

*REVISTA ACTA COLOMBIANA DE PSICOLOGÍA*ERNESTO L. RAVELO CONTRERAS*

During eleven years of uninterrupted edition of “Acta Colombiana de Psicología”, the main interest of this publication has been the permanent improvement concerning the criteria of scientific quality, editorial characteristics, visibility, and both national and international positioning. An additional and equally significant criterion has been the coverage in terms of authors’ participation, considering that the simple local character has been superseded and the publication has transcended a national product to become an international product which can be visualized and shown in the issues published during the last three years.

With respect to the **scientific quality**, it is important to underline the following: (a) the outstanding academic quality of both the Editorial and Scientific Committees; (b) the qualification and participation of the authors who have been publishing (local, national and international), and who have Master and Doctorate degrees; (c) the originality and quality of the studies and research projects accepted, and (d) the objectivity, thoroughness and seriousness in the process of evaluation of the articles.

The evaluation or arbitration process carried out by external expert pairs is very limiting for the majority of the scientific indexed and non-indexed publications, particularly in the Latin American realm. In our case, it has been improving and getting more qualified, considering that in the first years all this delicate task was carried out by our teachers. However, with time it has become possible to incorporate external national teachers and researchers. Finally, thanks to cooperative agreements and to the establishing of networks, the linking of international pairs with the highest levels of academic background has been achieved.

Some of the limitations eventually present in the previous process are: (a) the time elapsed between the document’s allocation and the concept’s return; (b) the profile of the referees, since in the majority of cases it is

difficult to find a referee or expert who simultaneously carries out an assessment of the documents in terms of their topics, methods, statistical procedures, and who can also verify quotations and references. In order to find a relevant solution, in the case of **Acta Colombiana de Psicología**, the following procedure has been adopted: (a) Pre- screening of all the articles; (b) Referral to the process of academic arbitration, and if possibly, also methodological and statistical, if this is required; (c) when it is not possible to find the same evaluator for this task, then the documents are forwarded to an independent assessor for the revision of topic, methodology and statistics; (d) verification of quotations and references and fulfillment of the editorial norm, and (e), Editor’s final revision.

In relation to the **editorial characteristics**, right from the edition of the first issue of Acta Colombiana de Psicología, the standard of the *National Bibliographical Index* was taken as reference in order to fulfill the demands of the condition for “editorial quality”, which evaluates 18 characteristics, both for the journal, the installments and the document or article. The fulfillment of these demands, among other criteria, allows the ranking of journals in different classification categories, such as: C, B, A2 and A1. In the case of Acta Colombiana de Psicología, we are certain that nowadays, and in particular in the last three issues of our journal, these characteristics are completely met. In addition, and particularly for the selection and acceptance of the different types of scientific articles published articles, there are several procedures that are carried out at present in order to: (a) establish agreements for collaborative activities, both national and international, (e.g. between institutions, journals, etc), (b) generate strategies which may contribute to setting up networks (e.g. for editors, researchers, referees, authors, etc.) and (c) establish relations, not only for knowledge visibility but for the production of it. This shall allow, by means of opportune and relevant indexes and databases, to carry

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out some analysis of bibliographical measurements based on indicators such as: percentage of scientific documents, total number of documents per year, evolution of production per institution and per author, number of references, , percentage of national and international references, number of document citations, total number of authors per year, number of articles per country, average number of articles per year, and so on.

Concerning visibility, and national and international positioning, every year **Acta Colombiana de Psicología** has been showing an important increase in results for having been included and indexed in recognized international indexation systems and databases. This has contributed to the promotion, socialization and internationalization of the products published there, not only in America, but also in the European Union and in most part of the world. For instance, it is worth underlining one of the most significant recognitions obtained in 2007, its inclusion in PsycINFO, and in 2008, its recent admission in Scopus, which undoubtedly constitutes one of the most important and meritorious achievements. This attainment and recognition should be extended to all our readers and to those who have supported this editorial project of *Acta Colombiana de Psicología* as a periodical scientific publi-

cation that is particularly well received and permanently consulted.

On the other hand, starting from this issue, a new section of the journal called “Bibliographical Review” has been opened and it shall be presented by one of our members from the Scientific Committee, Dr. Luz Anyela Morales, who lives in Puebla, Mexico.

Finally, the present issue of *Acta Colombiana de Psicología* makes available to the readers national articles from the following universities: Universidad Católica de Colombia, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana at Cali; Universidad del Valle; and international articles from the University of Guadalajara, México; Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente, México; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México at Iztacala; Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, México; Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, México; Universidad Veracruzana, México; Universidad de Granada, España, and Universidad Católica de Costa Rica and Universidad de Costa Rica; Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela; Universidad de Huelva and Universidad de Sevilla, Spain; Universidad de Valencia and Universidad de Zaragoza and Universidad Santiago de Compostela, Spain. To all the authors, groups and research networks, many thanks!