

Revista de la Facultad de Agronomía and its commitment to the future

Juan Vergara López  

Associate Editor Revista de la Facultad de Agronomía
de la Universidad del Zulia

Editorial

The world is currently going through critical situations of various kinds, one of the most difficult of a health nature, such as the presence of a viral entity that is decimating the global population. Such is the case of the presence of several variants of SARS Cov-2, which has reoriented the scientific machinery towards obtaining therapeutic alternatives to reduce the incidence of this serious disease. In this reorientation, one of the gears that has had to align its weapons has been that of scientific publications, which according to the report *The Annual G20 Scorecard - Research Performance 2021* by Clarivate, evidence of an inclination towards Health Sciences together with Life Sciences, specifically the SARS Cov-2 topic. On the other hand, the *Global Research Report Latin America: South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean*, for September 2021 from the *Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)*, Latin America along with the Middle East are the fastest growing regions in terms of publication of scientific articles,

with important improvements in the impact indices in the 1981-2020 period and in other regions, about 130,000 articles published in English, against about 10,000 articles published in Spanish or Portuguese, which leads to ensuring that English is the “American language” for science.

From the aforementioned document, the current trend towards the use of open access publications (Open Access, OA) stands out, citing 43% of open access *Web of Science (ISI)* publications and of them, 83% have been cited by this company. This upturn in this type of publications represents a great challenge for Latin American science and the fact of positioning Latin American scientific production at the level of countries with a greater scientific tradition, such as the G20 countries, whose leaders are the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, among others. On the other hand, in the *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)* of 2012, recommendations emerged, among which are

not to rely unconditionally on impact indicators to evaluate the achievements of research, as well as the inclusion of diversity of conditions of researchers who generate information, as novel researchers.

However, there are a series of minimum quality criteria that scientific journals must meet in order to qualify within indexing companies and institutions, including format criteria. Since its creation in 1968, the Journal of the Revista de la Facultad de Agronomía of the Universidad del Zulia has had a small format, type A5, which has been useful to date, but the amount of informative elements that currently must be included in a journal under Open Access criteria, they have led the Editorial Committee to make the decision to increase its size to A4 from 2022. With this change, a series of design adjustments are also introduced in its format that make our journal look with a renewed image and more adapted to the international standards for this type of publications.

Undertaking the necessary changes to change from the traditional paradigm, in which the reader paid to access the publications of our journal to a new way in which it is the author who pays to publish, has not been an easy task, however, the interest of the authors to publish in journals with high visibility on the networks, encourages them to collaborate with a payment that allows paying the administrative expenses of managing the scientific edition.

An important change that our journal undertakes from the year 2022, refers to the aspect reviewed in the first paragraph and is the language of publication,

which, by evaluating English as the most popular language among scientific publications, leads to taking the decision to admit articles in Spanish, Portuguese and English and publish in English, a change that offers the advantage of a greater visualization of the published information.

Similarly, new trends in Open Access publications have led to what is known as continuous publication, with which the waiting times of the old way of classification by numbers are abolished, publishing an article once it has been refereed and approved by the Editorial Committee. This method is highly convenient for the researcher and for the dissemination of research information, as well as for the reader, who should not wait for the aforementioned times to retrieve the information from the network.

With these changes, the Journal of the Revista de la Facultad de Agronomía of the Universidad del Zulia aspires to be at the level of the best Open Access journals worldwide, always with the commitment to the authors of a fair, timely and high-quality process and technical competence, as well as, with the readers to make available high quality scientific information, as has always been the north of our journal and of our Revista de la Facultad de Agronomía of the Universidad del Zulia.