

Revista Medicina, Ribeirão Preto, breaking a vicious cycle

Revista Medicina, Ribeirão Preto, rompendo um ciclo vicioso

Orlando de Castro e Silva
Editor

The maintenance of a journal is an example of the fact that everything is connected to everything else and that one thing leads to another. At a certain point, a vicious cycle must be broken in order to reach equilibrium. (CS)

The lack of regular publication of a scientific journal contributes significantly to the lack of interest on the part of the authors to submit papers for publication, with the obvious creation of a vicious cycle that interferes with the survival of the journal.

Another important factor that contributes to the scarcity of articles is the lack of impact of the journal, which is related to its regularity, to the level of the authors and of the readers of its citations, and so on and so forth. In the academic environment, the authors are concerned, and with justification, about submitting their papers to journals with the highest possible impact factor since this contributes to the scores

they receive from supporting agencies. Similarly, a wide dissemination of their papers in the scientific community, with publication in prestigious journals, is probably the greatest stimulation to publish in high impact journals. The Revista Medicina, Ribeirão Preto, must adopt measures that will attract authors to publish in their results of clinical and experimental research, reviews, opinions, case reports, etc.²

The Revista Medicina has been published without regularity for a number of years. The elimination of the printed version¹ permitted a cheaper maintenance and a more agile launching of the journal on the internet, with the journal gradually being placed "on the air" in a more rapid manner, although we were unable to bring it up to date within an appropriate period of time.

An analysis of the reasons for the delay of publication of Revista Medicina revealed that the delayed emission of reviews by the referees was the main factor interfering with regular publication, followed by the long time taken by the authors to reply to the reviews,

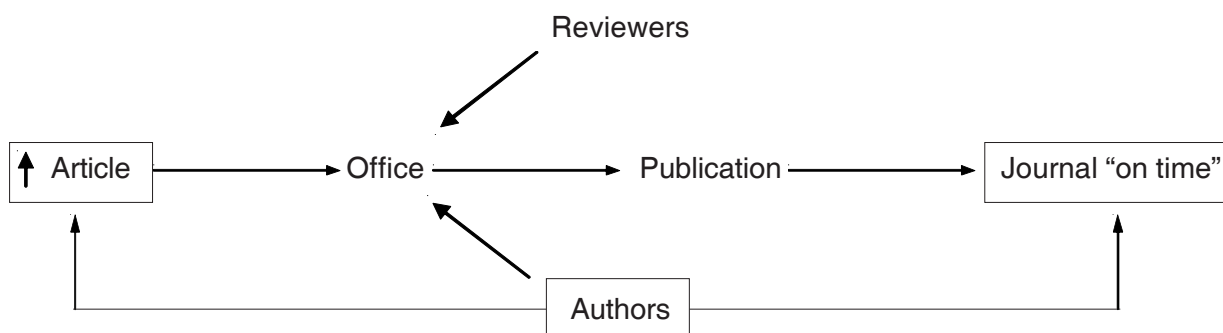


Figure 1- Rhythm of maintenance of a scientific journal

which also contributed significantly to the delayed publication of the issues. Today, with easy and rapid electronic communication, there is no justification for the delayed emission of a review or in making the necessary, agile, corrections of a paper under analysis. However, it is necessary to consider that irregular periodicity also discourages the reviewers and interferes with the rhythm of publication. I believe that the maintenance of a journal is an example of the fact that everything is connected to everything else and that one thing leads to another. At a certain point, a vicious cycle must be broken in order to reach equilibrium.

In a previous editorial ³, I stated that we were only a few steps away from the regularization of Revista Medicina when we updated its launch on the internet. Our prediction was that "starting September or October of the next year (2011) each issue will be available on the internet without delay". This goal will be actually reached by bringing up to date the journal in December 2011.

The authors are now asked to revise their papers and to reply to the reviewers rapidly. Everybody will have a short, but sufficient, time limit for the emis-

sion of reviews and for the revision of papers, as required by journals with high levels of indexation. There is a sufficient number of articles for all issues of 2011 and for the first two issues of 2012. Thus, we will bring up to date the Revista Medicina, Ribeirão Preto, in order to start 2012 with publication "on time", a fact that will certainly encourage the authors and the readers. New year, new life.

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