



Internationalization in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology

La internacionalización en la Revista Cubana de Tecnología de la Salud

Internationalisation dans le Magazine Cubain des Technologies de la Santé

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editorial management of the Cuban Journal of Health Technology, from the approved policies, is incorporated into communication channels of global science in order to achieve the necessary impact within quality standards.

Objective: To describe the internationalization process in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology. **Method:** A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out from January 2020 to March 2023 in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology. The variables were: heterogeneity in the affiliation of the members of the editorial committee, the presence of international members, foreign authors, and authors in international collaboration. **Results:** The heterogeneity in the affiliation of the members of the editorial committee behaved on the rise in relation to 2020, which represented 62.5%. The presence

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Internationalization is a key process for the visibility and positioning of a scientific journal. They imply the collaboration of multiple dynamic and complex actors. The

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Received: May 22, 2023. Accepted: July 18, 2023.



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of international members evaluated yielded 35%. Within the scientific quality of the journal, it was found that foreign authors had an improvement from 4 to 5 points for 16.56% in 2022. In a similar way, it occurred with authors in international collaboration, 22.2%.

Conclusions: Editorial management has been effective in terms of internationalization and has contributed to improve the impact and positioning of the journal in the global scientific field.

Keywords: Internationalization, Scientific journals, Editorial management.

RESUMEN

Introducción: la internacionalización es un proceso clave para la visibilidad y el posicionamiento de una revista científica. Implican de la colaboración de múltiples actores dinámicos y complejos. La gestión editorial de la Revista Cubana de Tecnología de la Salud, desde las políticas aprobadas se incorpora a canales de comunicación de la ciencia global en aras de alcanzar el impacto necesario dentro de estándares de calidad.

Objetivo: describir el proceso de internacionalización en la Revista Cubana de Tecnología de la Salud. **Método:** se realizó un estudio descriptivo transversal en el período de enero del 2020 a marzo del 2023 en la Revista Cubana de Tecnología de la Salud. Se estudiaron las variables: heterogeneidad en la afiliación de los miembros del comité editorial, presencia de miembros internacionales, autores extranjeros, autores en colaboración internacional. Se cumplió con la ética de investigación científica. **Resultados:** la heterogeneidad en la afiliación de los miembros del comité editorial se comportó en ascenso con relación al año 2020 que

representó un 62,5%. La presencia de miembros internacionales evaluada arrojó un 35%. Dentro de la calidad científica de la revista se comprobó que los autores extranjeros tuvieron una mejoría de 4 puntos a 5 puntos para un 16,56% en el año 2022. De manera similar ocurrió con los autores en colaboración internacional, 22,2 %.

Conclusiones: la gestión editorial ha sido efectiva en materia de internacionalización y ha contribuido a mejorar el impacto y posicionamiento de la revista en el ámbito científico global.

Palabras clave: Internacionalización, Revistas científicas, Gestión editorial

RÉSUMÉ

Introduction: l'internationalisation est un processus clé pour la visibilité et le positionnement d'une revue scientifique. Ils impliquent la collaboration de multiples acteurs dynamiques et complexes. La gestion éditoriale du Magazine cubain des technologies de la santé, à partir des politiques approuvées, est intégrée aux canaux de communication de la science mondiale afin d'obtenir l'impact nécessaire dans les normes de qualité.

Objectif: décrire le processus d'internationalisation dans le Magazine cubain des technologies de la santé. **Méthode:** une étude descriptive transversale a été réalisée de janvier 2020 à mars 2023 dans le magazine cubain des technologies de la santé. Les variables ont été étudiées: hétérogénéité dans l'affiliation des membres du comité éditorial, présence de membres internationaux, auteurs étrangers, auteurs en collaboration internationale. L'éthique de la recherche scientifique a été respectée. **Résultats:** l'hétérogénéité dans l'affiliation des membres

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Received: May 22, 2023. Accepted: July 18, 2023.



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du comité éditorial s'est comportée à la hausse par rapport à l'année 2020, qui représentait 62,5%. La présence des membres internationaux évalués a rapporté 35%. Au regard de la qualité scientifique de la revue, il a été vérifié que les auteurs étrangers avaient une amélioration de 4 à 5 points pour 16,56% en 2022. De même, cela s'est produit avec des auteurs en collaboration internationale,

22,2%. **Conclusion:** la gestion éditoriale a été efficace en termes d'internationalisation et a contribué à améliorer l'impact et le positionnement de la revue dans le champ scientifique mondial.

Mots clés: Internationalisation, Revues scientifiques, Gestion éditoriale

INTRODUCTION

Internationalization is the consistent action in which the subjects of law, the entrepreneurs, expand the activity beyond the borders of a single state. It is the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions, or delivery of postsecondary education.¹

Universities use it to provide teaching, research, and services. It promotes the global visibility of institutions. They weave networks of knowledge and research; supported by the new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), and social networks. They promote processes of construction and dissemination of scientific knowledge, and social commitments in the local, regional, and global spheres.²

Internationalization in Higher Education constitutes a complex and comprehensive process that requires a multitude of actions from the different factors that make up the university and contributes to:³

- Improve the quality of processes.
- Relevance of substantive processes: teaching, research, postgraduate and university extension.
- Links the institution with higher education institutions abroad.
- It opens new spaces for international projection and links with international academic networks.
- Consolidates values: cooperation, solidarity, and internationalism in the institutional culture.

