

EDITORIAL

THE "REVISTA DE SAÚDE PÚBLICA" IN THE WORLD LITERATURE.

In 1976 the "Revista de Saúde Pública" completed its tenth year of continued publication. Its contribution to the scientific progress of the country in the field of Public Health has been highly significant both due to the quality of its articles as to the technical and normative aspects of its presentation. Such characteristics have made it possible that it be accepted by the main international services of indexation and abstracts that cover its field of specialization.

It is common knowledge that Latin America, and therefore Brazil, has great difficulty in disseminating its technical and scientific papers in the world literature. In 1971 the Latin-American participation in international bibliographies was under 1% (Arends², 1976). In the paper put out by Frame⁴ it is shown that the Scientific Citation Index cited only 1.1% of Latin-American literature from 1973 to 1975.

The more a journal is disseminated, especially abroad, the larger will be its contribution to scientific development and the more ample the possibilities of communication among researchers that work in the same field. This dissemination is mainly obtained by indexation of its articles in the international indexes and abstracts.

At present, 14 international bibliographies (indexes and abstracts) widely publish the articles contained in the "Revista de Saúde Pública". Among these seven have been indexing the "Revista de Saúde Pública" from its foundations Abstracts on Hygiene, Biological Abstracts, Bulletin Analytique d'Entomologie Médicale et Vétérinaire, Excerpta Medica, Index Medicus, Review of Applied Entomology. Series (B) — Medical and Veterinary, Tropical Diseases Bulletin.

In order to evaluate quantitatively the indexation attained by the "Revista de Saúde Pública" over the past 9 years (1967-1975) a study was undertaken regarding these bibliographies. In September 1976 help was solicited from the international services that put out these bibliographies. Some of them sent lists containing all indexed articles in the above mentioned period and others only indicated the average percentages of indexation of articles from the "Revista de Saúde Pública".

The lists received had to do with the following bibliographies: Abstracts on Hygiene, Bulletin Analytique d'Entomologie Médicale et Veterinaire, Index Medicus, Review of Applied Entomology (B) and Tropical Diseases Bulletin. As regards Excerpta Medica and Biological Abstracts the information received mentioned that the indexation of the "Revista de Saúde Pública" is, meanly, of 50% and of 50 to 80% respectively.

Thus, this study included the bibliographies that had lists, excluding Index Medicus, as in the latter indexation was 100%. It was also decided that Excerpta Medica Section 17 — Public Health, Social Medicine and Hygiene be included due to consultation facilities and its representativeness in the field of Public Health. In this case the list regarding articles published was carefully prepared by the S. Paulo University School of Public Health Library. Thus, of the 7 bibliographies that index the "Revista de Saúde Pública" since 1967, Biological Abstracts and Index Medicus were excluded from this study. Emphasis is placed on the fact that the 5 bibliographies that were studied, besides being analytical, are selective, opposite to Index Medicus that does not publish summaries and selects journals and not articles, in general.

Up to 1975 the "Revista de Saúde Pública" published 298 articles, 217 of which were original ones, 39 current comments and 39 communications, besides 3 catalogues of entomologic collections.

The indexation attained is considered to be satisfactory due to its global value being 38.9% (Table 1).

TABLE 1

Articles published and indexed* from "Revista de Saúde Pública" in the period 1967 to 1975, according to their category.

Categories	Articles published	Articles Indexed/ published	%
Original articles	217	88	40.5
Current comments	39	3	7.6
Notes and information	39	22	56.4
Catalogue	3	3	100.0
Total	298	116	38.9

* In the bibliographies *Abstracts on Hygiene*, *Bulletin Analytique d'Entomologie et Veterinaire*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Review of Applied Entomology* and *Tropical Diseases Bulletin*.

The *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* is the bibliography that holds the first place in indexation of articles contained in the "Revista de Saúde Pública" with a total of 20.1% (Table 2); considering that the editor of this bibliography is the same of *Abstracts on Hygiene*, it is necessary to add the data belonging to both which then attain a total of 26.8%. In second place comes *Excerpta Medica*-Section 17 with 13.7%. This percentage is considerably less than the 50% informed by its editors; most probably this can be explained by the fact that only Section 17 was researched whilst this bibliography actually contains more than 40 sections in specialized fields.

