

ΣΟΦΙΑ—SOPHIA

A decade of challenges and transformations in disseminating knowledge

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In the field of dissemination and visibility of scientific knowledge, serial journals are the driving force behind the communication system to the academic world of the results of research processes. The main purpose is that readers use the published information to incorporate, in different contexts, the analysis of results, methodologies and conclusions obtained by other academics, so as to facilitate the application and construction of new knowledge. Of course, if scientific rigor is to be achieved, these journals must adopt transparent, demanding and highly qualified publishing systems, following the policies established by national and international regulatory institutions, in order to achieve a legitimate visibility.

In the Colombian case, Publindex is the institution responsible for registering and recognizing scientific journals. Since its implementation in 2001, it began to be developed a transition process in the dissemination and dissemination of scientific knowledge, when evaluation models with high classification criteria were designed and grouped into four categories, C, B, A2 and A1, which are used to measure editorial quality, stability and visibility. ([Publindex](#) 2013)

The classification criteria demanded by Publindex have configured the work plans of numerous editorial teams, which have achieved during these years the inclusion of their magazines. However, a high percentage of these do not ascend in the ranking among each classification. This is what Publindex asserts:

Although it is true that there is an important growth of the national scientific production within the first 10 years of the indexing service, so it is that most of the publications integrated in the IBN Publindex lack visibility and international impact, and that they are endogamous, which is evidenced in the low percentage of national journals indexed in citation indexes that measure impact. Currently, 4.72% (22 journals) have an impact factor, and 53.6% (250 journals) in category C are endogamous. ([Publindex](#), 2013).

Since 2002, Publindex has classified inside its 4 categories more than 500 Colombian magazines edited by academic institutions in different areas of knowledge. From here on, we'll perform a tour along the path that has been traced during a decade by Colombian education magazines, followed by a brief review of the magazine Sophia.

Within the records of the National Bibliographical Index, Publindex, the oldest journal on education is *La Revista Colombiana de Educación*, edited since 1978 by the National Pedagogical University, which was a pioneer in facilitating the exchange of ideas between study groups through the dissemination of unpublished research papers. Its work has been mainly oriented to the dissemination of educational research work, and

towards theoretical studies on the fields of education and pedagogy. It is currently indexed in category A2, and it has been registered in Publindex since the second half of 2004. To this same purpose, there were added other education journals, which achieved quality in all parameters of editorial activity, and which managed to position their titles among the most prestigious ones in the country.

Between 2004 and 2015, 20 magazines registered in the area of education have been included in Publindex. In the period 2004-2008, the following magazines were recognized: *Revista Colombiana de Educación*, *Educación y Educadores*, *Historia de la Educación Latinoamericana*, *Pedagogía y Saberes*, and *Sophia*. The remaining 14 were included in the index between 2009 and 2015. To date, only 25% of all magazines registered since 2004 show an ascent in the ranking defined by Publindex; and only 5 of them have reached standards of editorial quality enough to belong to category A2, being one of them *Sophia Magazine*, from La Gran Colombia University, Armenia. See graph 1.

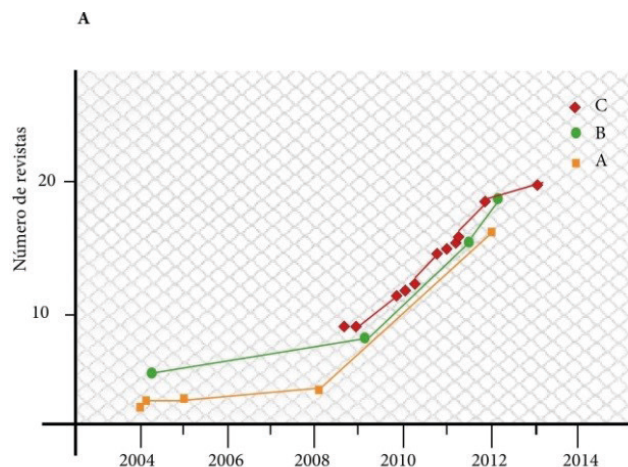
Graph 1 was divided into 2 moments of observation; in A, it is shown the current category and its relation with the date of entry to Publindex. Also, in B, it is recorded the ascent of the five best ranked magazines in the country. see next page.

