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The Internationality Index of the Spanish Psychology journals¹

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ABSTRACT. The concept of international publication is one of the most utilized criteria to evaluate the productivity of researchers and scientific institutions. Nevertheless, it is also one of the most polemic subjects as until the present, no Internationality Index has been defined nor established. This descriptive study analyzes the Spanish Psychology journals included in the IN-RECS database according to the level of the internationality. Each journal was evaluated taking into account the eleven criteria of the internationality (the publication language, the impact factor -in this case the Impact Index according to the IN-RECS database-, the countries from which the members of the editorial boards are, the names of the journals, the inclusion in the Journal Citation Reports, the countries from which the authors are, the standards of publication, the internet access, the free internet access, the inclusion in the databases, and the journal's affiliation to "international" associations). The scores of each journal in all criteria were summed up and sorted by the total scores in the internationality in the descending order which resulted in the Internationality Index of the Spanish Psychology Journals. It is important to emphasize that four of the five journals which occupy the highest positions in the ranking are indexed in the Web of Science.

KEYWORDS. Internationality Index. Evaluation of journals. Scientific productivity. Descriptive study.

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RESUMEN. El concepto de publicación internacional es uno de los criterios más utilizado para evaluar la productividad de los investigadores y de las instituciones científicas. Sin embargo, también es uno de los más polémicos, dado que hasta la actualidad no se había definido ni establecido un Índice de Internacionalidad. Este estudio descriptivo analiza las revistas españolas de Psicología incluidas en la base de datos IN-RECS según su nivel de internacionalidad. Cada revista fue evaluada teniendo en cuenta los once criterios de internacionalidad (idioma de publicación, factor de impacto -en este caso el Índice de Impacto según IN-RECS-, países de procedencia de los miembros del los comités editoriales, nombres de la revista, inclusión en el *Journal Citation Reports*, países de procedencia de los autores, normas de publicación, acceso por internet, acceso por internet gratuito, inclusión en bases de datos y pertenencia a las instituciones “internacionales”). Se sumaron las puntuaciones en todos los criterios y los totales fueron ordenados de mayor a menor dando como resultado el Índice de Internacionalidad de las Revistas Españolas de Psicología. Entre los resultados cabe resaltar que de las cinco primeras revistas del ranking de internacionalidad cuatro son revistas indexadas en la *Web of Science*.

PALABRAS CLAVE. Índice de Internacionalidad. Evaluación de revistas. Productividad científica. Estudio descriptivo.

RESUMO. O conceito de publicação internacional é um dos critérios mais utilizados para avaliar a produtividade dos investigadores e das instituições científicas. No entanto, também é um dos mais polémicos, dado que até à actualidade não se tinha definido nem estabelecido um índice de Internacionalidade. Este estudo descriptivo analisa as revistas espanholas de Psicologia incluídas na base de dados IN-RECS segundo o seu nível de internacionalidade. Cada revista foi avaliada tendo em conta os onze critérios de internacionalidade (idioma de publicação, factor de impacto – neste caso o Índice de Impacto segundo IN-RECS-, países de procedência dos membros dos comités editoriais, números da revista, inclusão no *Journal Citation Reports*, países de procedência dos autores, normas de publicação, acesso pela Internet, acesso pela Internet gratuito, inclusão em bases de dados e pertença a instituições “internacionais”). Somaram-se as pontuações em todos os critérios e os totais foram ordenados de maior para menor dando como resultado o índice de Internacionalidade das Revistas Espanholas de Psicologia. Entre os resultados cabe ressaltar que das cinco primeiras revistas do ranking de internacionalidade quatro são revistas indexadas na *Web of Science*.

PALAVRAS CHAVE. Índice de Internacionalidade. Avaliação de revistas. Produtividade científica. Estudo descriptivo.

Introduction

The importance of the collaboration between the scientists from different countries is growing every day. The fast development of the technologies has enabled the communication between the investigators from different parts of the world, the flow of information and propagation of new discoveries. We live in the age of globalization in which the borders are symbolic not only between the neighboring countries but also

between the continents. For all these reasons no discovery can stay within one and only country. What is necessary is the international collaboration in which everybody contributes to the development of science and at the same time brings benefits to the whole community.

