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## **An overview of the Ambiente & Água journal nine years after its inception**

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### **ABSTRACT**

After nine years of continuous on-time publication, we thought it appropriate in this editorial to review some of the journal's accomplishments. To date, we have published 27 issues, on schedule, totaling 440 articles selected out of 1093 submissions. All of the articles have been peer-reviewed by at least two reviewers. Our average overall rejection rate is 60%, and this trend is steadily increasing due to the more stringent standards applied as the journal interfaces with various databases and indices, and also due to the increasing number of submissions we receive as the journal achieves greater prominence and recognition. The journal's system currently includes 1,904 registered users, 682 of which are members of our ad hoc peer reviewers' panel. Our Editorial Committee was recently augmented with the addition of outstanding scientists from the European Community, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, and it continues to grow. In recent years we have been publishing about 60 articles per year. All of the articles have doi™ registration with CrossRef, which enhances their accessibility and visibility through interaction with many indices and publication search engines. We promote the visibility of the articles in many venues throughout the world and more recently in academic and social networks. Another major accomplishment was the recent inclusion of the journal in distinguished collections such as SciELO and SCOPUS.

**Keywords:** Ambi-agua, Impact Factor, SciELO, SCOPUS.

## **Uma visão geral da Revista Ambiente & Água nove anos após a sua criação**

### **RESUMO**

Após nove anos de publicação rigorosamente em dia, julgou-se apropriado neste editorial se rever algumas realizações da revista. Até agora, foram publicadas 27 edições, totalizando 440 artigos selecionados de 1.093 submissões revisadas por pares. Todos os artigos são avaliados por pelo menos dois avaliadores ad hoc. A taxa média de rejeição global é de 60% com tendência a aumentar devido às normas mais rigorosas aplicadas em decorrência dos padrões de exigência das várias bases e índices em que a revista está indexada e também devido ao aumento do número de submissões à medida que a revista alcança maior destaque e reconhecimento. A revista tem 1.904 usuários registrados, dos quais 682 são membros do painel de avaliadores ad hoc. Recentemente o Comitê Editorial foi reforçado com a inclusão

de renomados cientistas da Comunidade Europeia, Ásia, Oriente Médio e América Latina e está em contínuo crescimento. A revista tem publicado cerca de 60 artigos por ano. Todos os artigos têm registro doi™ na CrossRef, o que aumenta a acessibilidade e a visibilidade deles, devido à interação com vários indexadores e mecanismos de busca de publicações. A visibilidade dos artigos é continuamente promovida em muitas bases mundiais e, recentemente, nas redes acadêmicas e sociais. Outra grande conquista foi a inclusão da revista em coleções de prestígio tais como SciELO e SCOPUS.

**Palavras-chave:** Ambi-agua, Fator de Impacto, SciELO, SCOPUS.

## 1. DISCUSSION

The publication is available at <http://www.ambi-agua.net>. Additionally, since the end of 2013 the most recent issues are hosted in the SciELO server at <http://www.scielo.br/ambiagua>. The complete collection of articles is also hosted by Redalyc, accessible at: <http://www.redalyc.org/revista.oa?id=928>. All articles are forwarded to Mendeley, and more recently to Academia.edu. EBSCO started publishing our full texts in their collection “Environment Complete” on December 18, 2008. We also promote the visibility of articles in many collections and search engines by making their metadata available, as can be seen in: [http://www.ambi-agua.net/seer/files/indexadores\\_AA\\_Outubro\\_2013.pdf](http://www.ambi-agua.net/seer/files/indexadores_AA_Outubro_2013.pdf).

There are many ways to assess the impact of a scientific journal (Moed, 2010). However, the most commonly used and accepted index, the Impact Factor (IF), is proprietary and operated on a commercial basis. We therefore monitor our journal by examining indicators that are free of charge, such as Google Analytics and also the SciELO metrics since August 2013, when *Ambiente & Agua* was first included in that collection. For the period of August 01, 2013 to October 10, 2014, Google Analytics found that the journal’s site (<http://www.ambi-agua.net>) had 26,669 visitor sessions, from 15,470 users that viewed 162,613 pages (6.10 pages / session). In the equivalent period, at SciELO’s site (<http://www.scielo.br/ambiagua>) the journal had a total of 20,449 article requests (7,900 of vol. 8, n. 3, Sep. – Dec. 2013; 5,846 of vol. 8, n. 1, Jan. – Mar. 2013; and, 5,429 of vol. 8, n. 2, Apr. – Aug. 2013). This is quite remarkable, since SciELO has only the most recent issues, and demonstrates the great visibility of SciELO.

