A non-profit publishing model
to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication
Redalyc-AmeliCA
A non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication

Arianna Becerril García, Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, Redalyc (Mexico).
Eduardo Aguado López, Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, Redalyc (Mexico).

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Scientific communication in the Sustainable Development Goals context

The publishing model embraced by Redalyc and AmeliCA

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Open Access as a means of social appropriation of scientific knowledge, was established and agreed upon in three documents, which at present are still relevant in the debate on scientific communication: Budapest Declaration (2002), Bethesda Declaration (2003) and Berlin Declaration (2003). Such documents coincide on the importance and goal of providing unrestricted access to research outcome via electronic publishing as scientific knowledge must be socially relevant.

In spite of this, there’s still no universal concept of Open Access or practices to attain it. Currently, there’s a diversity of Open Access cultures that may be, in general terms, conceptualised in two ecosystems: A) a commercial Open Access ecosystem focused on the Global North, where green and gold Open Access work separately and where journal publishing is done by big commercial publishers that charge APC (Article Processing Charge) and charge for accessing journals’ contents as well. Likewise, these commercial solutions put forth the plans of dominant science assessment, based on rankings, metrics (Impact Factor and quartiles) and databases, seen as the indicator to define academic excellence. The latest expression of this model is Plan S, from cOAlition S, which aims to achieve Open Access in Europe by 2021.

In like manner, it is possible to identify B) a non-profit Open Access ecosystem led and funded by the academy, where the publishing of scholarly journals and the green route are sustained by universities and research centers, with public funds, and free of reading, processing or publishing charges (APC). This ecosystem is particularly found in Latin America, where stakeholders such as Latindex, CLACSO and Redalyc promote contextualised practices of scientific assessment and offer scholarly journals visibility and digital publishing technology services to strengthen editorial teams within institutions.

Both ecosystems coexist, interweave with each other and face common challenges. The system of science assessment based on the Impact Factor and organized by quartiles is among the structural factors that determine the present publishing model and is the main obstacle to overcome. Such is an expression of the prestigious system that came into being in the second half of the 20th century for scholarly journals, and which resulted in
the organization of a research assessment system that doesn't focus on the social impact of scientific knowledge and its articulations with society's needs, but a competitive system based on academic prestige. Such scenario impacts all levels of the research structure, and from it, journals, researchers and institutions are valued and define their research agendas and communication strategies (Guédon, 2019; European Commission, 2019).

There's an economic and operational growth, never before seen, of the big commercial publishing houses, stakeholders, who, in the Global North, make scholarly journal publishing, propose metrics and databases that set academic excellence, and that increase their control over the science circuit (tools for research, publishing, communication and assessment of researchers, editors, copy editors and so on, of global use) (Posada and Chen 2017; Aspesi and Loung, 2014). This takes place as universities, and science and technology financiers face difficulties (even in the Global North) to cover payments to access information services offered by such commercial publishing firms. For instance, such is the case of Germany (Riquelme, 2017), the University of California (López Michelone, 2019), Norway and Sweden (Qureshi, 2019).

This scenario occurs concurrently with the Sustainable Development Goals, an agenda of 17 goals and 169 targets concluded in 2015 by the Member States of the United Nations and whose time frame ends in 2030. Centred on eradicating poverty, protecting our planet and ensuring prosperity for every human being, the 2030 agenda incarnates humanity's shared vision and a social contract between world leaders and people (Ki-moon, 2016).

Including the Sustainable Development Goals to the various scholarly communication agendas must be mandatory in the 21st century. Redalyc and AmeliCA take the Sustainable Development Goals as the guide that leads their principles and values, outreach projects, and strategies. In sum, Redalyc and AmeliCA assume a non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication, under the premise that in order to eradicate poverty, protect our planet and ensuring prosperity for every human being requires a science communication system that opens the door for an equitable and appropriate access to scientific knowledge and the infrastructure of scholarly communication. In other words, a communication system that preserves scholarly knowledge as a common good.
About the model

Before a scenario where Open Access takes different routes and directions and where commercial strategies are concentrating the main economic flows worldwide to replace the pay-for-reading model for a pay-for-publishing one, while at the same time, are forming other commercial mechanisms for transfer of resources, which are distinguished for exclusion in other stages of the scientific communication process, based on the “expropriation” of knowledge produced, mainly, in academic institutions. Redalyc and AmeliCA are convinced that the model that presents science as a common and public good where scientific communication and publishing don’t rest in profit but in the hands and control of the academy, is a better solution to achieve a sustainable, inclusive and participatory scientific and scholarly ecosystem.