This point of view is getting common among the modern societies. One of the consequences is a rapid proliferation of the organizations, publications, companies etc. of all types which contain the word "international" in the names as a symbol of prestige and importance. This tendency can be seen with great veracity in case of the scientific publications. The databases calculate separately the international and national citations (see for example IN-RECS), many journals contain the word "international" in their names and the articles talk about multicultural studies and the international propagation of the results or the national and international criteria of evaluation (Buela-Casal, 2001, 2005c; Buela-Casal, Gutiérrez, Bermúdez, and Vadillo, 2007; Jiménez-Contreras, 2004). The term has become so important that together with the impact factor is used to make some crucial decisions, for example advancement or selection to a job position (Buela-Casal, 2005a, 2007) or to evaluate the scientists according to their productivity (Musi-Lechuga, Olivás-Ávila, Portillo-Reyes, and Villalobos-Galvis, 2005).

On the other hand, the current culture of the quality is crucial for the recognition of study plans and investigation projects which can be seen even between different continents (Buela-Casal, 2005b; Crespo, 2005; Nelson, 2005). Thus, the relationship between the concepts of "internationality", "quality" and "impact factor" has been established during many years although there are no studies which would show in a systematic manner this relationship. It seems to be evident but the evidence has not been demonstrated.

The growing interest to evaluate the quality of the scientific publications is manifested in multiple studies which have been conducted and published in the last few years. It is especially relevant in the countries as Spain, where a high number of journals is published but there was no system which would evaluate their quality (Buela-Casal, 2003; Buela-Casal, Medina, Viedma, Godoy, Lozano, and Torres, 2004; Cangas, Fuentes, and Gázquez, 2006; Carretero-Dios, Santos-Roig, and Buela-Casal, 2005). At present, there are some consolidated systems to evaluate the journals, either in the field of social and juridical sciences (Jiménez-Contreras, 2004) or IN-RECS (<http://ec3.ugr.es/in-recs>) and medical sciences (Aleixandre, Valderrama, Castellano, Simó, and Navarro, 2004; Aleixandre, Valderrama, Simó, and Navarro, 2004) or Factor de Impacto Potencial de las Revistas Médicas Españolas (<http://ime.uv.es/imecitas/impacto.html>). The directors of the Spanish scientific journals are even adapting them to the criteria of Institute for Scientific Information (Ruiz-Pérez, Delgado, and Jiménez-Contreras, 2006) with the purpose of the possible inclusion in the database.

Although the concept has been utilized for many years and has gained importance among the members of the scientific community the studies on the significance and the criteria of the internationality are scarce (Buela-Casal, Perakakis, Taylor, and Checa, 2006). The situation is really paradoxical as the "internationality" is a crucial concept in science, although nobody really knows what it means. Taking into account the abovementioned problems Buela-Casal and Zych (2006) have conducted a pioneer study on the criteria of the internationality. For the first time the way of measuring it has been

established by identifying the eleven criteria and the level to which each one of them determinates it. The present study is an analysis of the psychology journals included in the IN-RECS (2007) database based on the eleven criteria. Each journal is evaluated according to the importance of each criterion established in the abovementioned study which leads to the creation of the Internationality Index of the Spanish Psychology Journals.

Method

The unit of the analysis

The unit of the analysis of the present work consisted of 46 journals with the impact higher than zero included in the IN-RECS database. The analyzed areas were: a) the publication language; b) the impact index according to IN-RECS; c) the countries of the members of the editorial board; d) the names of the journals; e) the inclusion in the Journal Citation Reports; f) the countries of the authors; g) the standards of publication; h) the internet access; i) the free internet access; j) the inclusion in the databases; k) the journal's affiliation to associations.

Materials

- The Spanish Psychology journals with the impact higher than zero.
- The IN-RECS database (*Índice de Impacto de Revistas Españolas de Ciencias Sociales*).
- The Internationality Index: an indicator derived from the combination of 11 criteria of the internationality which weights have been assigned by more than 16,000 scientists from 109 countries and all the fields of knowledge (Buela-Casal and Zych, 2006)

Design and the procedure

The present work is a descriptive study by means of an analysis of the documents (Montero and León, 2005) following the editing norms proposed by Ramos-Álvarez, Valdés-Conory, and Catena (2006).

