

The need to strengthen the scientific journals in the area of Defense

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The year 2020 marked some generations permanently. Crises and instabilities derived from the fear of populations for their lives, threatened by a practically invisible enemy, about which science would find to develop the weapons and effective response tactics; and the national states were responsible for the general strategy of confrontation. Certain groups of professionals considered essential were mobilized on the front line in a real war operation that has not yet ended. The Armed Forces, as one of the state instruments, have assumed responsibilities like several other state agencies.

The social, scientific and economic challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic from the first half of 2020 have been reflected in scientific publications from all areas of knowledge. Although the general public mainly follows the advances in research applied to the development of treatments and vaccines for Covid-19, the debate about the importance of scientific development has become central in a year of debates on the role of science in the world. Questions about the role of states in controlling the pandemic, openness in decisions and the indispensable support to their societies were also the target of analyses designed in the heat of the moment and published in specialized journals.

It is the responsibility of scientific journals of all areas to guarantee autonomy to the scientific communities and to favor the understanding of the general public about the processes and stages of scientific and social development. **Publishing is necessary, but publishing with quality is fundamental!** The function of scientific journals is: the free and validated dissemination of research results; the proposal of new analytical methods; the sharing of data and research results; among other activities that help society to have contact with knowledge that is fundamental for the evolution of the various areas of science.

During the pandemic, we have several examples of free sharing of articles and data, which favored the fast development of solutions to the Covid-19 challenge. This sharing has been a catalyst for scientific progress and can be replicated in other important themes for our society (CROW; TANANBAUM, 2020).

The Brazilian Defense field of investigation has been built on this scientific sharing, via open access to articles. Several journals linked to the CAPES humanities college and area 39 – Political Science and International Relations, where several of the graduate programs of the military schools (Brazilian Navy, Brazilian Army and Air Force) are linked and use editorial management systems such as the Open Journal System (OJS), which allows this free access to readers.

The area's journals have also sought indexation in important open access databases such as Scielo and Redalyc, with the aim of broadening the sharing of articles and promoting debates. We can further expand the development of the area by bringing to debate issues such as the sharing of research data, digital preservation, clearness of the editorial process and the exchange of editorial experiences that favor the construction of publications dedicated to the field of Defense.

In 2020, debates also started around the New Qualis-CAPES¹, which should classify all relevant journals for each area of knowledge. As the National Defense, despite its daily importance, has not yet configured itself as an area independent from the others, it is necessary to pay attention to and value the journals related to the subject. Be it for induction, investment, or even dissemination.

These journals often publicize the results of investigations by civilians and military personnel directly linked to the institutions responsible for educating future Forces' leaders. They collaborate expressively in the academic debate that has repercussions in the proposition of public policies applied by the Ministry of Defense and subordinated institutions. They collaborate to bring the themes of national defense closer to politics and society.

The English General Rupert Smith in his work *A Utilidade da Força* (2008. p.15) points out: "(...) politicians have a free right to expect the military to respond to their needs, but they do it many times without understanding at all the practical aspects of the issue, let alone the conceptual ones. For Force to continue to be used and be useful, this situation has to change". Part of the role of periodicals is to offer society the knowledge that can help build this understanding about the area of Defense.

The Meira Mattos Collection reiterates the invitation to the scientific community and journals in the area to move forward together in the construction of widely spread, reliable and accessible periodicals.

1 "Qualis Journals is a tool for the evaluation of postgraduate programs with regard to articles published in scientific journals". More information is available at: <http://www1.capes.gov.br/perguntas-frequentes>. Access on: Dec. 21, 2020.

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