

ΣΟΦΙΑ—SOPHIA

At the forefront of the digital age: Inclusion of Sophia in an index of the Web of Science

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We are pleased to share with you an important achievement of our Magazine: *Sophia* has been accepted in *Web of Science* (WOS) of *Thompson Reuters*, in the *Emerging Sources Citations Index*, after a rigorous evaluation process that lasted about ten months. Before explaining the meaning and scope of this new indexation, we want to thank those who have read, reviewed, quoted and even refuted our articles, which have contributed to the publication of high quality editions, which today place us in this honorable international index.

Currently, many publishers are facing the evolution required in the digital era. As simple as this may seem, the transition from a printed publication to an electronic one involves considerations that go far beyond a digitization process. One of the most important is the adoption of the XML language, which allows, by tagging, the coding of the structure of an article in a standardized way to achieve interoperability of texts on the web. For example, when someone types a word in an internet search engine, the information appears ordered in such a way that it provides exact options based on the search mechanisms; such precision is due to the XML markup language and its structure, so that this information can be stored, transmitted, processed, visualized and printed by various types of applications and devices. This language required publishers to implement technological tools, such as the electronic journal manager *Open Journal Systems* (OJS), the Scielo dialing systems and the DOI (digital object identifier), in order to guarantee readers access to the full text, the correct integration of the data that describe the article, and the permanence of this on the web.

In addition to resolving these technical aspects, editors of scientific journals must assume the constant resistance of the public to abandon the paper, as assumptions and simplifications about the nature of digital documents are often made. This is mainly due to ignorance of historical transformations in the dissemination of knowledge. With the emergence of the Internet, a transition was made to the digital format and it was possible a dynamic interaction between authors, editors, reviewers and other actors in the process. As a consequence, scientific communication changed the classical model in the 1990s, in which the hegemonic practice was the printed publication (Pelekais, Soto, Pelekais and Pelekais, 2016). In other words, the electronic journal appears as a new form of scientific communication generated by the widespread use of teleinformatic networks, which allow a rapid and efficient distribution to a greater number of people, without this implying a reduction in academic quality parameters. .

Then, the large volume of scientific production that began to circulate on the Net caused the need to implement measurement systems that would generate indicators about the impact of publications with respect to the number of citations received -mentions, direct or indirect, of published fragments of other authors- from which one or more indicators can be constructed. For example, number of citations received, sources, place of origin, among others, that make up the most important rankings of scientific production in the world. In addition, they separate it by countries, areas of knowledge and contributions by author, with the aim of recognizing through the citation the impact that publications have in each country. In this regard, Carlos Arturo Hernández states in his publication entitled “bibliographic indexes”:

The overwhelming amount of scientific information, the result of the vertiginous progress of the research and its dissemination, led to the need for reference works that organized it in a logical and systematic way and that, by forming gigantic databases in electronic format, allowed its quick consultation by researchers and readers interested in a particular topic. These works are known as bibliographic indexes or bibliographic references, since they collect the most representative titles of a specific area of knowledge. (Hernández, 2003: 1)

The aforementioned measurement systems are collections of databases in which appear, with a search system using keywords, the citations of articles published in magazines, congresses and other academic events. These collections are grouped under international publishing labels, such as *Thompson Reuters and Elsevier*, among the most recognized, which have consolidated editorial criteria of visibility, impact and permanence, to which the journals requesting inclusion in such collections are submitted. While it is true that the criteria established to achieve the inclusion of a journal are rigorous, it is also true that these demands seek to strengthen the parameters of scientific production, in order to ensure that the publications be of unquestionable quality and high impact.

However, the information provided by *Thompson Reuters* quotation indexes can be used for different purposes. For example, it is used to reveal information about who is citing their research papers, and how they might influence new developments; it also allows us to know, based on previous studies, where the research is going in different thematic areas, and to identify the sources of information used by other national and international researchers (Web of Science, 2006).

Being able of an achievement like the one we celebrate today represents new challenges not only for editors, but also for researchers. As the journal becomes more visible, the publication processes become more selective, so the authors must be at the forefront with the available technological tools --*Orcid, Research ID or Google Scholar*--, designed to collect all the bibliographic production of researchers, and through their contributions to science, to establish the impact factor. In this way, the publisher is allowed to recognize the level of the researcher, an aspect that has great weight when approving a manuscript.

It is important to mention that the structure of WOS is configured mainly by three indexes known as the *Core Collections: Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)*. In 2016, it was created the *Emerging Sources Citations Index (ESCI)* as part of the main WOS collection, which includes journals that meet the evaluation criteria but that will subsequently be evaluated to be part of the SSCI, SCIE, or AHCI, according to their area.

The impact factor emitted by WOS is calculated with the sum of the citations received from an edition, divided by the number of articles published in an observation window of approximately three years. This measure is published in a quantifiable way each year, and is expressed as the *Journal Impact Factor*.

As it was said, our entry to WOS is confirmed with the 2015 editions to the *Emerging Sources Citations Index*; we hope that with the visibility provided by ESCI, and in terms of the quality of the published work, *Sophia* can quickly migrate to the *Social Sciences Citation Index*.

These achievements reaffirm that we are heading in the right direction in terms of visibility and quality of the editorial process. We invite you to keep citing *Sophia*, now with the proven certainty that you will be using a medium that brings quality and renown to your research, a contribution already recognized by the best.

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