

Editorial Notes

Providing access to appropriate and up-to-date scientific and technical information is vital for the economic and social development of every country in the world. This is especially important to support the decision making process in planning, formulation and implementation of public policies and to support professional development and practice in a community. The results of the scientific research of a given community are mainly communicated and validated through their publication in recognized scientific journals. The final goal is to achieve a major scientific knowledge base, which could be transformed into commercial opportunity through further research and development, acting to increase levels of competition between organizations in order to generate economic and social benefits for a nation.

This approach is valid for both, developed and developing countries. However, most scientific journals from developing countries face several distribution and dissemination problems, limiting the access and usage of locally generated scientific information.

From its conception and development, The Journal of Theoretical and Applied Electronic Commerce Research (JTAER) has targeted authors, referees and members of the Editorial Board from different latitudes of the world. The research published in JTAER has been indexed and abstracted in well-known databases and prominent portals (please see Editorial from Vol. 2, Issue 2). However, the publication of the journal is also immersed in the Iberoamerican community and one of our goals is to play an important role in the research and development of this community. Therefore, we have looked for two large Iberoamerican portals (SciELO; RedALyC) whose main purpose is the dissemination of scientific research from and about Iberoamerica. JTAER has applied to be included in both portals and is currently under evaluation. Some of the aspects considered in the evaluation criteria are: quality of scientific content; review process, peer review policies; quality and internationalization of editorial board; frequency of publication; lifetime; timeliness of publication; standardization; information about authors, etc.

The journals included in SciELO and RedALyC may be published in Spanish, Portuguese or English. In the following sections, we describe the objectives and role of SciELO and RedALyC in the dissemination of scientific research in Iberoamerica and surrounding regions.

SciELO (Scientific electronic library online)

SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online) is about cooperative electronic publishing of scientific journals on the Internet. This library was especially conceived and developed to meet the scientific communication needs of developing countries, particularly those from Latin America and the Caribbean. It provides an efficient way to assure a wide visibility and accessibility to their nations' scientific literature, contributing to overcome the phenomena known as 'invisible or lost science'. In addition, the SciELO approach includes integrated procedures for the measurement of usage and impact of scientific journals which are part of the library.

The first component of SciELO is the SciELO Methodology, which enables the electronic publication of complete editions of scientific journals, the organization of searchable bibliographical and full text databases, the preservation of electronic archives and the production of metrics of the scientific literature usage and impact. The methodology includes also journal evaluation criteria based on international scientific communication standards.

The second component of SciELO is the application of the SciELO Methodology to operate web sites of collections of electronic journals. The SciELO approach includes the operation of national sites as well as thematic sites. The pioneer application is the SciELO Brazil (Site 2). Nowadays, Chile (Site 3), Argentina (Site 4), Colombia (Site 5), Cuba (Site 6), Spain (Site 7), Portugal (Site 8), and Venezuela (Site 9) are also operating web sites regularly. Several other countries are under development (Mexico, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay), which are in a periodic monitoring phase for future certification as regular operation sites. There is also a main portal to integrate and provide access to the SciELO Network (Site 1).

The third component of SciELO is the actual development of partnerships among national and international scientific communication players — authors, editors, scientific and technological institutions, funding agencies, universities, libraries, scientific and technological information centers etc, aiming at the dissemination, improvement and sustainability of the SciELO approach. The operation of the SciELO network is highly based on national infrastructures, which contributes to guarantee its future sustainability. (Information source: Site 1 and Site 3)

RedALyC (Network of Scientific Journals of Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal)

The network of scientific journals from Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal (RedALyC) is a project developed and supported by the Universidad Autonoma de Estado de México (UAEM), with the objective of contributing to the dissemination of the scientific activity produced in Iberoamerica.

This idea has been materialized by the creation, design, operation and maintenance of a scientific online open access library (Site 10), which is a meeting point to all those interested in building the scientific knowledge from Iberoamerica. In October 2002, the Internet portal, which is the visible part of this effort, was launched and made available to the scientific community and public in general. This was an initiative of a group of proactive researchers and editors who were concerned about the scarce visibility of the research results generated in and about the Iberoamerican region.