According to Bearman and Kunberger³, there is overlapping of reviews and articles among services of indexation and abstracts, because the constant increase of the number of journals, including those of interdisciplinary fields, makes one believe that they cover the same journals. The study presently undertaken showed that the overlapping of indexed articles between one bibliography and another was 39.6%. Of the 116 indexed articles, 70(60.3%) overlapped once, 25(21.5%) twice, 17(14.6%) thrice and 4(3.4%) four times. This overlapping could be explained by the fact that among the bibliographies researched, three of them covered the same speciality.

TABLE 2

Bibliographies that indexed the "Revista de Saúde Pública" throughout the period 1967 to 1975

Bibliographies	numebr of indexed articles	% *
<i>Tripical Diseases Bulletin</i>	60	20.1
<i>Abstracts on Hygiene</i>	20	6.7
<i>Excerpta Medica — Section 17</i>	41	13.7
<i>Bulletin Analytique d'Entomologie Médicale et Vétérinaire</i>	38	12.7
<i>Review of Applied Entomology (B)</i>	28	9.4
Number of indexations	187	62.7

* Percentages of the total of articles published (298)

* Editor: Bureau on Hygiene and Tropical Diseases — London.

TABLE 3

Distribution of the indexation of articles, by general headings throughout the period 1967 to 1975

Headings*	Bibliographies**					Total	%
	TDB	AH	EM	BAEMV	RAE		
Epidemiology	55	7	19	38	28	147	78.6
Microbiology	—	11	7	—	—	18	9.6
Public Health Practice	2	2	6	—	—	10	5.3
Nutrition	2	—	4	—	—	6	3.2
Maternal and Child Health	—	—	3	—	—	3	1.6
Environmental Health	1	—	2	—	—	3	1.6
Total	60	20	41	38	28	187	100.0

* Distributed according to the departmental organization of the S. Paulo University School of Public Health.

** TDH — *Tropical Diseases Bulletin*; AH — *Abstracts on Hygiene*; EM — *Excerpta Medica — Section 17*; BAEMV — *Bulletin Analytique d'Entomologie Médicale et Vétérinaire*; RAE — *Review of Applied Entomology (B)*.

Table 3 shows that articles in the line of epidemiology are placed first with 78.6% of the total indexation; one must, however, consider that there is overlapping among the bibliographies under study, especially among the *Tropical Diseases Bulletin*, *Bulletin Analytique d'Entomologie Médicale et Vétérinaire* and *The Review of Applied Entomology*.

The time lag, which is usual between publication and indexation, was in the present case, at the most 3 years (Table 4).

TABLE 4

Indexation year in the studied bibliographies of articles published by the "Revista de Saúde Pública" in the period 1967 to 1975.

Year of publication	Year of indexation
1967	1968 — 1969
1968	1968 — 1969 — 1970
1969	1969 — 1970 — 1971 — 1972
1970	1970 — 1971 — 1972
1971	1971 — 1972 — 1973
1972	1972 — 1973
1973	1973 — 1974 — 1975
1974	1974 — 1975 — 1976
1975	1975 — 1976

In any case, the total number of indexed articles is considered to be satisfactory, 116 out of 298 published ones. Should Biological Abstracts and other bibliographies besides other sections of Excerpta Medica, that index the "Revista de Saúde Pública", be added, there are reasons to believe that the dissemination of information published in this periodical, in the world literature, could reach higher indices of indexation and comprise a greater number of subjects.*

* *Entomology Abstracts, Microbiology Abstracts, Nutrition Abstracts Reviews, Safety Science Abstracts Journal, Veterinary Bulletin, Virology Abstracts, Water Resources Abstracts.*

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Our thanks are due to Sonia Maria Ferrara Liziero for her very careful work of bibliographical data complementation and for the research done in Excerpta Medica.