SciELO publishes several metrics of its journals, and some of those relating to *Revista Ambiente & Agua* have already begun to appear (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Number of citations granted and received by *Revista Ambient. Agua* from 2012 to 2014.

Rev. Ambient. Água	n. of issues	n. of articles	n. of granted citations	n. of received citations
2014	3	47	1248	35
2013	3	61	1596	36
2012	3	63	1717	37

**Source:** adapted from SciELO metrics at:

[http://statbiblio.scielo.org/stat\\_biblio/index.php?no=03.xml&state=03&lang=en&issn=1980-993X](http://statbiblio.scielo.org/stat_biblio/index.php?no=03.xml&state=03&lang=en&issn=1980-993X)

The analysis of the Impact Factor of *Revista Ambiente. Agua* reported by SciELO at [http://statbiblio.scielo.org/stat\\_biblio/index.php?state=05&lang=en&country=scl&issn=1980](http://statbiblio.scielo.org/stat_biblio/index.php?state=05&lang=en&country=scl&issn=1980)

-993X&CITED%5B%5D=1980-993X&YNG%5B%5D=2014 shows that in 2014 the journal received 35 citations (all years, Table 1). Ten of these citations related to articles published in 2013, and nine to articles from 2012, totaling 19 citations received in 2014 for articles published in the two previous years (2013 and 2012). Since 124 articles were published in 2013 and 2012, the journal Impact Factor is 0.1532 on a two-year basis. This is the first published IF of the journal.

The citations granted by Revista Ambient. Água are mostly to journals indexed by ISI WoS and SciELO (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Report of SciELO on granted citations by Revista Ambient. Água for articles published in 2013 to journals published in all previous years.

	<b>Cited Journal Title</b>	<b>Indexation</b>	<b>Citations of the Title</b>
1.	Water Research	ISI	29
2.	Chemosphere	ISI, MEDLINE	24
3.	Revista Brasileira de Engenharia Agrícola e Ambiental	SciELO	23
4.	Quimica Nova	SciELO, ISI	21
5.	Desalination	ISI	16
6.	Journal of Hazardous Materials	ISI, MEDLINE	15
7.	Journal of Hydrology	ISI	15
8.	Water Science and Technology	ISI, MEDLINE	15
9.	Revista Ambiente & Água	SciELO	14
10.	Revista Brasileira de Ciencia do Solo	SciELO	14
	<b>Others</b>		<b>762</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>948</b>

**Source:** adapted from SciELO metrics at:

[http://statbiblio.scielo.org//stat\\_biblio/index.php?state=12&lang=en&country=scl&ng=b&issn=1980-993X&CITING%5B%5D=1980-993X&YNG%5B%5D=2013&YED%5B%5D=all&COUNT\\_SCI%5B%5D=10](http://statbiblio.scielo.org//stat_biblio/index.php?state=12&lang=en&country=scl&ng=b&issn=1980-993X&CITING%5B%5D=1980-993X&YNG%5B%5D=2013&YED%5B%5D=all&COUNT_SCI%5B%5D=10)

Table 3 shows the journals that cited articles published by Revista Ambient. Água. The “Revista Brasileira de Engenharia Agrícola e Ambiental” and the “Engenharia Agrícola” journals were the journals most frequently citing our journal, excluding self-citations, followed by the Brazilian Archives of Biology and Technology. This fact to some extent indicates the journal’s focus towards Environment, Engineering and Biology.

Upon reviewing these figures, it may appear that the journal may still have a long way to go in terms of international recognition; but our goals are clearly defined and will ensure that the journal achieves a prominent place in the international scientific forum. Since January 2014, the SciELO Citation Index (SciELO CI) has been integrated with the Web of Science (WoS) platform. This will certainly increase the international visibility of the SciELO collection, as it will share all functions and resources available in the WoS. More information about the SciELO CI can be found in the SciELO Citation Index in the Web of Science (Parker, 2014).

