

EDITORIAL

## **BJR EDITORIAL:** a new policy for desk review

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Brasileira de Pesquisadores em Jornalismo

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Since its first edition in 2005, **BJR** has set the goal of becoming a reference journal, not only in Brazil, but also internationally. To accomplish this, the **BJR** only published texts written English. Aware of the predominance of epistemologies from the Global North, the SBPjor board of directors and editors realized that it would be a struggle for our research to be recognized and promulgated in this field, especially since said field tends to be unfavorable to researchers from the Global South, especially Latin Americans.

The **BJR** has thus been responsive and defined short, medium and long term strategies in order for its efforts to be recognized, without neglecting the needs and demands established by the field in Brazil, which often contrast with internationalization requirements.

These strategies include a more professional approach to how the journal is produced, particularly regarding its internal procedures, such as adhering to strict deadlines and feedback evaluation procedures, thorough reading of the original texts, holding review conferences, maintaining a high quality of English translations guided by an associate international publisher, and inviting internationally renowned researchers who, together with Brazilian researchers, put together dossiers on themes that are relevant worldwide. What's more, this journal uses global database indexes such as Scopus and ESCI, an index in the Web of Science collection – the first step toward adhering to factors with an international impact.

The strategies also go toward the professionalization of the field itself, such as participating in the Scientific Communication Journal Editors' Meeting in 2018, which resulted in an important document being written on the problems and challenges behind editing our journals, and valuable workshops held on producing international articles and issuing opinions, which **BJR** editors have been doing at SBPJor Meetings since 2017.

**BJR** is also updating its *desk review* policy – the term given to its initial review process of texts performed by the editors. Before the update, this process only really considered whether the text adhered to the scope of the journal and met the minimum requirements set for academic articles. Once the requirements have been met, it is then forwarded to the reviewers.

This year, **BJR** will adopt a *desk review* methodology similar to one used by internationally recognized journals. We hope this will help to reduce the time spent on evaluating articles and the pressure placed on the reviewers to review them (as they are the backbone of our entire area) and, above all, to improve the process of selecting high quality articles.

The criteria described in this editorial help make **BJR** actions transparent and help towards building a formative process in our field. As of the next issue, **BJR's** *desk review* policy will consider the following criteria:

1. International Scope – here we verify whether the results of the article are applicable and/or can dialogue with

studies from other countries, avoiding strictly regional studies which refer only to that country's specific object of analysis without any attempt to bridge it with studies outside the country in question. We will also observe whether the articles take into account internationalization, and explain aspects which foreign readers might not be familiar with.

2. Methodological Clarity – here we verify whether the article includes a methodology section that explains the criteria for building the *corpus* or the research field, the analysis procedures, the categories of analysis, and the interpretation of the data.

3. Originality – here we observe whether the originality of the object/approach in relation to the proposed theme.

4. Quality and Currentness of References – here we look at whether articles (depending on the subject) favor current international texts from quality publications, such as indexed journals and qualified books.

5. The nature of descriptive or analytical research – considering that the **BJR** does not publish exploratory studies, and favors empirical studies, we observe if, in the case of non-empirical studies, the article proposes original theoretical or methodological contributions to the proposed theme. **BJR** also considers it important to publish essays and literature reviews from researchers in the area as long as they are consistent, original, and able to truly contribute to the advancement of journalism research.

These new criteria translate into more work for the **BJR** Editorial Committee but, at the same time, allows it to reorganize its *ad hoc* reviewer committees, and meet the demands of the field and main international indexers. As the **BJR** Editorial Committee does not have enough researchers to cover all possible themes and variables, it relies on specialized assistance from the publication's Scientific Committee which, in turn, has its performance requalified.

We hope that, with these new procedures, we will be able to further improve qualification and increase the visibility and impact of the journal on a global scale while maintaining the standards and quality set for a publication to be released in Brazil.