As of 2019, Redalyc and AmeliCA decided to lead their efforts towards a non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication (also known as diamond open access). Such efforts conceived in the South and for the South, recognized by various universities and organizations worldwide (Redalyc: CLACSO, UNESCO, Universidad Carlos III, amongst others; AmeliCA: SPARC Innovator Award 2019) are now open to all journals from the globe that work for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable science communication ecosystem. The journals that find their space of action and growth in this new model have the following characteristics:

- **Redalyc**: Scientific and editorial quality. **AmeliCA**: Peer review.
- **DORA Declaration on Research Assessment**. A vision to overcome the current assessment of science based on the Impact Factor, signing the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)
- Open Access policy free of publishing or processing charges (APC).
- Digital publishing technology (XML JATS)
Principles and Values

1. Scientific knowledge generated with public funds is a common good and access to it is a universal right.

2. The open academy-owned non-profit non-subordinated sustainable and with responsible metrics publishing model ought to be strengthened.

3. Open Access has neither future nor meaning unless research assessment systems evolve.

4. Open Access consolidation demands the transition to digital scientific communication.

5. Financial investment in Open Access ought to be in line with its benefit for society.

6. Open Access sustainability by means of cooperative work schemes and a horizontal distribution to cover costs.

7. Diversity of scientific journals is necessary, hence pressure to homogenise them ought to be stopped.

8. Journals ought to allow authors to retain their copyright and remove their embargo policies.

9. Science’s social impact is the foundation of Open Access’ existence.

10. The various dynamics to generate and circulate knowledge per field ought to be respected, especially, Social Sciences and Humanities.
Redalyc: An indexing system that contains open access journals of scientific quality and certified editorial.

About Redalyc

The Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal (Redalyc) is an indexing system that adds to its index journals from the region with scientific and editorial quality. After 16 years of providing visibility and supporting the consolidation of scholarly journals, it now incorporates exclusively those journals, from any region, that share the non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication.

 Founded in 2003 by Eduardo Aguado López, Arianna Becerril García and Salvador Chávez Ávila, Redalyc began as an academic project of the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico under the responsibility of the research group “Science Communication and Dissemination”. The goal was to give visibility and enhance the editorial quality of Social Sciences and Humanities journals from Latin America. In 2006, Redalyc welcomed all fields of knowledge and included journals from the Iberian Peninsula.

Redalyc was concerned for the lack of transition to a digital publishing by the region’s journals. Therefore, in 2016 Redalyc developed the markup system of scholarly journals for the journals it indexes: Marcalyc. With this software the tagging in XML JATS is made possible, and through it, the PDF, HTML, ePUB, intelligent viewer and mobile viewer files of scientific articles are automatically generated. Thus, it significantly enhances the efficacy and efficiency of the journals’ editorial processes as well as the file upload to Redalyc which contributes to the sustainability of journals and Redalyc as well.

It reached 1,310 journals in 2019, of which 70% already have XML JATS, which means 50 thousand issues and 650 thousand articles that were downloaded 100m times. Consequently, as announced in its 15th anniversary, Redalyc, decided to direct its efforts towards the journals that have already shifted to the digital technology based on XML JATS as of August 2019, stating that the journals without such language won’t
A non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication needs to be integrated accordingly in the new demands of scientific communication, which are based on a machine-readable language.