**Table 3.** Citations received by articles published in *Revista Ambient. Agua* from 2007 to 2013 from all journals.

	<b>Journal that cited <i>Revista Ambient. Agua</i></b>	<b>n. of Citations</b>
1	Acta Botanica Brasilica	1
2	Acta Limnologica Brasiliensia	2
3	Arquivo Brasileiro de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia	1
4	Biota Neotropica	1
5	Bragantia	1
6	Brazilian Archives of Biology and Technology	6
7	Brazilian Journal of Chemical Engineering	3
8	Cerne	1
9	Ciencia e Agrotecnologia	2
10	Ecletica Quimica	2
11	Engenharia Agricola	13
12	Engenharia Sanitaria e Ambiental	3
13	Idesia (Arica)	1
14	Journal of The Brazilian Society of Mechanical Sciences and Engineering	1
15	Pesquisa Agropecuaria Brasileira	1
16	Planta Daninha	1
17	Quimica Nova	2
18	Revista Ambiente & Agua	48
19	Revista Arvore	2
20	Revista Brasileira de Ciencia do Solo	3
21	Revista Brasileira de Engenharia Agricola e Ambiental	15
22	Revista Brasileira de Saude e Producao Animal	1
23	Revista Ciencia Agronomica	4
24	Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical	1

**Source:**

[http://statbiblio.scielo.org//stat\\_biblio/index.php?no=09.xml&state=09&lang=en&issn=1980-993X](http://statbiblio.scielo.org//stat_biblio/index.php?no=09.xml&state=09&lang=en&issn=1980-993X).

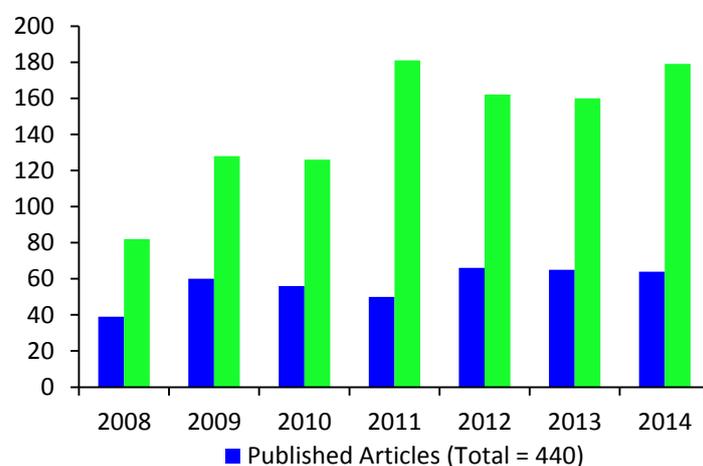
For 2015, SciELO Brasil has established new criteria for indexations, emphasizing actions of professionalization, internationalization and funding sustainability of journals. These actions will certainly improve the performance of the journals in the collection (Parker, 2014). A detailed description of the new SciELO criteria can be found in SciELO (2014).

Statistics of the journal from the OJS system used to manage the editorial process indicate that the number of submissions is increasing (Figure 1) and that the number of articles published each year has stabilized at 60. The rejection rate is therefore increasing (Figure 2), allowing a better selection of manuscripts to be published.

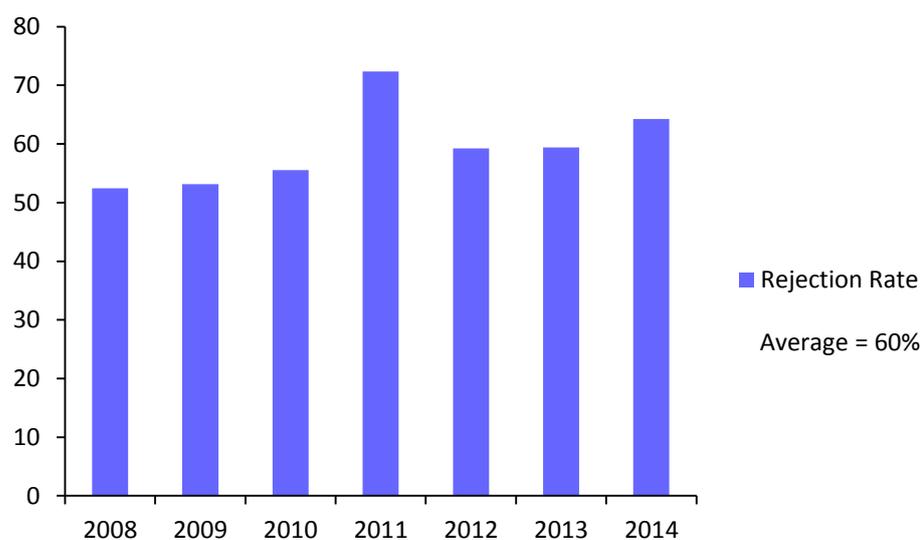
In addition to the two major servers (<http://www.ambi-agua.net> and <http://www.scielo.br/ambiagua>), several other sites host our articles, with special emphasis on

<http://www.redalyc.org/revista.oa?id=928>. However, we do not currently have access to the metrics of these sites.

