

JOURNAL ACTA COLOMBIANA DE PSICOLOGÍA

ERNESTO L. RAVELO CONTRERAS*

On December 7, 2011 our Catholic University of Colombia granted a major award and recognition to Ernesto Ravelo, Editor of *Acta Colombiana de Psicología*, for which we share with our readers the text of the speech delivered by the Editor in response to this honorific gesture. It is a historical account of the Journal, of the principles that inspired its creation and of how, through faith, perseverance, the constant support of the leadership of the Faculty of Psychology and the university management, as well as of the joint effort of many people, the journal has developed rapidly over 14 years to achieve both the national and international position which it enjoys today. These were the Editor's words on that important occasion:

Dr. Francisco José Gómez Ortiz, Rector of the University, Dr. Edwin de Jesús Horta, Vice President Academic, Dr. Edgar Gómez Ortiz, Vice President Administration, Dr. Jorge Celis, Academic Dean, Dr. Maria Eugenia Guerrero, Director of Research, Dr. Carlos Vargas Ordóñez, Dean Faculty of Psychology and Director of the Journal Acta Colombiana de Psicología, Deans, Dr. Stella Valbuena, Director of Publications of the University, Dr. Nayibe Manotas, Library Director, other directors and teachers of the Catholic University of Colombia, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a real honor for me, in my capacity as professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Editor of the journal "Acta Colombiana de Psicología" to receive today this important prize "Sapientia aedificavit sibi domum", beautiful and meaningful slogan of our beloved alma mater. "Wisdom has built its own house, "in addition to its wonderful biblical content, defines very well the recognition it grants me today as editor of "Acta Colombiana de Psicología."

Fourteen years ago, at the School of Psychology, together with Dr. Carlos Vargas Ordóñez, Dean of this Faculty, we had a dream for our beloved institution: The Catholic University of Colombia must be universally and internationally known not only as the Catholic University of Colombia, but also as a house of knowledge and wis-

dom, wisdom that goes beyond mere knowledge, wisdom that is life, that is the way, that liberates and reveals itself in the choices and deliberate decisions of the individual.

The beginning of such utopia certainly was not easy. Many people asked us the question: Who will write scientific articles to nurture and maintain the journal? Will the University be prepared to maintain and allocate a specific budget? Where is the publishable institutional research? These questions were reasonable and apparently well founded, but our confidence in the possibilities of our university and our teachers and researchers was higher than the discouraging premonitions.

So we went ahead, so we redoubled our effort, so for 14 years we have gone through difficult roads but also we have gotten great satisfaction. So we are here today, not just to receive an award - for which I obviously and deeply thank the University, in my own behalf and in that of our Faculty of Psychology. I am here as a witness of a fortunate evidence: the power of faith in a cause which from the beginning we knew it was worth fighting for: the power of teamwork, of leadership translated into community service, just as our Dean has taught us, a person who works quietly but effectively, who is confident in the university and in the people who are at its service.

Currently, scientific publications have become universally accepted means for researchers to make available to the public the findings of their studies, not as great treatises but as the immediate contributions of their work in progress or recently completed, and essentially as journal articles open to discussion. Scientific journals are undoubtedly the instrument through which the intellectual and research production of scientific communities becomes evident. Therefore, they constitute a fundamental, necessary and imperative element of the conceptual and applied academic fields. In this vein, for any entity or university institution, to own a qualified scientific journal can be of benefit to its visibility in the national and international fields, in governmental organizations, in the private sector and the community at large.

* Editor

Acta Colombiana de Psicología is a refereed serial scientific journal, on a six-monthly basis, devoted to disseminating results of research on issues and problems of regional and universal psychology, with the purpose of providing academic communities and society in general, with the developments and applications of this important contemporary science. Since the first issue in 1998, “*Acta Colombiana de Psicología*” has spread knowledge, mainly in the areas of Health and Clinical Psychology, Basic Psychology, Organizational, Educational Psychology, Measurement and Evaluation, Social, Legal and Community Psychology. Up today 321 articles have been published, of which 45% represent the national production and 55%, the international contribution.

During these fourteen years of uninterrupted publication of “*Acta Colombiana de Psicología*”, the main interest has been the steady improvement in the scientific quality, the editorial features, visibility and national and international positioning. An additional criterion, equally significant, has been the participation of foreign authors, which has surpassed the journal’s local and national character.

With regard to its scientific quality, it is worth noting the following aspects: a) the outstanding academic quality of the members of the editorial and scientific committees, b) the qualifications and involvement of local, national and international authors with an academic training at the level of Masters’ and Ph.D., c) the originality and quality of the research studies that have been accepted, and d) the objectivity, thoroughness and seriousness in the assessment processes of the articles.

