



EDITORIAL

Revista Habanera de Ciencias Médicas:
20 years in the service of science

Revista Habanera de Ciencias Médicas:
20 años al servicio de la ciencia

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On January 28, 2022 we celebrated the 169th Anniversary of the birth of our apostle Jose Martí as well as the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the *Revista Habanera de Ciencias Médicas*, appropriate date to recount the main achievements of recent years as well as the goals our journal should accomplish in the future.

The main objective of a scientific journal is to be indexed in recognized and top websites, so it has been a priority for the Editorial Committee. The journal has been gradually taken place in indexes, directories, catalogs, and databases at both regional and worldwide levels. Among them, we can mention prestigious regional websites such as *LILACS* (2002), *SciELO* (2008), *Latindex* (2010), *Redalyc*, *Dialnet*, *DOAJ*, etcetera as well as others that enjoy worldwide prestige such as *SciELO Citation Index of Web of Science* (2014), *Scopus* (2017) and *Embase* (2019) which place *Revista Habanera de Ciencias Médicas* in a privileged site within the frame of regional overview with regard to Open Access to multidisciplinary journals in the field of Medical Sciences.

These achievements have been the result of the hard work carried out by its editors and the members of the Editorial Committee who have based their editorial strategies on good practices in scientific publications under the permanent auspices of the Medical Sciences Editorial and, in particular, its journals department.

These editorial strategies aim to achieve two important aspects: the first one deals with the quality of the articles published, and the second one is related to their visibility; these aspects are closely linked to each other. If an article of high scientific quality is published in a journal with low visibility, it will not obtain the real recognition and vice versa; that is, if an article that is published in a journal with high visibility but does not have scientific rigor, it will not have the desired impact. Hence the importance of designing editorial policies that will benefit both aspects.

Undoubtedly, the evaluation of manuscripts is one of the most important processes within the editorial area of a journal since it assures the quality of the papers for publication. In this respect, we perform rigorous analyses in both the first scientific and methodological evaluation and the scientific review carried out through peer review and double-blind evaluation systems, a model adopted by the Editorial Committee since its inception. However, and as a principle of Open Science, it is recommended to have more open evaluation processes in parallel, which we will be assessing for their design and implementation in the near future.

In addition, the guidelines for authors, which are based on the good practices in scientific publication and the principles of Open Science, are constantly updated. These guidelines also constitute one of the most important tools for the journal not only because they are an important guide for authors but also because they are a guidance for editors and reviewers to develop their evaluation procedures.



On the other hand, and due to the great number of articles published daily on Internet, the creation of a strategy that allows its dissemination through different communication channels is indispensable for the journal. Therefore, we are carrying out actions for improving the knowledge and dissemination of its contents in different spaces, especially in social networks.

The work performed by authors, editors, and the Editorial Committee is involved in this strategy. In the case of authors, we ask them to deposit their manuscripts in authors and/or institutional repositories, in researcher profiles, in social network profiles such as *Facebook* or *Twitter*, or in their profiles in academic and social networks such as *Researchgate*, *Academia.edu*, etcetera. Similarly, the journal disseminates the manuscripts that it publishes through its profiles on *Facebook* (<https://www.facebook.com/Revista-Habanera-de-Ciencias-M%C3%A9dicas-225708107872969/>), with more than 2 000 followers, and in *Twitter* (<https://twitter.com/cmrhaban>) with more than 300 followers.

Part of this strategy includes the analysis of the behavior of the visits and downloads of articles in the *Open Journal System* (OJS) website of the journal (www.revhabanera.sld.cu) which is performed with *Goggle Analytics* and scientometric or bibliometric studies aimed to evaluate the behavior of the publication in terms of citations and other indicators that will allow us to develop new strategies.

Figure 1 shows a time series of Scopus citations of the articles published in the journal from 2002 to 2020; figure 2 shows both the downloads and the visits to the page that displays the abstracts of the articles published in the last 6 years. Both statistics show the increasing visibility of our publication, which validates the strategies designed and implemented in recent years.

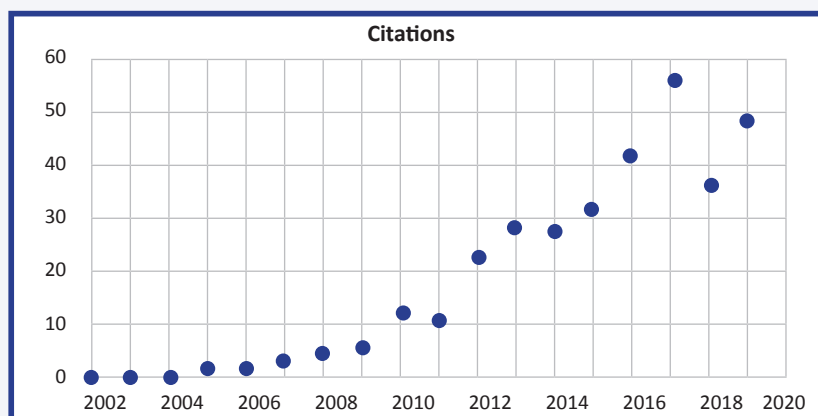


Figure 1- Time series of the number of citations in Scopus (2002- 2020)

Source: Scopus

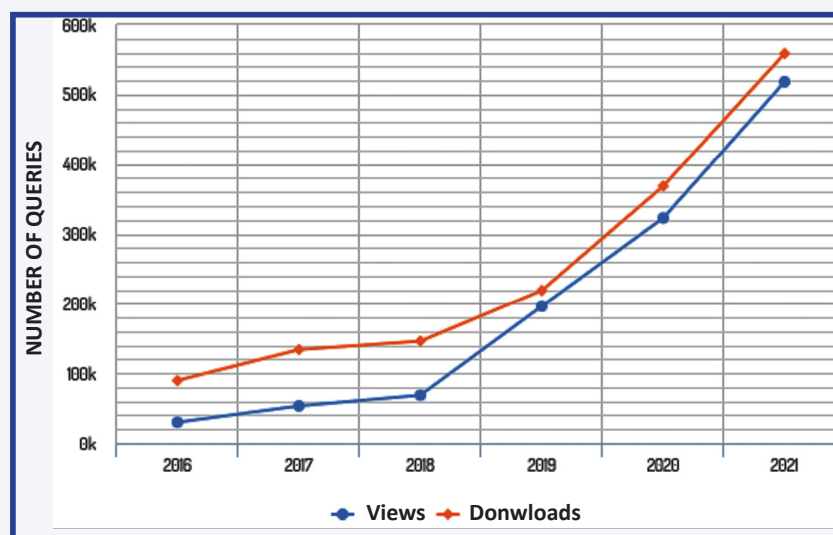


Figure 2- Downloads and visits to the page that displays the abstracts of the articles (2016-2021)

Source: OJS website of the journal (<http://www.revhabanera.sld.cu/index.php/rhab/statistics>)

Despite these results, much still needs to be done in our editorial work. Our editorial skills and expertise will continue to be focused on maintaining and improving the results achieved through good practices in scientific publications and the principles of Open Science.

With the commitment and experience of our specialists, we will be ready to submit the journal to the *Web of Science* and *Medline* databases in the next months; these are the main work objectives that we have set for 2022 when we are celebrating the *20 years in the service of science* with the purpose of increasing the quality and level of our publications.

Conflicts of interests

The author has no conflicts of interests to declare.