

# SciELO: lessons for an open access movement for less developed countries

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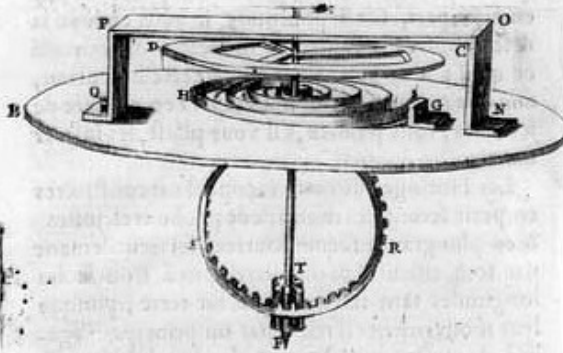
CONICYT-Chile

SciELO *Chile*

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JOURNAL



Dans la figure la plaque du dessus de l'horloge est A B. le balancier circulaire C D. dont l'axe ou arbre est E F. Le ressort tourné en spirale G H M, attaché à l'arbre du balancier en M, & à la piece qui tient à la plaque de l'horloge, en G toutes les spires du ressort se tenant en l'air sans toucher à rien. NOPQ est le cocq dans lequel tourne l'un des pivots du balancier. RS est une des rouës dentées de l'horloge, ayant un mouvement de balancement que luy donne la rouë de rencontre. Et cette rouë R S engraine dans le pignon T, qui tient à l'arbre du balancier, duquel par ce moyen le mouvement est entretenu autant qu'il est nécessaire.

Ever since man created new knowledge, in all cultures, it was openly communicated and stored.

Different technologies have been used but scientific knowledge has always been considered a common good and part of the common heritage of us all.

# To-day thinks look different

- Scientific communication is a complex affair
- Many actors intervene to ensure the quality, coherence and integrity of scientific knowledge
- Developed countries produce the majority of the scientific literature that is read and used
- The publishing of scientific literature is a prosperous affair
- Developing countries are investing in R&D, need access to the knowledge-base and must contribute to it to be part of the global scientific effort

# A reality

- In all the developing world efforts are being made to build a sound science base. Good science is being produced.
- But it is an almost lost science
- A small proportion of research is being published through “mainstream” journals that we have to pay for. Often we can not afford it.
- Research results needed to solve local problems are published in local journals, usually many months later, and poorly distributed.
- The results are not available to other researchers in similar regions facing the same problems.

# A need

- Public resources to ensure access to the world scientific literature
- Communication and information technologies to make use of the new facilities
- Public and private resources to assure the publication and distribution of good local scientific journals in many areas of knowledge
- A national policy to ensure open access to all research results financed through public funds

# A solution

- Since 1997, with the project SciELO we try to overcome some of the problems building an innovative solution using new information technologies
- A network of scientific electronic libraries on-line. Not individual journals on-line
- A common methodology for the selection, preparation, storage, dissemination and evaluation of scientific journals
- A common platform combining full text, searching tools, indicators and journal editing

# A network of selected libraries

- Stress in common selection criteria
- Only peer reviewed journals with international editorial committees, evaluated by specialized groups in each area. On-going evaluation to ensure continuing quality
- Each national organization is responsible for the quality, selection, maintenance and updating of the collection. Each new development is shared by the whole network
- The objective: Create a mainstream collection at national and regional level, freely accessible to all.

# Building special collections

- The network allows the building of special collections in different areas and different materials:
  - Public Health
  - Congress Reports
  - Dissertations
  - Diffusion of science
- In Chile, Institutional collections at different universities using the methodology but no the name



# Integrating other information resources

- SciELO is an integrating resource of other national and regional scientific databases
- Each article in SciELO linked to
  - Researchers Curricula, Research projects
  - Institutions and Production data bases
  - Specialized data bases like LILACS and national scientific portals
- Integrated to other regional programs, such as BVS, SciENTI, RICYT
- Linked to International data bases and programs: PubMed, ISI, OCLC, DOAJ

# Source of indicators

- Open site with daily usage reports, journal and issue requests
- Journal citation reports: Source data, impact factor on a two and three year basis, half-life, received citations, granted citations. For the whole collection and for each individual journal
- Co-authorship
- New methodologies for building indicators are being developed

