

### **Open Access and public financing: challenges of the current scenario**

In the past editorials, we discussed the political crises and its consequences to the University, denouncing the dismantling of the Brazilian free higher education, within state and federal contexts. One of the results of the scenario described is the overwhelming impact of our efforts to keep the scientific periodical edited by us - the journal *Revista Psicologia em Estudo*.

The journal was created by the Psychology Department of Maringá State University (UEM), in printed form. It was a result of the efforts of professors who work tirelessly to carry out the production of each issue, once, at the beginning, there was not even a proper structure, except from a room and co-workers willing to face the challenge. As time passed, the administration of the University provided, for a certain period, a servant to work as a secretary for our journal.

In 2004, our journal became part of the open-access system Scielo. The open-access system for scientific propagation is characterized by the free access of the readers to the complete content of scientific articles, aiming at the democratization of the results of scientific research. This model became stronger from the 1990s on, and, now a days, is part of public policies for scientific propagation, such as the European Union's proposal to turn all the scientific research financed by public resources available in open access systems until 2020 (Kishi, 2016).

In 2014, the Psychology Department decided to stop editing the printed version of the journal, due to the expenses involved in that process. Thus, it started to be issued only in its digital version, and, because of the pressure for the internationalization of national periodicals, it started having its articles also published in English version. In the same occasion, it reaffirmed its resistance to another pressure, the charging of an "article processing tax" from the authors.

Differently from what it seems to be, the option for the digital form and the publication in an open-access system is not free from expenses. According to Nassi-Caló (2013), the average cost per article published in Brazil is US\$ 130.00, which pays for costs with indexing services, submission, XML markup, maintenance of the technological platform, reviewing, editing, among others. To pay for the operational costs, there are many "business models" that can be adopted by scientific periodicals. Here are some examples: charging the processing tax from the authors; public financing; institutional grants; community publishing companies, financing by advertising or sponsorship.

For raising financial support, the editors of *Revista Psicologia em Estudo* have been resorting to public issuances for financial support to scientific periodicals from federal and state scientific development agencies, whose resources are becoming scarcer and scarcer. As an example of the resources reduction we can mention the case of Fundação Araucária de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico do Estado do Paraná ("Araucária Supporting Foundation for Scientific and Technological Development of Paraná State"), which, since 2012, has not published an issuance to support periodicals financially. Currently, the costs of the journal are financed by issuances that support the scientific editing of Cnpq – which, together with CAPES, has increased the requirements for the applicants' participation in issuances, which complicates the access to the scarce and insufficient resources. Facing these conditions, in order to publish each issue of this journal we go on a kind of long pilgrimage along the different sectors of University, searching for financial resources to effectuate the publication.

Besides the reduction of public financing, the journal also suffers from the effects of the precariousness of Paraná State Universities, provoked by the state government, as already mentioned in the previous editorials and already announced at the beginning of this one. The journal *Revista Psicologia em Estudo* counts on the support from UEM as for infrastructure; however, the lack of personal staff causes the professors to take up all the activities of the editorial process, counting also on the help of undergraduates. Those activities are developed besides the ones already established for the functions of teaching, researching and extension.

With the significant reduction of public resources for financing scientific periodicals, we are faced with a dilemma: Who will pay for the open access? What “business model” will assure the survival possibility, keeping the quality? This is the core issue that must be problematized. For Babini (2013) “the business model of the open access is one of the topics that will cause more tension in the next years, and the international scientific community ought to debate on by whom and how the open access should be financed, for they are national and international scientific policies decisions” (free translation).

While the open access enables the democratization of the scientific knowledge by means of free readers’ access, the reduction of public financing has led many journals to adopt as a business model the charging from the authors for the publication costs, in order to keep the open access. This alternative is better accepted in some knowledge fields than in others. Although this is a “valid” alternative in the model of open access, we believe that the democratization must be an aim of the public financing!! We defend the open-access model, for it results in the possibility of democratization of scientific knowledge, an undeniable substrate for scientific and social development.

We identify with Camargo Jr.(2015), in an editorial entitled “Ao vencedor, as batatas?” (“To the winner, the potatoes?” – free translation). When discussing the criteria of the scarce available resources for the financing of scientific journals, he denounces the higher and higher concentration of those resources on few periodicals and the consequent fratricidal violence generated among them in order to obtain the funds. At the confrontation of this reality, the author makes a challenging question: do we choose the current model or “the solidary attitude, which really assures the plurality of communication channels among researchers and with the public in general?” (p.11 – free translation).

We continue on the razor’s edge of this challenge, in the lonely search for the meager financial resources and resisting turning the author into the “funder” of the open access possibility.

As a result of this continuous struggle, we present the third issue of *Revista Psicologia em Estudo* of 2016. Besides the section with original papers, this issue also counts on a dossier in juridical social psychology, in which the authors highlight the social psychology in different contexts on the interface with the justice and law fields. Enjoy your reading!

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