

## The uniqueness of an editorial project in a reality in full transformation

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Having almost two years elapsed since its launching, RECIIS has maintained its commitment with the original proposal of serving as a virtual academic space for sharing and disclosing scientific production in the many dimensions of the health arena dynamics, dimensions related to communication, information, and scientific and technological innovation subjects. Within an interdisciplinary and transnational perspective, RECIIS reasserts the uniqueness of its editorial project and its political proposal of open access. The health arena, as well as the biotechnology, environment, airspace technology, and information & communication sciences arena show how the social demand and political-based pressures impact the research directions, to the point of changing the *modus operandi* of sciences, of their players and their places (Nowotny et al. 2001).

The option for broadening the journal scope resulted from finding out mutual influence ties between sciences and societies, and the importance of awareness resulting from the most varied areas of scientific knowledge for understanding health in both the individual and collective scope.

At the same time, a journal that is turned towards promoting the interdisciplinary action in the health study area may not have one or other definition of health, information, communication and innovation incorporated to its editorial project, because all of

them are conceptually defined, and redefined around the world, in different ways, in different cultures, in different regions in inside different public and private organizations that produce scientific knowledge and technologies (Schement 2002, Gunn et al. 2005, Hage & Meeus 2006, Burri & Dumit 2007, Schiavo 2007, Wathen et al. 2008, www.globalforumhealth.org). It is responsibility of RECIIS, in its editorial consolidation process, to address this scientific diversity and know how to express it in its many sections. The plurality of themes that have been accepted for publication is a strong evidence of this commitment with the diversity that surrounds us and challenges us. Supported solely by the criterion of scientific merit of works, our co-workers have been assessing with much critical sense and responsibility the texts that come to us and which are increasingly dense as regards such proposal.

In addition, the scientific and technological development has implied changes in how the society appropriates “findings” of health researches (Wathen et al. 2008), transforming them in objects of public policies and, overall, in new forms of appropriating knowledge. Besides offering an alternative to the crisis of serial scientific publications, characterized by the increasing costs of subscription fees and budgetary restrictions of libraries, the dissemination of scientific research results through electronic publications on the internet meets

the purposes of the open access movement (Willinsky 2006). According to the Berlin Declaration, the open access proposal is based on the guarantee of irrevocable and worldwide right of access to an erudite work, to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display it publicly, distributing derivative works in any digital media and for any responsible purpose, being subject to the proper authorship acknowledgement. This access is compatible with the copyright, copyleft, peer review, printing, preservation and many other features associated with the conventional academic literature. Since the access to information is not paid by readers and, thus, there are no barriers to the research, there is a material difference with respect to traditional scientific publication practices (Valero et al. 2007).

As Shanker (2005) underlines, governments and scientific institutions have the scientific and social responsibility of ensuring that information is available free of charge to all, and part of this process lies in the support to publication through the open access. Scientists also have reasons to support this initiative, because articles published in open access journals are more likely to be read and quoted. In spite of the advantages highlighted by their promoters, issues related to technological infrastructures, business model, indexation services and standards, criteria of academic productivity and disclosure are pointed out as barriers to the success of open access scientific journals (Börjk 2004). The development of an electronic editing platform OJS by *Public Knowledge Project* (<http://pkp.sfu.ca>) is an important step taken by Simon Fraser University, located in Vancouver, Canada, to overcome these limitations by making an open and free source application available for use, but the commitment of academic productivity with publication in journals indexed on qualified bases is still a significant limiting factor for most existing electronic journals. But we believe that soon we will be overcoming this conjuncture limitation.

Hopefully readers will enjoy the diversity of subjects, problems and approaches now offered in this number that closes the half-yearly frequency of RECIIS, which will become, beginning 2009, a quarterly publication. We will now start publishing four numbers a year, of which two (June and December) will be current numbers, that is, open to the receipt of each and every manuscript, and the other two will be thematic issues (March and September) coordinated by the invited Publisher(s), intercalated or not, with special numbers related to the issue of best works and scientific events of RECIIS' interest, numbers also organized by invited Publisher(s).

Enjoy your reading!

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## About the editors

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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.

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Josué Laguardia has a degree in Medicine from *Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora* (1989), a master's degree in Collective Health from *Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro* (1995) and a Ph.D. degree in Public Health from *Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública - ENSP/FIOCRUZ* (2007). He is currently a researcher of the Institute of Scientific and Technological Information & Communication in Health (ICT) of *Fundação Oswaldo Cruz*. He has experience in the Public Health area, with focus on Epidemiological Surveillance, acting primarily in the following subjects: information system, tuberculosis, epidemiological surveillance, race and mandatory notification diseases. He currently develops researches in the remote education areas and assessment of virtual learning environments.