All the Spanish psychology journals included in the IN-RECS database which impact is higher than zero were analyzed taking into account the eleven criteria of the internationality in 2004 and 2005. First, the authors searched for the information on the internet and if not found the printed versions of the journals were analyzed. Finally the directors of the journals were emailed and asked to send back the data which could not be found in the previous search. The first step consisted of creating a database with the subcriteria of each criterion accomplished by each journal. Some of the criteria were divided into the subcriteria as described by Buela-Casal and Zych (2006) and others were adapted to the particular situation of the Spanish psychology journals. The list of the eleven criteria and the subcriteria can be seen in the Table 1. Upon completion of the database the number of subcriteria of each criterion was identified and the mean levels of the internationality were pondered to obtain a scale from 0 to 100. The scores

in each criterion were obtained by calculation the average of all subcriteria of the criterion. The ways of calculating the scores in the criteria are represented in the Table 1.

TABLE 1. The eleven criteria of the internationality, the subcriteria and the way of calculating the scores in the subcriteria.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Subcriterion</i>	<i>The way of calculating the scores in the subcriteria</i>
1. Publication language	The languages in which the articles in 2004 and 2005 were published.	The mean level of the internationality of a language x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / Sum of all the mean levels of the internationality of all the important languages.
2. The online access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online access to the full texts of the articles including a current issue. - Online access to the full texts of the articles but not to the current issue. - Online access to the abstracts. - Access to the index. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - 3 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - 2 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4.
3. International standards of publication	No subcriteria as it is of "all or nothing type".	The mean level of the internationality or 0.
4. Inclusion in the JCR	No subcriteria as it is of "all or nothing type".	The mean level of the internationality or 0.
5. Inclusion in databases	The number of databases in which a journal is included.	The number of databases x the mean level of the internationality / The number of databases of a journal in which it is the highest.
6. The editorial board from different countries	The number of countries from which the editorial board members come from.	The number of countries x the mean level of the internationality / The number of countries of a journal in which it is the highest.
7. Free online access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free online access to the full texts of the articles including a current issue. - Free online access to the full texts of the articles but not to the current issue. - Free online access to the abstracts. - Free access to the index. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - 3 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - 2 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4.

TABLE 1. The eleven criteria of the internationality, the subcriteria and the way of calculating the scores in the subcriteria. (Cont.).

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Subcriterion</i>	<i>The way of calculating the scores in the subcriteria</i>
8.The impact index	The first quartile in IN-RECS (upper 25%). The second quartile in IN-RECS (upper 50%). The third quartile in IN-RECS (upper 75%). The fourth quartile in IN-RECS.	- 4 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - 3 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - 2 x The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4. - The mean level of the internationality in the criterion / 4.
9.The authors from different countries	The number of countries from which the authors of the articles in 2004 and 2005 come from / The total number of the articles.	The mean level of the internationality was divided into 10 subcategories (close to: .05, .1, .15, .2, .25, .3, .35, .4, .45 and .5) which were calculated dividing the number of the countries/total number of the articles in a journal. The journals which scores were close to .5 were assigned 10 x mean level of the internationality / 10, close to .45- 9 x mean level / 10, close to .4-8 x mean level / 10, etc.
10.Affiliation to an "international" association	No subcriteria as it is of "all or nothing type".	The mean level or 0.
11.The word "international" in the name	No subcriteria as it is of "all or nothing type".	The mean level or 0.

The mean scores of each journal in all criteria were summed up and sorted by the total scores in the internationality in the descending order which resulted in the Internationality Index of the Spanish Psychology Journals.

Results

The criterion with the highest number of the subcriteria was the number of databases. The number of the subcriteria for the countries from which the authors come from which was 10, the highest number of countries from which the members of the editorial board come from was 13. The languages in which the articles in the Spanish Journals of Psychology were published in 2004 and 2005 were English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Table 2 represents the mean levels of the internationality of each criterion in a 0-100 scale and the scores which were assigned for accomplishing each subcriterion.

The Internationality Index of the Spanish Psychology Journals is represented in the Table 3. It enables a detailed analysis of each journal according to the scores in each indicator.

It is important to take into account that when the analysis was conducted only one journal was included in Journal Citation Reports (a criterion which is approximately 10% of the total score in the Internationality Index). Except International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy, almost all the journals which have been accepted to be included in the Web of Science are situated among the journals which occupy the highest positions in the ranking.

