

TOWARDS QUALITY OF ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS IN URUGUAY

Aída Sogaray

Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos -DINARA-, Constituyente 1497, P.O. Box 5054 Suc. Cordón, CP 11.200. Montevideo, Uruguay.

DINARA: <http://www.mgap.gub.uy/unidad-ejecutora/direccion-nacional-de-recursos-acuaticos>
asogaray@dinara.gub.uy

Teresa Morelli

Facultad de Información y Comunicación, Universidad de la República, Uruguay.
Santiago Nievas 2191, CP 11.600. Montevideo, Uruguay.

ORCID <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7491-8111>

teresa.morelli@gmail.com

Abstract

Librarians and publishers of scientific journals from multiple disciplines in Uruguay created a network after the First Training Workshop for Publishers: Scientific Journals and Quality Criteria, organized by Latindex and SciELO Uruguay. Among its objectives, among other topics of common interest, are the following: to identify both problems and needs of national publishers of academic journals, and to seek advice and information on copyright in the (Creative Commons) digital environment. As a result, meetings take place, working groups are formed. Electronic courses and workshops on Journal Publishing in the OJS (Open Journal System) platform are given. During 2015 the Uruguayan Association of Academic Journals (AURA) was created, bringing together publishers from the most diverse academic disciplines who seek to improve the quality of their journals.

Keywords: Serial publication, editorial quality, Uruguay, scientific journals, publishers, academic journals, Latindex, SciELO, journal publishing, copyright, Association of Academic Journals, information

Introduction

In December 2012, Latindex and SciELO Uruguay offered the “First training workshop for Editions: Scientific Journals and Quality Criteria” (Valenzuela & Machado, 2016). As reported by Morelli, T. (2016), 25 editors from public and private institutions and multiple disciplines attended, including representatives from such fields as engineering, education, medicine, philosophy, nursing, malacology, cardiology, psychology, imaging, law, pharmacy, social work, economics, technology, economic history, anthropology, zoology, humanities, chemistry, social sciences, etc.

At that meeting, the attendees decided to form a network of editors. An email group was formed, creating the Publishers’ Network of Scientific Journals and Academic of Uruguay. Colleagues are responsible for inviting other publishers and librarians to collaborate on the issue. The idea of creating a blog also arose.

In February of the subsequent year, we conducted the first Meeting of the Publishers' Network. In it we talked and identified common problems and needs. We saw the need for greater visibility of the group of editors. Working groups were formed. Advice and information about Creative Commons was searched because, as it is said by Stieben (2014) "Copyright law can be confusing, so Creative Commons wants make it easier for the average user to understand".

A group of colleagues identified the need for a glossary of scientific editorial terms, and one specifically adapted to our needs was created. Training and counselling on Open Journal Systems (OJS) was completed. The advantages of OJS have been explained by Willinsky (2005) "OJS management systems are structured around the traditional journal workflow required to move a submission through reviewing, and if accepted, editing and publishing, with records maintained of who is doing what and when."

Training sessions were organized and study and research within a legal framework for the Network was promoted.

Network Meetings

Meetings are held alternately at premises generously offered by the members: the Faculty of Humanities and Educational Sciences - UDELAR, Catholic University, Hotel Ambassador, Young Men's Christian Association.

In April 2013 a new milestone for publishers was set. Professor Dr. Miguel Angel Márdero Arellano, IBICYT member of SEER (Brazilian Institute of Information Science and Technology) taught a course on "Electronic Publishing of newspapers on the platform OJS (Open Journal System)." At the Faculty of Economics and Administration, the Uruguayan National Library Director Esther Pailos, among others, attended. Networking has been consolidated and continues to grow. The email group now exceeds 150 addresses.

Training Network

Workshops offered were:

- Training Workshop for novice editors: scientific journals and quality criteria, Latindex and SciELO (2 editions).
- Training Workshop for editors: scientific journals and quality criteria, Latindex and SciELO (4 editions).
- Digital preservation - IBICT - Brazilian Institute of Information Science and Technology (Online course).
- OJS Course- Open Journal System (3 editions).

During 2015, development actions increased. Sixty-four national open access scientific publications were incorporated into the Timbo Portal (ANII, 2014). A meeting was held with the Evaluation Committee of the National Research System, to meet the validation criteria of the publications. After the hard work of the Statutes Committee, and two General Meetings held in July 2015, Articles of the Statutes that created the Association were discussed and approved.