Sophia magazine is a publication edited by La Gran Colombia University, Armenia, aimed at the dissemination of unpublished articles resulting from research developed by the academic community in the education area. Its first publication was launched in 2005 with an issue that included six research articles and an editorial. In its beginnings, *Sophia* published multidisciplinary editions, but, later it focused its disciplinary area to the field of education; and five years after its launch, in the year 2008, it was recognized by Publindex in category C.

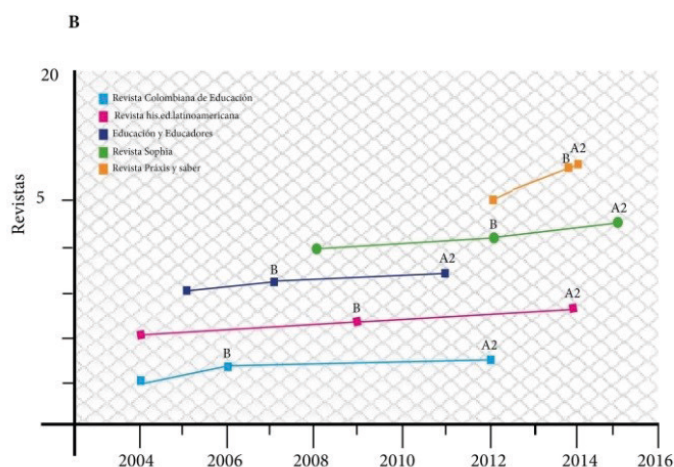
Since then, rigorous editorial practices have been adopted in order to meet the essential requirements of scientific quality, among which are: publishing high quality articles, promoting academic discussion, and promoting the internationalization of knowledge through the inclusion of the journal in international databases. All these practices made possible the promotion of the magazine to category B in the first classification issued by Publindex in 2012.

In agreement with these achievements, at the end of 2013, all the historical record of *Sophia's* publications appeared for the first time in electronic format through the Open Journals Systems. It is important to mention that this platform was designed by the Public Knowledge Project group of Canada to facilitate the

Graph 1



Publications indexed in Pubindex in education field since 2004 and 2014. Relation between current category and indexation date.



Relation of A2 journals and the time it took them to reach each category since the date they were included

development of peer-reviewed free access publications, that it has the technical infrastructure for online submission of articles, and that it also has a complete editorial flow management. This development was created with the purpose of expanding and improving access to academic research; it is available at no cost to periodicals, in order to make the free access modality a favorable option for a greater number of publications. (López, 2012).

With Sophia's appearance in the web, the magazine joined the Open Acces movement, defined by Bravo (2014) as a new way of disseminating academic production, in which free access must be guaranteed by the journal without restrictions at the time of online publication. The origin and development of this movement was founded in 2001, when the Open Society Institute (OSI) declared Open Acces as a proposal to get free access to research articles on the Internet. The statement was made based on two basic pillars:

1. It advocates for the removal of barriers that limit the access to research products as universal goods to which everyone is entitled, allowing any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or use them for any legal purpose, without no financial, legal or technical barrier beyond the access to the Internet.
2. It provides the authors and their work with a new scenario where to disseminate it, and it gives them greater visibility and impact. The only limitation in terms of reproduction, distribution and copyright will be to give authors control over the integrity of their work, and the right to be properly recognized and cited. (Montano, 2009).

These developments increased the demand of writers interested in publishing in Sophia. Starting in 2014, the Editorial Committee declared its semiannual periodicity, which skyrocketed the reception and rejection rates. By 2015, with the implementation of a work plan to increase visibility and impact, the magazine was included in different electronic collections, such as: Scielo-Colombia, Redalyc-Mexico and Dialnet-Spain; as a result of this, the magazine ascended to category A2 in Pubindex.

Over a decade, the results of these different transformations have begun to generate an impact, the publication of two editions in English, the entry into databases and indexes, the geographical diversity of our authors and publishers, as well as the number of citations received with a good index of immediacy during the past year; all of them give account of this with sufficiency. Currently, the magazine's projection revolves around two fundamental axes for its strengthening: first, the indexing of its contents in Scopus, the largest database of abstracts and bibliographical references of scientific literature peer reviewed; and second, to assume the changes that are coming in the new model proposed by Pubindex. Both cases constitute a challenge of growth and internationalization.

Finally, let this editorial be an invitation to the entire academic community to read our contents and to appropriate of its challenges, problems and advances in the education area. Our commitment is to captivate the readers, so that during their passage through the journal, they have an enriching experience for their academic and investigative processes.

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