TABLE 2. The mean levels of the internationality a 0-100 scale and the scores which should be assigned for accomplishing each subcriterion.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>The mean levels of the internationality in a 0-100 scale (100 x The mean level of the internationality of a criterion/the sum of the mean levels in all criteria)</i>	<i>Scores in each subcriterion</i>
1.Publication language	$(4.68 \times 100 / 41.29) = 11.33$	English: $4.89 \times 11.33 / 13.18 = 4.2$ Spanish: $2.08 \times 11.33 / 13.18 = 1.8$ Portuguese: $.02 \times 11.33 / 13.18 = .02$
2.The online access	$(4.53 \times 100 / 41.29) = 10.97$	1. Online access to the full texts of the articles including a current issue: $10.97 \times 4 / 4 = 10.97$ 2. Online access to the full texts of the articles but not to the current issue: $10.97 \times 3 / 4 = 8.23$ 3. Online access to the abstracts: $10.97 \times 2 / 4 = 5.48$ 4. Access to the index: $10.97 \times 1 / 4 = 2.74$
3.International standards of publication	$(4.36 \times 100 / 41.29) = 10.56$	10.56 if accomplished
4.Inclusion in the JCR	$(4.11 \times 100 / 41.29) = 9.96$	9.96 if accomplished
5.Inclusion in databases	$(4.06 \times 100 / 41.29) = 9.83$	9.83 per database divided into 20
6.The editorial board from different countries	$(4.01 \times 100 / 41.29) = 9.71$	9.71 per country divided into 13
7. Free online access	$(4 \times 100 / 41.29) = 9.68$	1. Free online access to the full texts of the articles including a current issue: $9.68 \times 4/4 = 9.68$ 2. Free online access to the full texts of the articles but not to the current issue: $9.68 \times 3 / 4 = 7.23$ 3. Free online access to the abstracts: $9.68 \times 2 / 4 = 4.84$ 4. Free access to the index: $9.68 \times 1 / 4 = 2.42$
8.The Impact Index	$(3.77 / 20)4 = 9.13$	1. The first quartile in IN-RECS: $9.13 \times 4 / 4 = 9.13$ 2. The second quartile in IN-RECS: $9.13 \times 3 / 4 = 6.85$ 3. The third quartile in IN-RECS: $9.13 \times 2 / 4 = 4.56$ 4. The fourth quartile in IN-RECS: $9.13 \times 1 / 4 = 2.28$

TABLE 2. The mean levels of the internationality a 0-100 scale and the scores which should be assigned for accomplishing each subcriterion. (Cont.)

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>The mean levels of the internationality in a 0-100 scale (100 x The mean level of the internationality of a criterion/the sum of the mean levels in all criteria)</i>	<i>Scores in each subcriterion</i>
9.The authors from different countries	$(3.18 \times 100 / 41.29) = 7.7$	Close to .5 – $7.7 \times 10 / 10 = 7.7$ Close to .45 – $7.7 \times 9 / 10 = 6.93$ Close to .4 – $7.7 \times 8 / 10 = 6.16$ Close to .35 – $7.7 \times 7 / 10 = 5.39$ Close to .3 – $7.7 \times 6 / 10 = 4.62$ Close to .25 – $7.7 \times 5 / 10 = 3.85$ Close to .2 – $7.7 \times 4 / 10 = 3.08$ Close to .15 – $7.7 \times 3 / 10 = 2.31$ Close to .1 – $7.7 \times 2 / 10 = 1.54$ Close to .05 – $7.7 \times 1 / 10 = 0.77$ Close to 0 - 0 Divided into 10
10.Affiliation to an “international” association	$(2.4 \times 100 / 41.29) = 5.81$	5.81 if accomplished
11.The word “international” in the name	$(2.19 \times 100 / 41.29) = 5.3$	5.3 if accomplished
Total	100	100

TABLE 3. The Internationality Index of the Spanish Psychology journals.