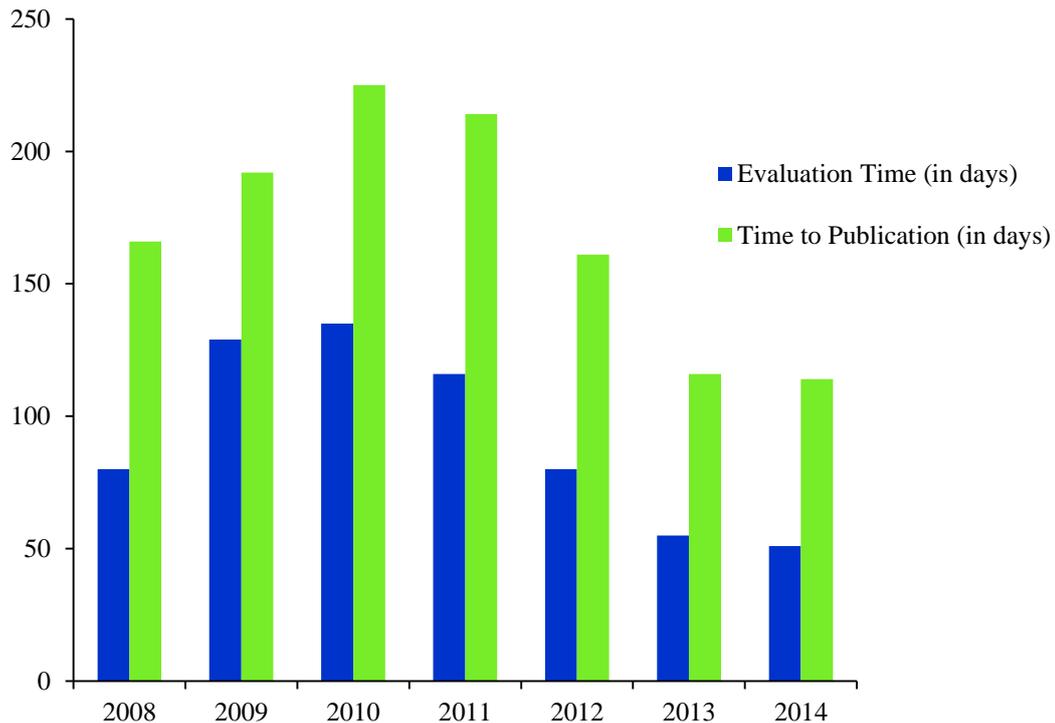
One interesting feature of Ambiente & Água journal is the short time required to process a submission while still maintaining the quality of peer review. As shown in Figure 3, this time is short compared with most other Brazilian journals of similar thematic scope. These times are averages; and can be found on the first page of all published articles, the date of submission and the date of acceptance. This can sometimes be as short as one month. This figure shows that publication time follows closely the evaluation time. In fact, the correlation between the time of evaluation and the time to publication is very high, with  $R^2 = 0.91$  (Figure 4). Therefore, it is clear that the peer reviewers are doing a thorough and prompt analysis. As in every final yearly issue, we include a list of the peer reviewers that evaluated manuscripts for that particular year. In 2014, as of the time of this writing, a total of 200 reviewers had evaluated at least one manuscript. Some had evaluated several submissions. Of these 200 reviewers, 142 have joined the journal this year, demonstrating the journal's increasing momentum and acceptance. We are greatly indebted to them for their voluntary service and for their excellent, insightful and professional product.



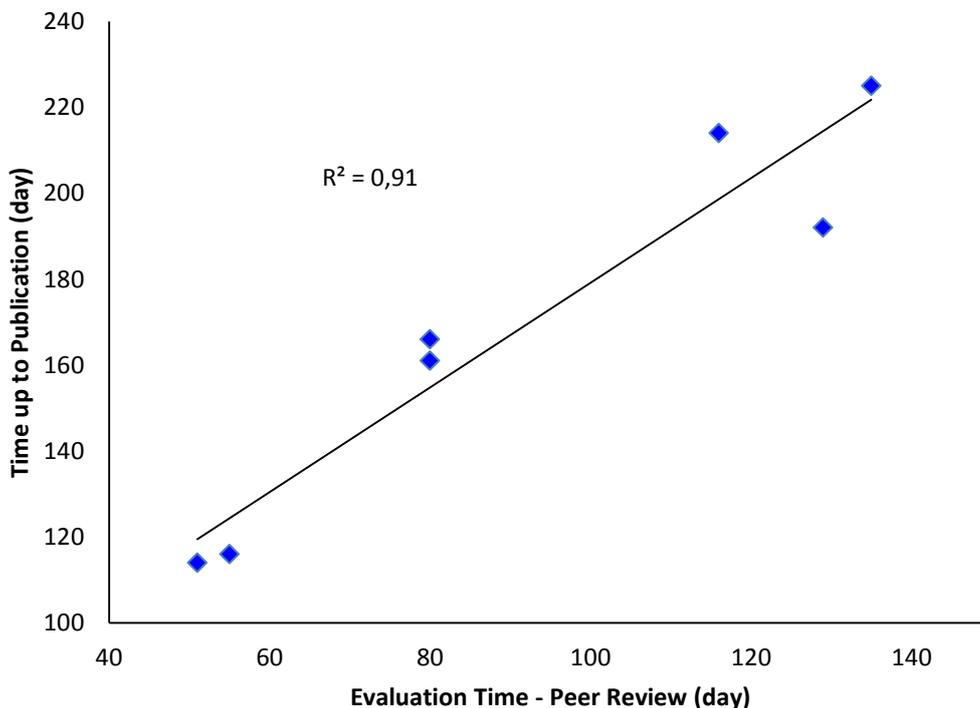
**Figure 1.** Number of submitted manuscripts and published articles from 2008 to September 2014.