Blog Network

The blog is updated weekly. It features sections for documents intended for:

- *Ethics and conflicts of interest.* Working towards a national code of ethics that follows the guidelines of **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)** (2011), which aims to define best practice in the ethics of scholarly publishing and to assist editors, editorial board members, owners of journals and publishers to achieve this.
- *Open access.* The main characteristic of Open Access consists in making use of knowledge coming from the area of Education and Science: knowledge that has been made public and has been produced through public funding should be free (also in the sense of being free-of-charge) to everyone.
- *ORCID (Open Research and Contributor ID)* "provides an identifier for individuals to use with their name as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities, open tools that enable transparent and trustworthy connections between researchers, their contributions, and affiliations" (ORCID, 2016). They provide this service to help people find information and to simplify reporting and analysis.
- ISSN (International Standard Serial Number).
- INSI (International Standard Name Identifier).
- *DOI (Digital Object Identifier)* (We will expand information later)
- *Indexing sources, funding sources, management systems, electronic publishing and validators of web accessibility and quality,* mainly those detailed in W3C. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C, 2016) is an international community where [member organizations](#), a full-time [staff](#), and the public work together to develop [Web standards](#). Led by Web inventor [Tim Berners-Lee](#), W3C's mission is to lead the Web to its full potential.
- Uruguayan Association of Academic Journals – AURA. October 22, 2015, Mtro. Julio Castro Hall of the National Library of Uruguay. Public reading of Bylaws. Attended by more than 60 publishers. The Network starts a new stage, now as Uruguayan Association of Academic Journals.

The information contained in the first blog was migrated to a new temporary site until the acquisition of an own web domain. The current domain is <http://aura.edu.uy/>

Objectives

- To promote the universalization of scientific and academic production in all areas of knowledge
- To contribute to the dissemination of peer reviewed national journals
- To promote the professionalization of the publishing activity of its members
- To ensure the observance of ethical principles and rules related to the publishing activity of its members
- To encourage critical analysis and the adoption of international standards of editorial quality
- To promote coordination and cooperation between national magazines
- To strengthen the dynamic community of publishers and managers of peer reviewed publications in the country
- To promote dialogue between authors and the public
- To establish and maintain bonds, collaboration and agreements with magazines, agencies and national and foreign entities

- December 9, 2015, National Library Venue Loan for use – AURA Board of Directors signs agreement with the National Library Training
- First Day of Ongoing Training for Publishers: Copyright and DOI in Uruguay (Nov. 2015)
- SEER Course - Electronic Journal Publishing System. IBICT (Online course, Nov. – Dec. 2015)
- Digital Object Identification (DOI).

The DOI system provides a technical and social infrastructure for the registration and use of persistent interoperable identifiers, called DOIs, for use on digital networks. AURA is the National Agency for the DOI in Uruguay. In August 2016, two institutions requested their DOI through AURA. This service is provided to its members.

DINARA accompanies this process with continuous improvement of the quality of its serial publications. These are:

- FISHING STATISTICAL BULLETIN. Publication with annual frequency. Sometimes this periodicity cannot be achieved.
- DINARA NEWSLETTER. A bi-monthly publication, containing current news related to the fishing and marine sector.
- TECHNICAL REPORT. It does not have continuity. We are working to be sure that all quality standards and criteria are met.

Conclusions

The path we have been traveling with Uruguay academic journals was not free from obstacles but we have overcome them and have learned together. Today there is clearly a promising future. The meeting and the joint work of academics from varied disciplines in pursuit of quality motivates us editors. And it is these improvements that encourage us to dream of a new website for specialized academic publications in marine and aquatic resources.

A great Uruguayan portal has been installed in the new Open Journal Systems (OJS -3), incorporating relevant news about the administration and publication of magazines and documents. We plan to publish and disseminate knowledge in the subject areas that bring us together as members of IAMSLIC.

Our academics and scientists need to share their research, and we intend to use the right tools to integrate large worldwide databases. We wish to finally fulfill our mission to spread knowledge.

References

- Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII) (2014). El Portal TIMBÓ se renueva. Available at <http://www.timbo.org.uy/noticias/589>
- Asociación Uruguaya de Revistas Académicas – AURA - (2016). *Acerca de la Asociación*. Available at <http://aura.edu.uy/>
- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (2011). *Codes of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines*. Available at <http://publicationethics.org/resources/code-conduct>
- Digital Object Identification (DOI)(2012). *DOI® Handbook*. Available at <https://www.doi.org/hb.html>

- Morelli, T. (2016). Directorio de Revistas de Acceso Abierto (DOAJ) y la Asociación Uruguaya de Revistas Académicas (AURA): notes sobre ciertas conexiones. In M. Barité y P. Melogno (Comp.) *Las revistas académicas en la sociedad del conocimiento: Balance y perspectivas*. Montevideo: FIC-UDELAR.
- Stieben, D. (2014). *What Is Creative Commons, And Should You Use It?*. Available at <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/creative-commons-use/>
- Valenzuela, C. & Machado, L. (2016). Latindex en Uruguay: buenas prácticas en el proceso editorial de las revistas científicas y académicas. In M. Barité y P. Melogno, (Comp.) *Las revistas académicas en la sociedad del conocimiento: Balance y perspectivas*. Montevideo: FIC-UDELAR.
- Wide Web Consortium (W3C) (2016). *Standards*. Available at <https://www.w3.org/standards/>
- Willinsky, J. (2005). Open Journal Systems: An example of open source software for journal management and publishing. *Library Hi Tech*, 23(4), 504-516. Available at https://pkp.sfu.ca/files/Library_Hi_Tech_DRAFT.pdf