

# Uniform requirements for manuscripts in the Anna Nery School of Nursing Magazine: why, what for and how

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Normally, when scientific journals present themselves in a new project, aiming at their classification and international indexing, their editorials restrain to a conservative approach about the motivation of that uniformization. In that case, the journals do not adopt critique as the focal point of their analyzes from the comprehension that this process stems from international criticism to Brazilian journals (KRZYZANOWKI and FERREIRA, 1998). We believe critical vision to be essential for a broader comprehension of the matter, especially in a country whose language is of Latin origin, differently from the language of the group that initiated the establishment of the uniform requirements. The contemporary movement for the classification of journals in all areas of knowledge exists for a long time in other industrialized countries, particularly in the English language ones. Moreover, this type of classification began in those countries due to the interest in uniformizing the content of their serial scientific publications.

These requirements are being perfected since 1978, when a meeting of twelve editors of medical magazines published in English was held. This group is currently known as the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and has the objective of establishing guidelines and technical requirements for the format of manuscripts submitted to publication (ICMJE, 1997). What at that time was to be only a technical format for uniformizing bibliographic references expanded until encompassing meticulous instructions about manuscript preparation, details of text structure, elaboration of tables and illustrations, format for abstracts and keywords, format standardization, and paper type, nowadays known as *Vancouver style* (BLANK, 1997).

Thus far, some updates the uniform requirements have been made. The most recent one was made this year, where the most important part was the review of the following requirements:

authorship and contributorship; conflicts of interest; privacy and confidentiality; obligation to publish negative studies; corrections, retractions, and expressions of concern; copyright; duplicate submissions and redundant publications; acceptable secondary publication; competing manuscripts based on the same study; correspondences; supplements, theme issues, and special series; electronic publishing; advertising; early publication of ongoing studies; and preparation and submission of a manuscript (ICMJE, 2003).

For Brazilian Nursing, the movement to achieve international recognition for its journals is recent and involves basically the pursuit of meeting the established requirements and others, especially the criteria by SciELO and QUALIS/CAPES, that seem to represent the shortest way for a journal to be classified in international level, or to be accepted by international databases.

In this sense, the great ambition of national journals in general seems to be the indexing in international databases, as for instance the ISI (Institute for Scientific Information). This is a perfectly understandable ambition considering the propagating power those databases possess, although the majority of Nursing journals have yet to achieve such classifying stage. In order to have an idea of the difficulties that Brazilian journals face in their search for international recognition, although ISI claims to be democratic in the application of its criteria for selecting journals candidates for indexing, it is extremely partial and elitist in the evaluation of North American and Latin American journals, for instance (TARGINO and GARCIA, 2000).

However, we recognize that the objective of circulating and disseminating a Brazilian journal of Nursing necessarily entails the adoption of the English language, in its entirety or in part. The origin of the English language's hegemony in science occurred due to the small penetration of the Portuguese language abroad (Krzyzanowski and

Ferreira, 1998) and to the success of English speaking societies, extended through conquering, colonizing and commercial impositions by the British Empire, a process later amplified by the emergence of the USA as a world leader, supported by its military and technological power (FORATTINI, 1997).

This search of journals for international recognition prompted one of the possible reflections about their consequences for the profession in Brazil. We understand that the adoption of the English language by national journals of Nursing is one of the first steps for this process of internationalization. Other steps lie in the fulfillment of other requirements, such as: editorial content; internationalization and level of author citation; publication frequency; punctuality of the periodicity; compliance with international editorial conditions; evaluation system, peer review or judging system; exactness and comprehensiveness of the citations; reach and demand of the journal (Targino e Garcia, 2000); and also the questions of competitiveness and impact of a journal (FORATTINI, 1996).

Nevertheless, the idea that a classified and indexed journal has actually ensured international circulation and diffusion is a fallacy. Quite contrary, this characterization alone does not ensure the intended circulation and diffusion. For that to happen, other initiatives that go far beyond international classification or indexing are also necessary. These initiatives depend basically on a robust policy of the journal for its international

dissemination and its ability to acquire international subscribers and authors. Thus, that belief does not hold because, taking Medicine for an example, there are 25,000 magazines in the world and most of them have local reach only (PROCIANOY, 2003).

The chief editor of Anna Nery School of Nursing Magazine understands that the path in the search of international recognition is long and arduous. And thus, the Magazine starts to adhere to the more ample movement of the Brazilian Nursing towards the internationalization of journals. However, this is a cautious adhesion that was generated both by the requirements of Nursing graduate program's evaluations in the country as well as by the desire to satisfy our two more important target clients: authors and readers.

The prudence adopted is based upon Forattini's (1996) assertion that scientific journals must pursue the principles of competitiveness, impact, and internationalization. However, they must avoid a behavior similar to "new riches" of acquired knowledge, a radical behavior of buying abroad the solutions for Brazilian problems. Without this radicalism, we may confer priority to Brazilian problems, even if it is only for the enrichment of national culture, in the search for developing our own cultural, scientific, and technical knowledge. As a consequence, the Magazine's adhesion rests started in this very issue, with its new requirements for manuscript publication, whose application will be enforced in the first issue of 2004, when a new editorial project is also expected.

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