

Editorial

Our journal arrives at its 10th issue, the first whose process was entirely conducted after the publication of the QUALIS list. This is an interesting issue, for it contains articles that are an extended version of the best articles presented at the WTICEE, an important event that happened at Sergipe in 2012, besides many other interesting articles that present an important contribution to the field.

This issue has produced the following statistics:

- 24% acceptance rate;
- Average time per review: 53,6 days (standard deviation of 10,0 days);
- Number of reviewers per article: 2,9
- Number of iterations prior to publication: 3,2
- Number of Brazilian states from where the reviewers are originated: 13;
- Number of countries of origin, besides Brazil, of our reviewers: 5;
- Average number of monthly accesses (2012): 679 (until November);
- Highest number of accesses for an article: 11.127 (up to Dec, 11th);

Why flood you with numbers? Because we understand that all official Brazilian mechanisms of journal evaluation are number-obsessed. Hence, we can show that whatever the metric adopted, we will be happy to provide it.

Nevertheless, we believe that the true measure of a journal's value is not given by numbers themselves, but by its editorial process and the integrity and rigor of its reviewers.

Using this measurement, we can proudly say that our journal stands shoulder to shoulder with the best ones in the whole academic world. Our reviewers have received no instructions to make author's life easier – on the contrary, they are instructed to be as hard as they think it is necessary, because we are more interested in quality than in quantity.

All our reviewers are PhD, working at some of the best institutions in the country (and in the world, when the submitted article is written in English). Hence, their knowledge both on the field of expertise and on a journal's editorial necessities is quite high.

We understand that all these concepts are something very hard to access. In order to truly evaluate these intangible aspects, CAPES would need to interview publishers, authors and reviewers. Only then, a true picture of the way a journal is published would be obtained. This is something that cannot be performed by a committee made of few members in a few months, but it is the work of several individuals for a long span of time, maybe even a continuous process that would never end.

The point is that only this kind of evaluation could determine the true value of a journal. The way the QUALIS process is built, the academia decides to publish in any journal

it might deem fit and the amount of articles published in the previous three years, along with the citation rate, will determinate the journal's quality level.

These numbers are arbitrary and may be meaningless if not accompanied by a true analysis of each journal. For instance, using the impact factor may favor authors that publish in journals whose specialty is not in the computer science area. It is widely known that it is a tradition of the biological sciences to reference lots and lots of articles, increasing the impact of single articles and whole magazines.

We understand that computer science does not stand alone and we appreciate the true value of articles that are published outside area specific journals. Nevertheless, using those numbers without weighting the relative importance to the field of each article and journal may cause distortions in the final numbers (especially given that the QUALIS process demands a normal distribution of journals).

Evaluating the process and not the numbers would also create a picture closer to the reality we aspire to and to the real needs of Brazilian science and its contribution to the world. Numbers alone show only results and all academic personnel know that the process can be manipulated (even without using illegal resources). The process, nevertheless, is pure and cannot be manipulated – either the reviews were sound or they were not. Either the article received many criticisms or it did not, and so on.

We stand by our numbers. We believe that the increase in international papers submitted (20% of our submissions) and accepted (2), show that we are becoming recognized as what we really are: a world class journal.

Today, our journal rating is not high, but our process has the same rigor and academic hardships than the one adopted by journals that are a lot older and have a much higher rating. Hence, we are pretty sure that QUALIS will eventually understand this and give us the rating that we truly deserve.