Now that Redalyc celebrates its 16th year, Open Access faces a context diametrically different. At a region level, platforms, national science councils, academic institutions and part of the scholarly community depreciate local publishing by aligning with the commercial publishers’ strategies. Before an international context where initiatives such as Plan S define the model based on publishing or processing charges (APC) as the main route to access a global open access, Redalyc and AmeliCA join forces to strengthen the non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication (also known as diamond open access) beyond Ibero-America, having as the starting point the principle that the present distortions of scholarly communication are not resolved with payments only, but rather with the reappropriation of knowledge by its generators: universities, scientific associations, research centres and so on.

Redalyc’s architecture.
Projects

Journals Collection

Redalyc's Journals Collection gathers scholarly publications of scientific quality and certified editorial from a) Social Sciences, b) Natural and Exact Sciences, and c) Arts and Humanities. The journals that take part in the Collection have a common vision: overcome the dominant scheme of science assessment based on the Impact Factor, for which reason, they have signed the Declaration DORA. In the same vein, they follow an Open Access policy free of publishing or processing charges (APC) and make use of the digital publishing technology (XML JATS).

Redalyc Authors

The author sections show the scientific production published in scholarly journals that promote a non-profit publishing model. They also show production, collaboration and download indicators at an author level. Additionally, Redalyc Authors is one out of the ten initiatives that is built in cooperation with ORCID, which allows for greater recovery of scientific production of each researcher that has their own page at Redalyc Authors.
Marcalyc

Marcalyc is a tool developed by Redalyc to tag scientific content in XML language, aligned with JATS standards. With this tool, available for any journal indexed by Redalyc, enriched reading formats resulting from the tagging process are generated: intelligent viewer, mobile viewer, HTML, ePUB and PDF. With Marcalyc, Redalyc seeks to preserve scientific contents in a digital format. Besides, meta elements are recognised at an article level, and visibility in the web as well as reading in various devices is enhanced.
**Redalyc Editors**

In Redalyc Editors, Redalyc walks with editorial teams in their assessment process to obtain their indexing in Redalyc. The assessment process of scholarly journals consists of 4 stages:

- Submission.
- Assessment by the Evaluation and Communication with Editors Department.
- Assessment by Redalyc's Directive Board.
- Approval of the assessment results by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

**Redalyc Metrics**

Redalyc offers publication, collaboration and use metrics at a country, institution, field, discipline, journal and author level. Likewise, the Internationalization and Editorial Effort indices are provided. This is about metrics that seek to offer a mark of the editorial and scientific performance of the various scholarly communities and entities, from their own dynamics to communicate scientific contributions.
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Redalyc Metrics

59.3% 12.8% 62% 1.06
External Articles External Co-authorship Articles Internationalisation Editorial Effort

26 10 1 112k
Peer review Author countries Download decline Downloads

Mexico

14.9k
265
10
1,122k

Institutional Metrics

14.9k
265
10
1,122k

Redalyc.org

Social Sciences and Humanities
Natural Sciences and Technology

Institutional Metrics

14.9k
265
10
1,122k

Redalyc.org

Institutional Metrics

14.9k
265
10
1,122k

Redalyc.org

Institutional Metrics

14.9k
265
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1,122k

Redalyc.org

Institutional Metrics

14.9k
265
10
1,122k

Redalyc.org
About AmeliCA

AmeliCA is a communication infrastructure for scholarly publishing and open science. AmeliCA, SPARC Innovator Award 2019, it’s an initiative sustained cooperatively that focuses on a non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication.

AmeliCA came into being as Open Knowledge for Latin America and the Global South. On August 2019, however, before a regional and global context where platforms, science national councils, academic institutions and part of the scholarly community depreciate the local publishing by aligning with the commercial publishers’ strategies, and before an international context that seeks to replace the pay-for-reading model for a pay-for-publishing one (Plan S), AmeliCA and Redalyc join forces to strengthen the non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication (also known as diamond open access) beyond the Global South. This effort conceived in the South and for the South is now open to all journals around the globe that work for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable science communication ecosystem.