# Who pays

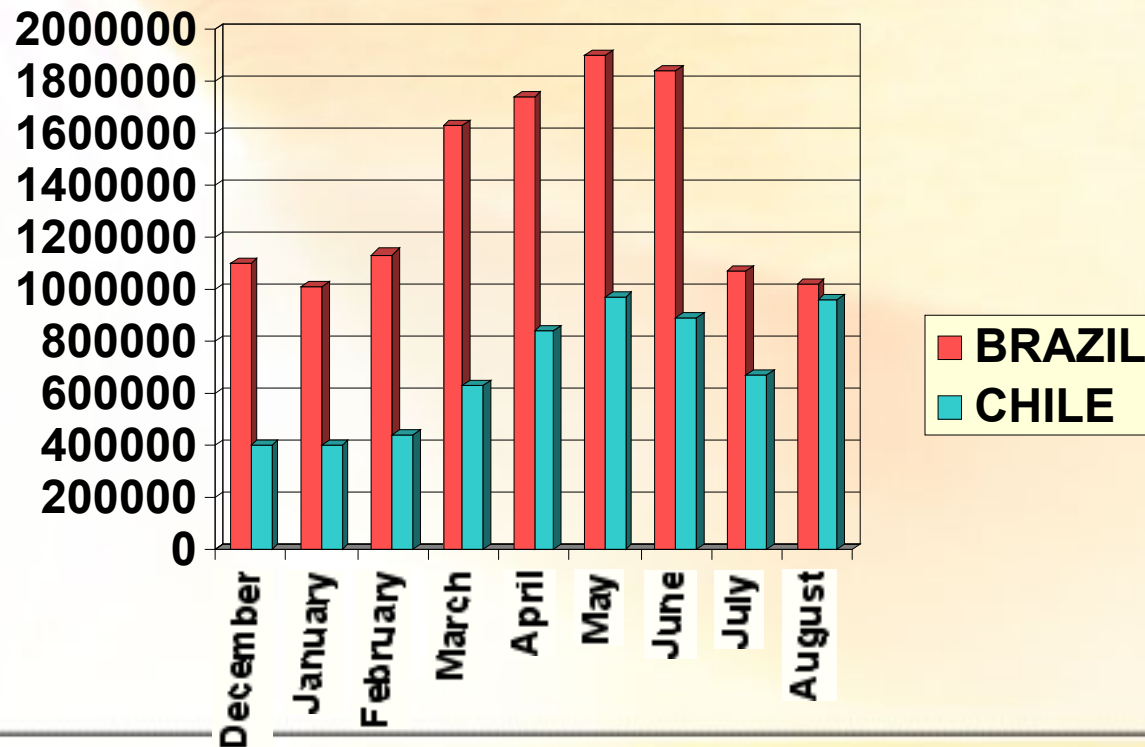
- National institutions dealing with scientific and technological research
- An international organization: OPS/OMS
- National universities
- Ministries of Health
- In some countries, the workload and its costs is shared by universities and scientific societies, editing journals accepted in SciELO
- Special projects for specific developments

# The network to-day

COUNTRY	N. OF JOURNALS
BRAZIL	138
CHILE	52
SPAIN	24
CUBA	18
PERU	13
MEXICO	10
COSTA RICA	9
COLOMBIA	7
VENEZUELA	6
ARGENTINA	6
URUGUAY	6
PORTUGAL	5
TOTAL	294

# Some figures to-day

- Brazil reached 1.900.000 visits per month
- Chile reached 1.000.000 visits per month



# Some effects

- The national journals have increased their quality, number of articles, frequency and impact.
- In Chile, the articles published in SciELO journals are considered for AFD of Universities.
- In Chile and Brazil, the articles in SciELO are considered for the evaluation of academic institutions and personnel
- Researchers willing to publish in local journals since they will be read and their articles linked to national and international data bases

# New responsibilities

- To maintain quality.
- To provide editors with tools for the edition process of the journal and incorporate articles as soon as they are evaluated and accepted for publication
- Platform to incorporate or link to National and institutional Pre-prints archives
- To enlarge the links to other international data bases, to ensure the availability of SciELO through new portals and to participate in international programs for the availability of scientific journals

# A commitment

- To strengthen the network, sharing experiences, products, expertise and resources
- SciELO will be an important information resource if the whole region (and others) participate
- Open Access, to the journals, to the platform and to new developments
- The last (or first) big commitment: the visibility and use of the Hidden Science



Thank You