	Language	Online access	Intern. Standards	JCR	Data-bases	Editorial Board	Free online access	Impact Index	Authors	Association	Name	Total Score
International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology	6.02	10.97	10.56	0	5.9	9.71	9.68	9.13	1.54	0	5.3	68.81
International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	6	10.97	10.56	0	4.91	9.71	7.26	9.13	3.08	0	5.3	66.92
Psicothema	6	8.22	10.56	9.96	5.9	6.72	7.26	9.13	0.77	0	0	64.52
Psicología	6	10.97	10.56	0	5.9	7.47	9.68	9.13	4.62	0	0	64.33
The Spanish Journal of Psychology	4.2	10.97	10.56	0	9.83	5.97	9.68	9.13	2.31	0	0	62.65
Adicciones	1.8	10.97	10.56	0	7.86	8.22	9.68	6.85	1.54	0	0	57.48
Revista de Psicología Social	6	10.97	10.56	0	2.95	7.47	4.84	9.13	3.08	0	0	55
Revista de Psicología del Deporte	6	10.97	10.56	0	3.44	8.22	9.68	2.28	3.08	0	0	54.23
Anales de Psicología	1.8	10.97	10.56	0	9.34	4.48	9.68	4.56	2.31	0	0	53.7
Trastornos Adictivos	6	10.97	10.56	0	*	7.47	9.68	6.85	0	0	0	51.53
Infancia y Aprendizaje	1.8	10.97	10.56	0	5.4	8.96	0	9.13	3.08	0	0	49.9
Revista Electrónica Motivación y Emoción	6.02	10.97	10.56	0	*	3.73	9.68	4.56	3.85	0	0	49.37
Papeles del Psicólogo	6	10.97	10.56	0	1.47	0	9.68	9.13	0.77	0	0	48.58
Cognitiva	6	10.97	10.56	0	2.95	3.73	4.84	4.56	3.85	0	0	47.46
Clinica y Salud	1.8	5.48	10.56	0	2.95	5.97	9.68	9.13	1.54	0	0	47.11
Ansiedad y Estrés	6	2.74	10.56	0	7.37	5.97	2.42	9.13	2.31	0	0	46.5
Psicología Conductual	1.8	8.22	10.56	0	4.91	8.96	2.42	6.85	2.31	0	0	46.03
Apuntes de Psicología	6	8.22	10.56	0	1.47	5.97	7.26	4.56	1.54	0	0	45.58
Psicología Política	6	5.48	10.56	0	2.86	2.99	4.84	4.56	7.7	0	0	44.99
Iberpsicología	6.02	10.97	10.56	0	*	*	9.68	6.85	0.77	0	0	44.85
Estudios de Psicología	1.8	10.97	10.56	0	2.95	5.97	4.84	6.85	0.77	0	0	44.71
Cuadernos de Medicina Psicosomática y Psiquiatría de Enlace	1.8	10.97	10.56	0	2.86	5.97	9.68	2.28	0	0	0	44.12
Revista de Logopedia, Fonoatría y Audiología	1.8	10.97	10.56	0	1.47	3.73	4.84	6.85	*	0	0	40.22
Metodología de las Ciencias de Comportamiento	6	2.74	10.56	0	*	2.24	2.42	9.13	5.39	0	0	38.48
Revista de Psicopatología	6	5.48	10.56	0	*	*	4.84	9.13	2.31	0	0	38.32
Revista de Psicodidáctica	1.8	5.48	10.56	0	4.91	5.23	4.84	2.28	0.77	0	0	35.87

Discussion

The present study is the first classification of the Spanish Psychology Journals based on the level of the internationality of each one of them. It is now possible for all the psychologists who have published articles in these journals to verify whether the publication is national, international or foreign. Also those who evaluate the scientific production of the investigators will have the opportunity to utilize the tool. The Internationality Index of the Spanish Psychology Journals is the first application of the Internationality Index and can serve as an example as it is possible to classify any group of publications from any country by following the same steps. It is important to take into account that this Internationality Index is the result of the survey answered by more than 16,000 scientists from more than hundred countries and all the fields of knowledge which indicates its importance. Although the impact factor is the most utilized bibliometric indicator in the evaluation of the scientific journals it also has important limitations as showed by Aleixandre-Benavent, Valderrama-Zurián, and González-Alcaide (2006) and Osca (2005). For this reason, the creation of alternative indexes contributes to more complete evaluation of the scientific publications. Thus, in the last few years new indicators have appeared, as for example the *h* index which is becoming an important indicator to evaluate the production and the impact of the researchers. In fact, it has already been utilized in Spain in the field of psychology (Salgado and Páez, 2007). There are also different types of indicators as “small worlds” or the Floyd's algorithm which result to be very useful to analyze the patterns of scientific collaboration which make the understanding of citation patterns easier (Peñaranda, López, Quiñones, and López, 2006).

The proliferation of the indicators to evaluate the scientific productivity is a positive process as it enables to “measure” the activity of the scientists from different perspectives. Although the indexes measure different aspects with different procedures, it is evident that there is a relationship between them. In this work the relationship between the impact factor and the Internationality Index can be seen. The analysis of the Table 3 shows that the four of the five journals with the highest positions in the Internationality Index are also included in the Web of Science. It is an outstanding result as only one of all the criteria of the Internationality Index is related to the inclusion in this database. To sum up, the Internationality Index is a useful indicator to evaluate the scientific productivity in relation to the international proliferation which also enables the quantification of the “internationality” of any scientific journal.

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