Founded in 2018 by Arianna Becerril García and Eduardo Aguado López, the initiative AmeliCA emerged as the result of Redalyc’s (Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal) experience in order to build a communication system for Latin America’s and the Global South’s journals as a response to the financial sustainability crisis, the lack of recognition before the current systems of science assessment and before the exclusion of most journals of the region, which calls for the development of cooperative strategies where the various stakeholders of scientific communication support, recognise and sustain Open Access.
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AmeliCA is sustained by the non-profit civil association “AmeliCA Conocimiento Abierto A.C.”. AmeliCA is led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) and the Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal (Redalyc). From its launch has been supported by the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEM, Mexico), University of Antioquia (UdeA, Colombia) and the National University of La Plata (UNLP, Argentina). Any institution, association, journal or individual, that supports AmeliCA’s motives, may join AmeliCA’s membership.

Projects

Books and Journals Portal

AmeliCA’s Books and Journals Portal gives you access to the scientific production of scholarly journals that foster a non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication. The scientific contents available are the
AmeliCA XML is the software for tagging in XML language that aligns with JATS standards, provided by AmeliCA to scholarly journals that foster a non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication. AmeliCA XML and its reading added values (HTML, ePUB, intelligent and mobile viewer, PDF) aim to give visibility to scientific knowledge and to consolidate digital scientific communication via cutting-edge publishing technology.
OJS Community: Users and Developers

In Community OJS: Users and Developers, AmeliCA seeks to facilitate the utmost use that scholarly journals can make of Open Journal Systems (OJS). Community OJS: Users and Developers fosters advice and professionalization in using OJS, aligning itself with the philosophy of the Free Software movements.

Responsible Metrics

Responsible Metrics puts forth indicators that account for the dynamics of scholarly communities and the knowledge they generate. This model operates in accordance with the following principles:

- The quality of a publication must be determined by the inner features of the article and not by its publication venue.
- The firms that generate indicators (Clarivate Analytics - Scopus) keep highly recognised and documented biases: per discipline, language, geography, gender, etc.
- Social Sciences and Humanities cannot be assessed whatsoever by systems that don't have the presence of journals from the various regions of the world.
- Metrics serve to characterise -without homogenising- the performance of journals
and to identify the strategies of how knowledge circulates and is recognised.

- The dynamics of scholarly communities respond to different ways of networks and multiple strategies of circulation of knowledge and that can't be identified as a quantitative indicator such as the Impact Factor, Scimago Journal Rank, Cite Score, etc.

**Editorial Professionalization**

In Editorial Professionalization, AmeliCA offers resources of continual updating as well as advice to strengthen editorial performance in Open Access practices. This, in order to offer tools that support editorial teams of scholarly journals in the decision-making of Open Access policies and principles, visibility, good editorial practices, etc.

**Open Science**

Open Science promotes an open and cooperative place for each stage of the scientific communication process, both with regards to work processes and tools, and to intermediate and final results of the research process. With this, collaboration with other stakeholders that generate knowledge is encouraged, beyond the scholarly scope, such as citizenry and government. From Open Science, AmeliCA encourages researchers, editors and librarians to use methodologies, tools and platforms that facilitate the openness of research processes, allow reuse, redistribution and reproduction of researches (methods, protocols, data, etc.), encouraging multidisciplinary dialogues to integrate the different stakeholders of the research process.
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AURA

AURA is the space where AmelICA reflects the general state of scholarly journals concerning open policies and exploitation rights of scholarly publishing. AURA’s goal is to know the editorial policies of scholarly journals regarding access to their files, exploitation rights and publishing licenses, and how these can affect their self-archive in institutional or subject repositories. Journals are classified by colours in accordance with DULCINEA’s and SHERPA/ROME0’s taxonomy.
Ameli Blog is a space for reflection and debate on Open Access and scientific communication from a critical perspective and with respect to diversity. Ameli Blog gathers researchers, think tanks, various Open Access initiatives and those interested to participate in this permanent dialogue of dynamic interchange.
Evaluation Observatory

Evaluation Observatory is a proposal by AmeliCA through which a landscape of how scientific performance is institutionally assessed is offered. Particularly, in Evaluation Observatory information on how scholarly journals and research are assessed is provided nationally and institutionally. In like manner, researches that critically address assessment of each country or assessment program are available.
## Participants