A few years after its launch, the RedALyC project is a window for the best scientific production from Iberoamerica. While the initial project had the goal of giving visibility mainly to the research results from humanity and the social sciences, it was noticed that the journals of natural and exact science edited in Iberoamerica also lacked an appropriate dissemination that would permit an effective impact on the academic community. Therefore, in 2006 the RedALyC project opened the doors to natural and exact science journals, having a great acceptance among the editorial community and academics in general.

This network makes use of new information and communication technologies to provide support to its operation, and to permit that all those scientific journals integrated via its portal may effectively increment their visibility and interactivity, and then have a major impact in the academic world. The visibility is achieved when the full-text and materials of the papers published in the journals are made available on the Internet in an open access mode to the wide research community. The interactivity is increased by encouraging the communication among editors, readers and authors.

The journals forming part of RedALyC are among the best in the scientific production from Iberoamerica. This is guaranteed by employing the well-known evaluation methodology from Latindex (Site 11) to integrate to this portal only those journals which meet pre-established high quality standards.

This network provides the scientific community and the interested general reader with the most advanced scientific developments in Iberoamerica, hundreds of journals from different disciplines and thousands of papers in full-text, to read, cite, criticize and analyze. In the same way, the academics/researchers interested in the dissemination of their research results, will have available the contact information and author guidelines for the best scientific journals of all areas of knowledge in and about Iberoamerica. In the same way, RedALyC offer essential information to Editors with the aim of improving the communication among academic peers, and evaluating the visibility and interactivity by having access to several bibliographic metrics.

In this way, under the motto "science that is not visible, does not exist", RedALyC intends to contribute to the improvement of scientific communication in Iberoamerica.
(Information source: Site 10).

Best Reviewers of the Year 2007

I am pleased to announce that the *Journal of Theoretical and Applied Electronic Commerce Research's* Best Reviewers for 2007 are:

- Dr. Karin Axelsson of the Department of Management and Engineering, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Linköping University, Sweden.
- Dr. Marian Mach of the Department of Cybernetics and Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics, Technical University of Kosice, Slovak Republic.
- Dr. Frantisek Sudzina of the Center for Applied Information and Communication Technology, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.
- Dr. Thomas Varsamidis of the Department of Computer Science, College of Physical & Applied Sciences, University of Wales - Bangor, United Kingdom.

They have been frequent reviewers for JTAER, and the Editor-in-Chief and Co-Editors alike have regarded their reviews as outstanding. The criteria used to select them as the best reviewers of year 2007 were among others: the presentation and clarity; relevance; accuracy; and consistency of the feedback provided to authors.

On behalf of the *Journal of Theoretical and Applied Electronic Commerce Research*, I would like to extend to Karin, Marian, Frantisek, and Thomas our congratulations on their achievement and our thanks for the contributions they have made to our review processes.

Narciso Cerpa

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Theoretical and Applied Electronic Commerce Research

www.jtaer.com

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Websites List

Site 1: SciELO Network

<http://www.scielo.org/>

Site 2: SciELO Brazil

<http://www.scielo.br/>

Site 3: SciELO Chile

<http://www.scielo.cl/>

Site 4: SciELO Argentina

<http://www.scielo.org.ar/>

Site 5: SciELO Colombia

<http://www.scielo.org.co/>

Site 6: SciELO Cuba

<http://scielo.sld.cu/>

Site 7: SciELO Spain

<http://scielo.isciii.es/>

Site 8: SciELO Portugal

<http://www.scielo.oces.mctes.pt/>

Site 9: SciELO Venezuela

<http://www.scielo.org.ve/>

Site 10: RedALyC Network

<http://redalyc.uemex.mx/>

Site 11: Latindex

<http://www.latindex.unam.mx/>