
EDITORIAL

Scientific Publishing in Times of Pandemic

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Scientific publishing has played a fundamental role in these times of confinement and coronavirus. Researchers have multiplied the submission of articles to scientific journals, which has also increased the speed of the processing of articles submitted on the subject. Paid publishing houses have put thousands of texts in open access. Nonetheless, this new condition has put editors against the challenge of covering the peer review processes and guaranteeing the quality of these articles. There have already been numerous criticisms for putting articles into pre-prints versions, i.e., without evaluation, since, given the urgency of having information on the subject, the published information ends up being used without having enough rigor of its evidence. In this sense, editors perform a critical task by ensuring that the evaluations allow the published material to have the greatest possible quality control.

On the other hand, it is clear that the open access to most of the journals in Latin America is an advantage, such as having the portals of the Virtual Health Library (VHL), SciELO, and Redalyc that multiply the visibility of the publication. This is a moment in which the region should feel proud of having these developments and that most of its journals assumed an option for open access, since today, more than ever, this way allows universal access to the contents produced by the region.

Another critical point is associated with the challenges of technological development. It is evident that in the speed of publication it is also relevant the speed of arbitration, the flexibility that publishers can have when publishing without having to wait for the issue to be complete, and the ability to publish, once the articles go through arbitration and corrections that ensure quality.

Finally, dissemination strategies must be multiplied. It is not worth having a significant advance in the process of content management and editorial quality if we do not manage to move this knowledge into the public domain, which is done with the collaboration of authors in the visibility of their work and in digital marketing strategies of publishers so that they facilitate and promote that the content moves in blogs, social and academic networks (Twitter, Facebook, ResearchGate, Academia, among others) and can even reach the media.

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The social appropriation of knowledge, today, is decisive to assume measures of care, self-care and even to help manage the problems associated with isolation. Confinement around this pandemic calls us to ensure communication to society and to contribute to the contrast or the decrease of the harmful impact of fake news. In this sense, is in a moment like this that scientific publishing has a crucial role in contributing to humanity.