The production and communication of scientific information is the final phase of the scientific research process. The most common way to communicate scientific production is through communications at conferences, academic papers (doctoral theses), and articles in periodicals.

From the bibliometric approach, there are indicators that are used to measure the internationality or degree of openness of different areas and instruments of communication and scientific production, based on the data obtained from the publications. These indicators depend on the political context where it is applied, a device for evaluating these phenomena.⁴

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Peer-reviewed scientific journals are the means of publication among the scientific community worldwide, they have a peer-review process that makes the research contribution verifiable, first-hand, and of high quality. In addition to this, the continuous periodicity or publication cycle; there are hundreds of scientific articles that are in the acceptance-review process to be published. ⁵

The evaluation of scientific journals determines the formal and editorial quality, visibility and impact of scientific content. In this way, the quality classifications of the journals (rankings) of each specialty are built, which give proof of the evaluation obtained. The position reached by the journals in the quality ranking is decisive to specify the relevance of the scientific activity of the researchers. ⁶

The Cuban Journal of Health Technology (RCTS) currently works towards internationalization. Editorial transparency, accessibility and access, of review authors and editorial board, are taken into account. The good editorial practices declared in the policies counteract the unethical behavior of some authors.

The editorial management of the journal, based on the approved policies, is incorporated into communication channels of global science in order to achieve the necessary impact within quality standards. The authors are committed to describing the internationalization process in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology.

The purpose of this research was to describe the internationalization process in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology.

METHODS

A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out in the period from January 2020 to March 2023 in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology. The population consisted of three quality evaluations for the Scientific Journals in Health Sciences applied to the RCTS in the year 2020 to 2023.

The source of information for data collection was the Guide for the Evaluation of Scientific Journals in Health Sciences from 2020 to 2023. The variables were studied: heterogeneity in the affiliation of the members of the editorial committee, presence of international members, foreign authors, and authors in international collaboration.

The information was summarized in absolute and relative frequencies. It was displayed in tables and graphs for a better understanding of the results described. The data was processed in IBM SPSS Statistic 23 and Microsoft Excel 2016. The ethical aspects of the research were met. The data used is publicly accessible.

RESULTS

There was a strong relationship of direct proportionality between the year and foreign authorship, international collaborative authorship, and foreign members of the editorial committee. Regarding the institutional similarity of the editorial committee, the relationship was strong and inversely proportional. (Graph 1)

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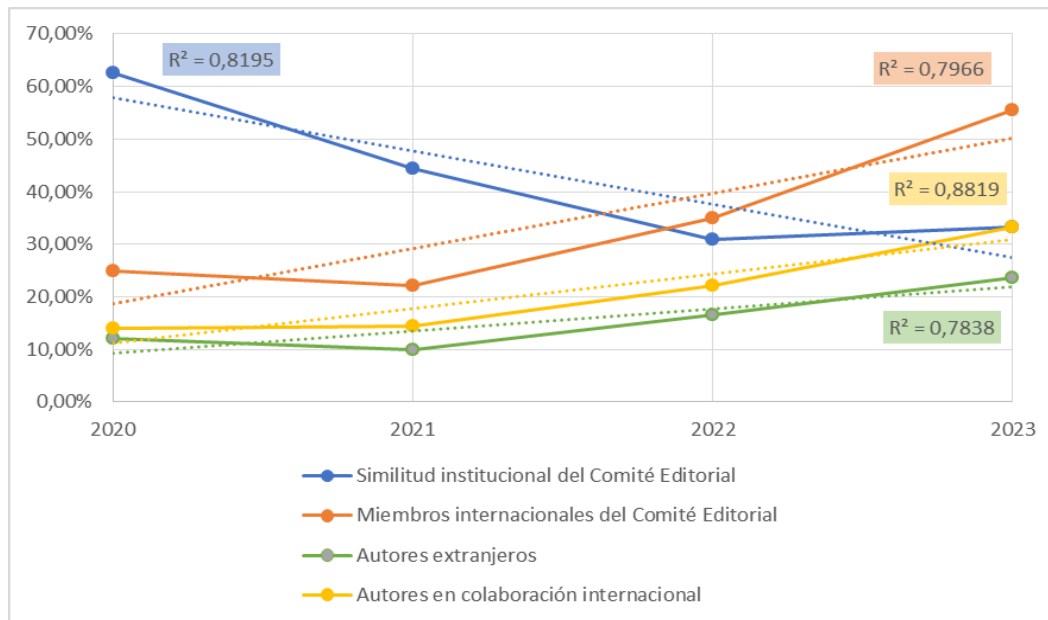
Received: May 22, 2023. Accepted: July 18, 2023.



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Graph 1: Trend of the internationalization indicators of the Cuban Journal of Health, 2020-2023



2020 was the year with the greatest similarity of institutional affiliation, with 62.5%, which indicates low heterogeneity, for an evaluation of 3 points. By 2023, this variable decreased by 46.7%, reaching a value of 33.3%, which corresponds to a greater heterogeneity of institutional affiliation. The last two years a satisfactory evaluation was obtained. (Table 1)

Table 1: Heterogeneity in the affiliation of the members of the editorial committee. Cuban Journal of Health, 2020-2023

Year	Institutional Affiliation Similarity	Variation	Assessment
2020	62.5%	0%	3
2021	44.4%	-29.0%	5
2022	30.8%	-50.7%	5
2023	33.3%	-46.72%	5

In 2020 and 2021 the presence of foreign members in the editorial committee of the magazine was less than 25%. By 2022 it was increased to 35% and by 2023 it was reached that 55.5% of the members were foreigners. The assessment for both years was 5 points. (Table 2).

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Table 2: Presence of foreign members in the editorial committee. Cuban Journal of Health, 2020-2023

Year	Foreign members	Variation	Assessment
2020	25%	0%	0
2021	22.2%	-11.2%	0
2022	35%	40.0%	5
2023	55.5%	122.0%	5

Foreign authorship decreased by 16.7% from 2020 to 2021; however, by 2022 there was a 38.3% increase from the start of the series. For the first quarter of 2023, this indicator reached 23.7%, much higher than that reported in previous years. In 2022 and 2023, 5 points were obtained in the assessment. (Table 3)

Table 3: Foreign authors of the Cuban Journal of Health, 2020-2023

Year	Foreign authors	Variation	Assessment
2020	12.0%	0%	4
2021	10.0%	-16.7%	4
2022	16.6%	38.3%	5
2023*	23.7%	97.3%	5

*Note: 2023 data are preliminary. They cover the first quarter of the year.

The distribution of articles with authorship in international collaboration was similar, with an evaluation of 4 points in both years. In 2022 the figure reached 22.2% and in 2023 33.3%. At the end of the period the increase had been 138%. (Table 4)

Table 4: Authors in international collaboration of the Cuban Journal of Health, 2020-2023

Year	Authors in international collaboration	Variation	Assessment
2020	14.0%	0%	4
2021	14.5%	3.2%	4

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2022	22.2%	58.6%	5
2023*	33.3%	138.1%	5

*Note: 2023 data are preliminary. They cover the first quarter of the year.

DISCUSSION

A study carried out by Moran ⁷ reports that in the period 2011-2015, 850 original Medical Education articles with Latin American authors were published in Scopus. 21.1% presented international collaboration. These results are consistent with those obtained in the first quarter of 2023, the indicator reached 23.7%, much higher than that reported in previous years.

Bibliometric studies⁸ carried out on international scientific production during the COVID-19 pandemic, show a sustained growth rate. Response to the search for solutions to reduce the fatality rates for SARS-CoV-2.

However, despite the international effort and the establishment of collaboration networks in response to the search for solutions to stop the pandemic, one of the weaknesses of scientific production is the low level of international collaboration. They affirm that specialized researchers must work on treatments against the disease and achieve higher quality.⁸

Pacheco,⁹ and Dumas ¹⁰ do not agree with the present study. The analyzed results demonstrate the scarce international contribution, the main negative aspects identified were that less than 9% of scientific production has the participation of international institutions.

The international collaboration and the impact of the articles have been compared in bibliometric studies of the Cuban scientific production, and especially that related to public health. ¹¹ Initially, the presence in Scopus and Scielo Citation Index gives published articles the possibility of being accessible to the international scientific community.

The almost absolute publication of the articles in Spanish, the low rate of co-authorship, and the scarce international collaboration, affects the impact of the works. ¹¹ Indicators that should be worked on from the editorial management of scientific journals.

In the 2019 evaluation of the editorial management of Villa Clara medical journals, the main difficulties encountered were the low participation of foreign authors and in collaboration with Cuban authors. ¹¹ Aspects to consider in the editorial strategy of this journal in order to achieve the established quality indicators.

In relation to the presence of foreign members in the editorial committee, in Peru it has increased in the last 25 years of uninterrupted work. In this period, the investigations of national and foreign authors have been a contribution to increasingly growing and diversified knowledge on issues related to the area of obstetrics and gynecology. ^{12,13}

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Such an achievement has been possible because the Editorial Committee has expanded to an international one, and has an important relationship of external evaluating experts.¹²⁻¹⁶ Which agrees with the results presented in the present study.

CONCLUSIONS

The internationalization process was described in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology. Editorial management has been effective in terms of internationalization and has contributed to improving the impact and positioning of the journal in the global scientific field.

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Received: May 22, 2023. Accepted: July 18, 2023.



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Article title: Internationalization in the Cuban Journal of Health Technology

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