

Internationalization of Scientific Journals: challenges and perspectives

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Internationalizing an academic-scientific journal can be considered a long process with multiple dimensions concerning the standards accepted (and expected) by academia. The inclusion of a journal in this complex context aims not only to increase the visibility of the research published in it but also to enhance the visibility of the affiliated institution. Farias (2017) emphasizes that internationalization is a relatively recent phenomenon, which was created to broaden the audience and elevate the quality of publications through collaboration with international researchers.

In this context, we, the Editors of *Revista Agulhas Negras* (RAN), have been working to insert our journal into the challenging process of internationalization, so that the researchers who entrust us with their work can have their names and research fully visible in the international academic world. The challenges of internationalizing a journal begin with linguistic and cultural barriers. The choice of English as the lingua franca is a fundamental element for reaching a broad international audience but can still be considered a significant obstacle for many researchers. On the other hand, there is a niche of Brazilian researchers, especially those aiming to boost their research more and more, who submit their manuscripts in English, thus eliminating this first difficulty.

Beyond the initial language barrier, the quality of what is published must be considered the most critical factor for the success of the internationalization process. Not to mention the ethical and editorial rigor of the reviews. Regarding this, Barros Junior (2023, p. 613) states that “The quality and relevance of the published works, as well as the rigor of the peer review process, are necessary for academia to accept and consider a journal as a reliable source for new research.”

Still in the context of challenges, the “professionalization” of editorial management is seen as a crucial element for boosting a journal. Regarding this, we have to mention the professional publishers who use multiple resources and expertise to “assist” institutional editors in leveraging



and/or maintaining their quality and academic visibility standards, especially in the United States of America and some European countries, this, of course, aiming for increasingly higher profits. These publishers often offer their services indiscriminately to anyone willing to spend financial resources on top of the editorial time.

Here in Brazil, most quality scientific journals are affiliated with undergraduate and graduate programs, as pointed out by Farias (2017). Considering the reality of each institution, this can be a limiting factor concerning the capability to compete for good works and authors on the international stage due to the lack of human resources and adequate infrastructure. The editing of the journal, its maintenance on the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform, and indexing, to name just a few examples, are activities that demand time and appropriate technical knowledge from the editors and/or system operators.

RAN, which is also inserted in this limiting context, seeks strategies to overcome these challenges. The initial criterion adopted by the editors was indexing the journal in international databases, which significantly boosted its academic visibility. Similarly, the adoption of international partnerships with the collaboration of foreign authors and editors can be listed as a notable example within the scope of strategies.

Currently, RAN has the valuable collaboration of international researchers from nine countries: Norway, Greece, Poland, Canada, Qatar, South Africa, Portugal, Malaysia, and the USA. In addition to circulating our calls for papers at their institutions, these international collaborators are members of our permanent editorial board and, whenever possible, assist us with the arduous task of peer reviewing without obliterating the basic ethical principles of both our journal and the institutions *Agulhas Negras* Military Academy (AMAN) and the Brazilian Army. It is necessary to highlight that RAN published a quality research paper from the Military Academy of Portugal in the current issue.

Finally, we believe our chosen strategies for the operation of RAN are in line with the approaches of the most prominent journals in the country within our focus and scope, such as the *Coleção Meira Mattos* (CMM)¹. The internationalization process is not just a matter of publishing in the lingua franca but involves a slow and costly movement of cultural and structural change in the way research is produced and disseminated in the academic world, especially the academic-military milieu.

We reinforce the invitation to the academic and professional community to publish their work and research in our journal. We believe that, despite the challenges related to the reach of national

¹ *Coleção Meira Mattos* is an interdisciplinary journal that publishes scientific articles related to Military Sciences, Defense, Security, and related themes, which promote dialogue between academics and professionals, integrating matters about the Armed Forces and Society. Available at: <http://www.ebrevistas.eb.mil.br/RMM>



journals, quality scientific production and its dissemination are of extreme importance for those who come after us.

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