

SAS – Democratizing scientific knowledge throughout South America

South American Sciences starts operating in 2020 aiming to expressively contribute to the scientific communication within South America, and to help develop science throughout the territory. The open access policy makes knowledge widely available to such community.

This practice on our society is not new. Since the 16th and 17th centuries, there was this eagerness to change de paradigm created in the Dark Ages, in which scientific discoveries were often concealed (DAVID, 1998). Merton (1968) describes how this opening happened in a summary of modern scientific norms. The data unveiled by the author were later incorporated into the first open access journals that emerged in the 1990s (LAAKSO *et al.*, 2011).

The consolidation of content openly accessible started, however, in the 16th century as renowned journals drastically increased the popularity of open articles on the last two decades (PINFIELD *et al.*, 2014; LI *et al.*, 2018).

Therefore, the free access to scientific studies builds visibility of these publications, helping increase the number of quotations from such articles, as seen in the study done by Li *et al.* (2018). Consequently, there is an enhanced application of the studies, collaborating to the development of science and to the dissemination of the scientific knowledge.

It is important to point out that those journals (besides being openly accessible) cover many thematic areas on which they publish – in other words, they are multidisciplinary, acting through diverse areas of knowledge. In addition, they also evaluate the soundness of scientific research, at the expense of considering only the innovative nature of each research (WAKELING *et al.*, 2016).

For example, the Coordination of Enhancement for Higher Education Personnel expresses its attention to this phenomenon of multidisciplinary evolution seen in journals by reformulating, in 2019, the evaluation criteria of *Qualis Periódicos* (CAPES, 2019): each journal receives only an overall grade, no matter how many evaluation areas are mentioned inside (in the past, all grades were given according to the area the articles wrote about).

According to present-day tendencies regarding the scientific community, South American Sciences defined goals to be achieved in its first years:

GOALS TO ACHIEVE IN THE FIRST ISSUE'S PUBLISHING	GOALS TO ACHIEVE AFTER THE SECOND ISSUE'S PUBLISHING
To maintain a heterogeneous editorial staff, with researchers from different institutions and regions.	To maintain a heterogeneous editorial staff, with researchers from different institutions and regions.
To maintain an editorial staff composed by at least 20% of foreign researchers.	To maintain an editorial staff composed by at least 35% of foreign researchers.
To maintain a minimum of 40% of the studies published in foreign languages (English or Spanish).	To maintain a minimum of 55% of the studies published in foreign languages (English or Spanish).
To guarantee speed in the peer review process, not exceeding a four-month period (120 days) between submission and final decision.	To guarantee speed in the peer review process, not exceeding a four-month period (120 days) between submission and final decision.
To maintain an average cycle of six months (maximum) between submission, revision and publishing of articles.	To maintain an average cycle of six months (maximum) between submission, revision and publishing of articles.
To annually disclose the percentage quantity of submitted, accepted and refused articles.	To disclose twice a year the percentage quantity of submitted, accepted and refused articles.
To annually disclose a list of <i>ad hoc</i> revisors.	To disclose twice a year a list of <i>ad hoc</i> revisors.



These goals were created based on criteria, policies and procedures for submission and permanency of articles set by SciELO Brasil (SCIELO, 2020) aiming to assure future insertions of our journal on that platform and on other relevant indexing bases.

By achieving said goals, South American Sciences will consolidate its mission of democratizing the access to the scientific knowledge in South America and its subsequent disclosure, establishing itself as an important channel for the scientific community with focus on speed of peer review processes and on the fidelity to the ethic standards, as well as the quality of the content being published. Above all, it is ultimately important to offer the researchers the possibility of cheaply publish their study, and to promote open access to quality scientific works.

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Chief editor

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