INTRODUCTION

The Brazilian Journalism Research magazine completed five years of existence in the second semester of 2009. In these 10 editions, 104 scientific articles have been published, presenting the main contemporary currents and trends in journalism research, with the participation of 148 authors connected with institutions characterized by their regional diversity. Of these authors, it should be emphasized that 31 are from foreign universities, a factor which reinforces BJR’s initial proposal to be a scientific periodical serving as an international reference for the journalism studies field. This line of work was defined since the launching of the first edition of BJR in 2005, when the option was made for the publication of articles in English in order to stimulate the international aspect of Brazilian Journalism Research. Starting in 2008, the magazine went bilingual, with versions also in Portuguese to facilitate the utilization of the texts by the undergraduate journalism courses in Brazil.

In this first edition of 2010, inaugurating the sixth year of continuous circulation, we have opted to record the magazine’s five years of existence not only by the commemorative date, but also to emphasize the achievement of the goals which have guided the Brazilian Association of Journalism Researchers (SBPJor) since its founding in 2003. If the number of articles published is by itself an indicator of the magazine’s editorial vitality, another positive result has arisen from the effort by BJR’s editors to establish dossiers which would delve more deeply into themes of interest to journalism researchers.

Each edition presented a fertile topic, beginning with the first three publications, which offered an evaluation of journalism research in Brazil and in the world. In 2007, BJR published the scientific works of influential foreign researchers presented at the Journalism Brazil
Conference, an international event organized by the SBPJor in November 2006 in Porto Alegre with the theme “Thinking journalism across national boundaries, new challenges and emergent perspectives”. The topics of the BJR dossiers have also included freedom of the press, the teaching of journalism and ethics in journalism, among others.

The national congresses of the SBPJor have been thematic indicators of discussions and approaches evident in the journalism field. This 2010 edition of BJR brings together, on one hand, works presented by international speakers at the 7th Encounter of the SBPJor, whose theme was “Journalism research in the world”, an event held on November 25-27, 2009 in São Paulo. On the other hand, this issue attempts to broaden the proposed discussion, reinforcing the debate’s epistemological and methodological concerns and contributing to the pointing out of important questions systematized in the contributions by each one of the authors to the current research work in an expanding field capable of rethinking itself. Accordingly, we have opted for publishing this edition not only in the online format but also, as an exception, in the printed version, as a way to make these works accessible to a wider and more diversified public.