### Participating Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Member since</th>
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<tr>
<td>Universidad Autónoma del Estado de, Mexico</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Open Access India, India</td>
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<td>Universidad de Panamá, Panamá</td>
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<td>Universidad Metropolitana para la Educación y el Trabajo, Argentina</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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<td>Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>Universidad Autónoma Latinoamericana, Colombia</td>
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<td>Asociación Mexicana de Editores de Revistas Biomédicas A. C., Mexico</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Centro de Innovación para los Trabajadores (CONICET-UMET), Argentina</td>
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## Publishing institutions from participating journals

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<td>Centro de Investigación e Innovación Educativa del Sistema Educativo Valladolid, Mexico</td>
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Publishing institutions from participating journals

- Dirección de Medicina Forense, Honduras
- Member since 2019
- Editora Unosco, Brazil
- Member since 2018

- Fundación MenteClara, Venezuela
- Member since 2019
- Fundação Joaquim Nabuco, Brazil
- Member since 2019

- Instituto de Información Científica y Tecnológica, Cuba
- Member since 2019
- Panamerican Institute for Geography and History, Mexico
- Member since 2018

- Instituto Tecnológico Metropolitano, Colombia
- Member since 2019
- Pontifical Javeriana University, Colombia
- Member since 2018

- Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje, Colombia
- Member since 2018
- Universidad Católica, Paraguay
- Member since 2019

- Catholic University of Cordoba, Argentina
- Member since 2018
- Universidad Central de Venezuela, Venezuela
- Member since 2019

- Universidad Centroccidental Lisando Alvarado, Venezuela
- Member since 2019
- University of Bogota Jorge Tadeo Lozan, Colombia
- Member since 2019

- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Member since 2018
- Universidad De Ciencias Médicas Dr. Ernesto “Che” Guevara De La Serna, Cuba
- Member since 2019

- University of Cuenca, Ecuador
- Member since 2019
- Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala
- Member since 2018

- Universidad de San Martín de Porres, Peru
- Member since 2019
- Universidad de Sucre, Colombia
- Member since 2018

- National University of Colombia, Colombia
- Member since 2019
- Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina
- Member since 2019

- National University of the Center of the Buenos Aires Province, Argentina
- Member since 2018
- Universidad Nacional del Centro del Perú, Peru
- Member since 2018

- Universidad Nacional Hermilio Valdizán, Peru
- Member since 2019
- Universidad Pedagógica Experimental Libertador, Venezuela
- Member since 2018

- University of São Paulo, Brazil
- Member since 2019
- Santa Catarina State University, Brazil
- Member since 2019

- Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Brazil
- Member since 2019
## AmeliICA in numbers

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<td>20</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Publishing institutions from participating journals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Commissions

**Ameli Blog**

- **Coordinators**
  - Claudio Amescua (UNAM, Mexico)
  - Omar Gallardo (BUAP, Mexico)

**Open Science**

- **Coordinator**
  - Fernando Ariel López (UBA, Argentina)

**OJS Community: Users and Developers**

- **Coordinator**
  - Joel Torres (eScire, Mexico)

**Research programs**

- **Circulation of regional scholarly knowledge**
  - Coordinator

**Edition Model XML JATS**

- **Coordinators**
  - Fernando Rodríguez Contreras (Redalyc, Mexico)
  - Eliana Guzmán Useche (ULA, Venezuela)

**Responsible Metrics**

- Coordinator

**Contents**

- **Coordinator**
  - Carolina De Volder (UBA, Argentina)

**Editorial Professionalization**

- **Coordinator**
  - Cecilia Rozemblum (UNLP, Argentina)

**Intellectual Property**

- **Coordinator**
  - Remedios Melero (IATA-CSIC, Spain)
References


Guédon, J. (2019). Plataformas (como Redalyc), revistas, libros y artículos digitales. ¿Cómo abrir el campo de cuestiones científicas sin quedar atrapado por una lógica comercial?. Palabra Clave (La Plata), 8 (2). http://dx.doi.org/https://doi.org/10.24215/18539912e064


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