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The exponential growth of scientific production and technological innovations contributes to the understanding of the societies about the environment and its potential benefits. These benefits however were distributed unequally over and inside the nations (BEYRER et al., 2007). But so far, the stunning knowledge and skills accumulation was still not able to prevent million and million people worldwide from living in absolute poverty (GUNN et al., 2005)

One of the core questions of the new millennium is the need to construct the capacity of development of the countries for being able to cope with the challenges posed by the continued change we observe in the contemporary societies. For achieving this goal we need besides financial and technical resources universal access to information and knowledge and the capacity of using them in a constructive way.

Information and knowledge are increasingly valuable in decision-making for avoiding the risk of mistakes like those we committed in the past and that are still present in our days. On the contrary to the professional logic postulating that detain information means detain power, in the case of the health field and certainly in other fields, the more information and knowledge are shared and disseminated, the greater is the resulting power.

The vigorous transnational movement in favor of open access to information and knowledge (HESS et al., 2007; WILLINSKY, 2006) strives for reducing the terrible social inequalities existing all over the world by sharing scientific knowledge. A remarkable initiative besides the open access journals is the OpenCourseWare Consortium (OCWC), the greatest shared education movement in the Web, a consortium of more than 100 higher education institutions from more than 20 countries offering open course content and educational material [www.ocwconsortium.org] to users from 215 countries. However the scenario of challenges posed by the organization and management of an open access journal is quite diversified, above all because there are no equal problems nor is there a standard reality to be used as a reference for overcoming these problems. Each edition is a singular experience in terms of the different institutional configurations of which they are part and in which different professionals have a crucial role to play demanding for coordination and cooperation in order to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of their actions.

In the case of the RECIIS, after one year of existence it has become clear that some functions of the publishing process need to be extinguished (like the function

of an Assistant Section Editor), reinforced (Assistant of the Scientific Editor; new Section Editors) and created (the function of an Administrative Editor, who passed to be entirely in charge of the management of the journal) besides the need for one more Scientific Editor for sharing part of the work currently done by only one professional.

And so, after this first improvement of the publishing process of the RECIIS for ensuring the quality of what is published and open access to peer-reviewed scientific knowledge to anyone, anywhere and at any time, we hope that the readers will find in this edition ideas and reflections motivating further work.

Bibliographic references

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About the editor

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Carlos José Saldanha Machado holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the Université Paris V – Sciences Humaines Sorbonne and a Master's in Production Engineering Sciences (focusing on Science and Technology Policy) from the Coordenação dos Programas de Pós-Graduação em Engenharia at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Currently, he is (1) Science and Technology Researcher at the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz and Head of the Laboratório de Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação em Saúde at its Instituto de Comunicação e Informação Científica e Tecnológica em Saúde; (2) Professor on the Postgraduate Program (PhD) in Environmental Studies at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, responsible for the course on "Brazilian Environmental Policy"; (3) Institutional and Course Evaluator for the Ministry of Education for the Sistema Nacional de Avaliação da Educação Superior. He is active in the areas of sociology and anthropology, with emphasis on: science, technology and health innovation studies; management of health research; public policy in the area of health and the environment. Over the past 5 years he has published 4 books and numerous articles in Brazil. His new projects include research into: the new regime of production and regulation of scientific and technological knowledge in biomedicine; the recent changes in the configuration of bioscience, especially in the infrastructures of knowledge production; the local transposition of international models for the organization of biomedical research; the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz's policy for science, technology and innovation in health.