

THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION: A GREAT CHALLENGE FOR BRAZILIAN NURSING

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In recent years, Brazil has experienced an increase in graduate Nursing courses, including the creation of new research lines and the consolidation of research groups. Their scientific production has been registered in the Research Group List and in the Brazilian Scientific and Technological Development Council's Lattes system (CNPq). Nursing journals have been edited, starting a movement that aimed to adapt the publications to national and international editing standards and discuss these scientific journals' quality standards. This movement was made possible by editorial training, specialized consulting services, besides the creation of the National Commission of Scientific Nursing Journal Editors by the Brazilian Nursing Association (ABEn). Brazilian editors participated in the Ibero-American Advisory Board of Nursing Journals, coordinated by the Spanish Nursing foundation Index. The Nursing Database (BDENF) was updated and the Virtual Health – Nursing Library/BIREME was created, which is currently under development.

In response to these actions, Nursing journals were included in important national and international indexes, such as: International Nursing Index and MedLine, Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Literatura Latinoamericana em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS), PsycINFO (American Psychological Association Database), CUIDEN (Fundación Index Foundation Database), CAB HEALTH, CAB ABSTRACTS, BDENF (Base de Dados em Enfermagem), Scielo (Scientific Electronic Library Online) among others⁽¹⁾. However, none of the Brazilian Nursing journals has been indexed in the ISI Database (Institute of Scientific Information), which elaborates the Journal Citation Report (JCR), Social Sciences Editions and Sciences Editions every year. These contain the main bibliometric indices of journals' repercussion (impact factor, immediacy index, which determines how soon an article is read and cited, average life span of citations and classification in the world ranking)⁽²⁾.

The ISI methodology has been adopted by the international scientific community as the way to evaluate scientific production and its international visibility. In Brazil, priority has been granted to the impact factor of publications by CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Staff), the agency responsible for the evaluation of graduate programs, by universities and funding agencies. This has aroused efforts towards the internationalization of Brazilian scientific production.

However, we cannot forget about the fact that “however useful, the journal's impact factor is not the only element to understand the process of publishing and disseminating our scientific production”⁽³⁾. Journals edited in developing countries play a strategic role in disseminating the scientific production that is oriented towards national priorities, linked up with established research lines and priorities⁽³⁾. However, this production may not be of interest to international journals, mainly of Anglo-Saxon origin, which represent most of the journals in the ISI. In combination with the demand to publish in English, this constitutes a barrier for the internationalization of Brazilian Nursing research.

Although the internationalization represents a great challenge for Nursing in Brazil, there is a need for immediate strategies to face the problem. However, it is important for the agencies and universities that have implemented mechanisms to evaluate the scientific production to support national journals, since scientific publication is an intrinsic part of the

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research and innovation process⁽⁴⁻⁵⁾. The strengthening of national scientific journals is a *conditio sine qua non* for the continuous advancement of the scientific and technological base in Brazil⁽³⁾, without which we will never achieve the internationalization of our research results.

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