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Editorial of the seventeenth edition of Ambiente & Água - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science

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ABSTRACT

After completing the sixth volume, since the publication of its first edition of August, 2006, we are proud to state that Ambiente & Água - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science, is now publishing its 17th edition with 20 articles evaluated and peer reviewed. Thanks to a great support received from the scientific community, especially authors and reviewers, all editions were published as scheduled. Our mission and goals are being achieved. The number of submissions has been continuously growing, allowing a critic selection of manuscripts to be published and as a result the quality of published articles is improving. We continue to practice the complete open access policy and fostering the visibility and securing data storage in additional hosts.

Keywords: Ambi-Agua; Environment; Water Resources.

Editorial da décima sétima edição da revista Ambiente & Água – An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science

RESUMO

Ao completar o sexto volume, desde a sua primeira edição de agosto de 2006, temos a satisfação de afirmar que a revista Ambiente & Água – An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science está publicando sua 17ª edição com 20 artigos, avaliados por pares. Graças ao grande apoio recebido da comunidade científica, especialmente, autores e revisores, todas as edições foram publicadas no prazo previsto. Nossa missão e objetivos estão sendo alcançados. O número de submissões vem crescendo continuamente, permitindo uma seleção crítica dos manuscritos submetidos e como resultado, a qualidade dos artigos publicados está melhorando. Continuamos a praticar a política de acesso aberto e estamos envidando esforços para promover a visibilidade e a segurança no armazenamento de dados em diversas bases.

Palavras-chave: Ambi-Agua; Meio Ambiente; Recursos Hídricos.

1. INTRODUCTION

Ambiente & Água - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science (Ambi-Agua) continues to publish electronically via Internet using an open access policy without any charge for submission, publication or full access to the articles. It is maintained by the University of Taubaté, which is a public university and edited by the Institute of Environmental Research in Hydrographic Basins (IPABHi), a nonprofit organization.

The journal has an international scope regarding readers, authors, editorial board members, and registered peer review panel (<http://www.ambi-agua.net/seer/index.php/ambi-agua/article/view/801>). The institutional affiliation of authors, submission and acceptance data are stated in all papers. Basically, all publications report on original research, and in order to have an article published, the authors have to state that a similar paper has not been published in another journal.

The journal has been published on time since it was launched, hence, strictly up to date, with editions published on April 30th, August 31st, and December 31st of every year.

Since March, 2010, we have contracted a new domain (<http://www.ambi-agua.net>) hosted in a very reliable Internet server. A large number of other hosts and indexing agencies list *Ambi-Agua* (Batista, 2009). This number is continuously growing, especially with our membership with CrossRefTM that establishes agreements with several metadata harvesters. In addition to the previous agencies that have been listing *Ambiente & Água* in their data bases (http://www.ambi-agua.net/seer/files/indexadores_AA_Janeiro_2011.pdf), several others have also included our journal in their metadata searching engines such as Epistemio, Ltd., The JournalWiki, LLC, