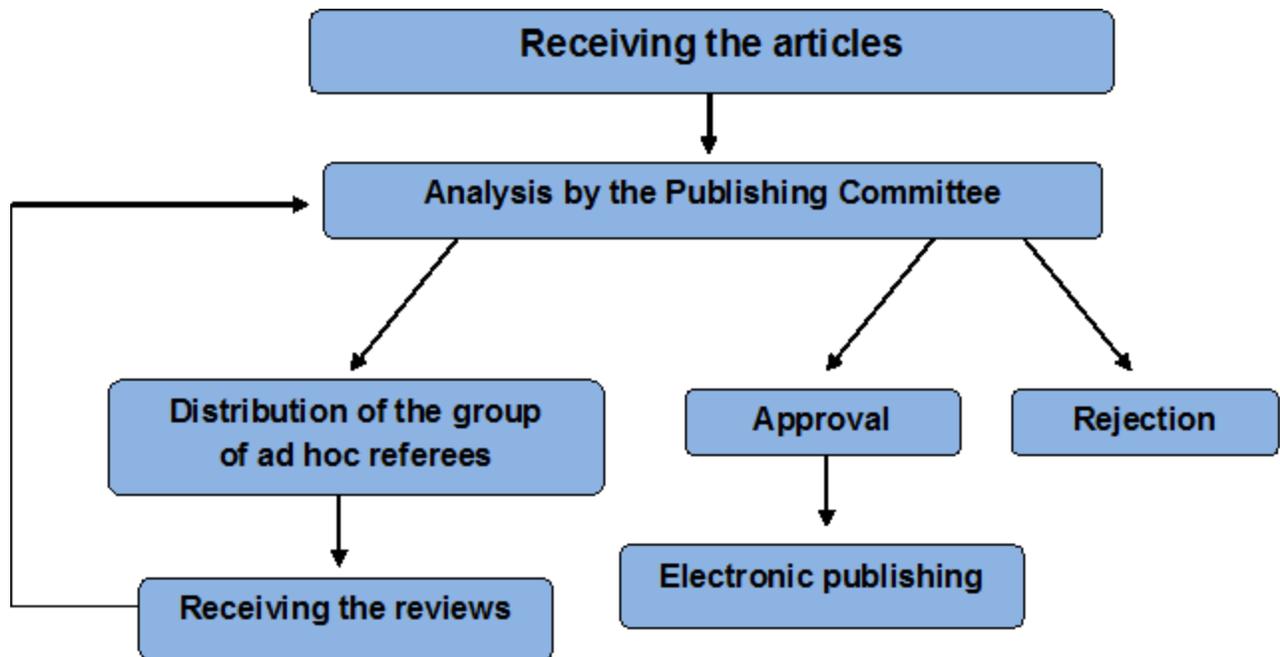


Figure 1: Flow diagram of the Editorial work of the Journal Medicina.

Thus, starting in 2009 with the constitution of a new publication committee and my indication as editor, we discontinued the publication of the printed version and we only published the Journal Medicina, Ribeirão Preto, online.¹⁻⁴ This measure followed an almost universal tendency to publish scientific journals electronically, already predicted by Revista Medicina in an article published in 1994.⁵ The electronic format requires the establishment of rigorous criteria so that the papers published will have a significant content and an editorial and technical structure obeying the standards established by the norms of electronic scientific publishing, favoring the indexation of these publications in renowned databases.⁵⁻⁶

Gradually, we were able to regulate the periodicity of the journal, a fact that, obviously, started to attract the interest of the authors in submitting papers for publication. Thus, as shown in Figure 2, start-

ing in 2011 there was an exponential increase in the number of papers received for analysis by the publication committee. This, in turn, required the optimization of all types of analyses, by the publication committee itself, the group of referees, and the authors in terms of revision of format and content etc. All this made it possible, and even necessary, to change the periodicity of the journal from quarterly to bi-monthly starting in the next semester. If the increased demand for publication based on the submission of papers should continue (see Figure 2), we can prepare ourselves for a monthly publication of our journal. This measure will require differential institutional support in order to expand the secretarial service and to increase the number of employees specialized in publishing. I believe this will satisfy the wishes of our scientific community. It is a planned path with a well defined goal.

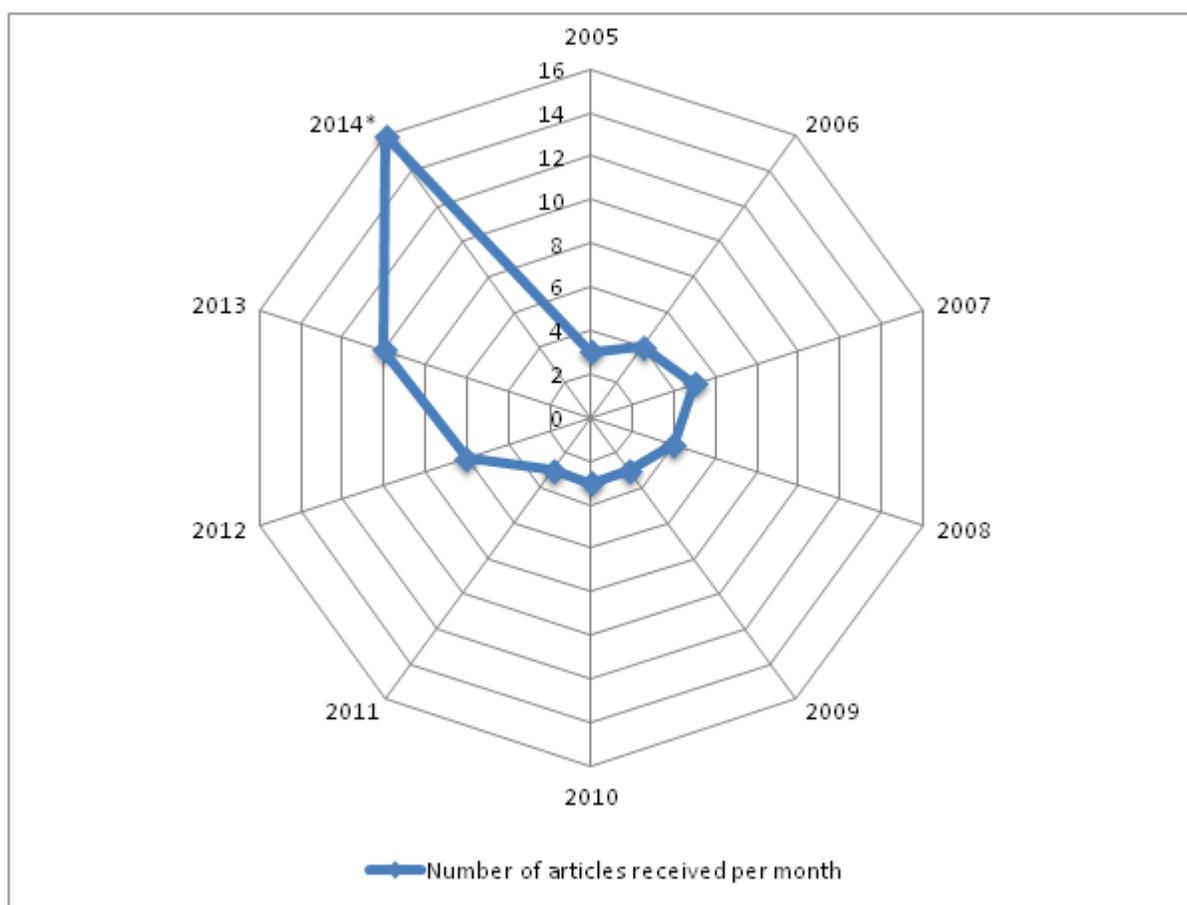


Figure 2: Number of articles received monthly by the journal Medicina from 2005 to June 2014

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