**Figure 2.** Rejection rate of submissions from 2008 to September 2014.



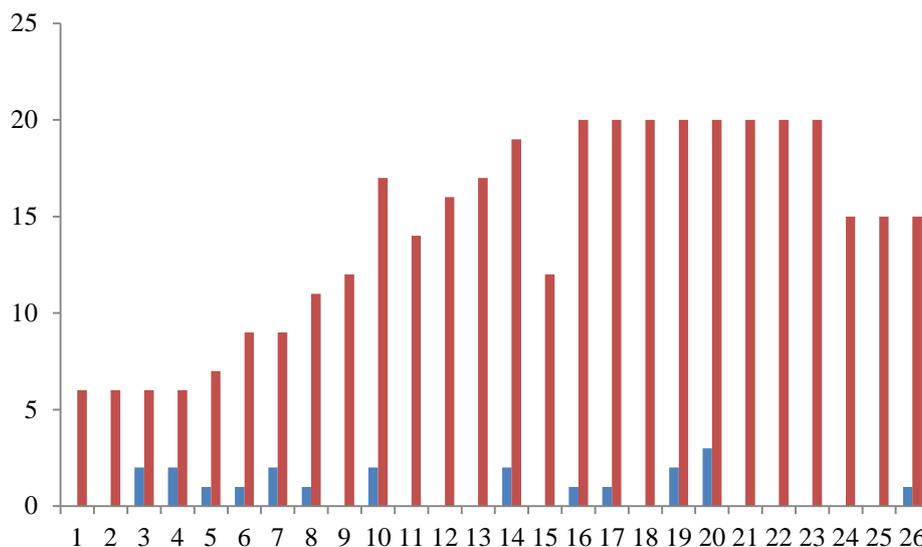
**Figure 3.** Average times for manuscript evaluation and for submission to publication of articles processed from 2008 to September 2014.



**Figure 4.** Relationship between evaluation time and time to publication for submissions from 2008 to September 2014.

Another interesting aspect of our journal is the low rate of endogeneity, as shown in Figure 5. With an overall endogeneity lower than 6%, we opened the journal to the worldwide scientific community in the interdisciplinary area of environment and water resources. In fact,

the journal draws authors from a large geographical area and a diverse institutional background both nationally and internationally.



**Figure 5.** Endogeneity analysis of Ambiente & Água journal considering the number of articles with first author from the University of Taubaté (in blue) and the total number of published articles (in red). Overall endogeneity is 5.6% (372 published articles analyzed).

## 2. CONCLUSIONS

Ambiente & Água journal has come a long way in just eight years of continued publication, as the number of collections in which the journal is indexed clearly establishes, especially the SCOPUS and SciELO. It is also significant that the MCTI / CNPq / MEC / CAPES call for bid proposals N. 44/2013 selected the journal in the top one third among the proposals it granted. This was quite rewarding, considering the call's objective of encouraging the publication of Brazilian scientific journals of high specialization in all areas of knowledge in order to contribute significantly to scientific and technological development and innovation in the country. Our Editorial Committee has recently welcomed new members from several different countries, further increasing the internationalization of the journal. However, several challenges lie ahead as we work to implement the new SciELO Brasil criteria, and to further professionalize and internationalize the journal and to ensure its financial sustainability. The first Impact Factor of the journal is 0.1532 on a two-year basis. While this is a point to be improved upon, we remain confident that we will not only meet, but exceed our goals, thanks largely to the quality and impact of individual articles.

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