The process of evaluation or expert peer arbitration, though limiting for most indexed and not indexed scientific journals, particularly in the Latin American context, in the case of “*Acta Colombiana de Psicología*” has been increasingly possible to incorporate external national peers and researchers. Finally, the process of evaluation or expert peer arbitration, though limiting for most scientific journals, both indexed and not indexed, particularly in the Latin American context, in the case of “*Acta Colombiana de Psicología*” it has been increasingly improving and qualifying. In the early years, this complex work was only done by our teachers of the Faculty of Psychology, whose valuable contribution gave birth to the journal, and with whom I share this honorable recognition. However, through collaborative agreements and the formation of networks, it has been possible to achieve the involvement of international peers with the highest academic levels.

In regard to editorial features, from the first issue of *Acta Colombiana de Psicología*, the standard of the

National Bibliographic Index was taken as reference, in order to meet the demands of the “editorial quality” status, which assesses 18 features, both for the journal, the booklet and the document or article. Compliance with these characteristics, among other criteria, is what allows to locate the journals in different classification categories as follows: C, B, A2 and A1. In the case of *Acta Colombiana de Psicología*, we are sure that up to date, and particularly in recent issues of our journal, these features are met one hundred percent.

By using indexes and databases timely and relevant, we currently perform bibliometric analysis based on indicators such as percentage of scientific papers, total number of documents per year, production evolution per institution, evolution of output per author, number of references, percentages of national and international references, number of documentation citations, total number of authors per year, number of articles by country and average of articles per year, among others.

Concerning the visibility and the national and international positioning, each year, “*Acta Colombiana de Psicología*” has been showing a significant rise in results to be included and indexed in recognized indexation systems and international databases, which has contributed to dissemination, socialization and internationalization of the products published there, not only in America but in the European Union and most of the world. At the national level, we highlight one of the most significant and important recognitions, the indexation in A1 category at the **National Bibliographic Index-PUBLINDEX**, obtained by its high scientific quality and inclusion in different indexing systems recognized worldwide. At the international level, it is important to record, in chronological order, over these 14 years, that once nominated and evaluated, the journal was accepted and indexed in the following indexes and databases: **LATINDEX**, Online Information System for Scientific Journals in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal; **PSICODOC**, bibliographic database of psychology, published by the Colegio Oficial de Psicólogos de Madrid, sponsored by UNESCO and conducted under the auspices of the International Union of Psychological Science, IUPsyS, **CLASE**, Quotations database of Latin American Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; **LI-LACS**, Latin American and Caribbean literature in health sciences, Brazil; **DIALNET** database of Spanish and Latin American journal articles, **IRESIE**, Journal Index of Higher Education and Educational Research, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; **SCIELO**, Online Electronic Scientific Library – Brazil; **DOAJ** Directory of Open Access Journals of Lund University in Sweden;

ULRICH'S, *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory - USA*; **REDALYC** *Network of Scientific Journals of Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal – Mexico*; and major international awards obtained in 2007, upon entering **PsycINFO** *Database of the American Psychological Association* and in 2008 when joining **SCOPUS**, **INM-BIOMED**, and recently **EBSCO** and **Fuente Académica**.

*The above achievements have undoubtedly contributed significantly to a greater **visibility** and availability to the world, of the Catholic University of Colombia and the scientific production of the papers published in *Acta Colombiana de Psicología*, which has allowed our University to appear already in prominent positions in international rankings and has begun to generate bibliometric indices that identify the “impact” of the journal in the scientific community, not only quantitatively but also qualitatively. In fact, one of these bibliometric indicators refers to the “impact factor” which is one of the most widely used indicators to evaluate and compare the countries’ scientific output.*

I take this opportunity to thank all the authors of papers, referees, members of the Editorial and Scientific Committee, our methodological, statistical, technical and style reviewers, our English and Portuguese translators, the special guests who have made the presentation of the different issues, particularly the Dean of the Faculty of Psychology, Dr. Carlos Vargas Ordonez, Director of the

journal, who has provided during these 14 years a strong and continuing support and wise guidance to the journal. Likewise, thanks to the Publications Office, under the responsibility of Dr. Stella Valbuena, attentive and caring about the quality of our publication; to the Library Director, Dr. Nayibe Manotas, for her unconditional and permanent support, and in particular to a member of the staff, Mr. Jorge Hernán Pérez, whose expertise and timely work has been of such significance for our publication. I must make a special mention, of course, of the important institutional support from the Catholic University of Colombia, of Mr. President, Dr. Edgar Gomez Betancourt, and Rector, Dr. Francisco José Gómez Ortiz, and of the managers in general, without which it would not have been possible to realize the project of this serial scientific publication of such high quality and with the national and international visibility we have achieved.

I extend this recognition that has been awarded to me today, to all of those who have been with me at the forefront of this important publication, in particular to my beloved School of Psychology, its dean, my colleagues and teachers, our alumni and students who, from their different roles, have contributed and each day contribute even more to the global visibility of the Catholic University of Colombia and to the fact that “wisdom is a house built for himself.”

THANK YOU VERY MUCH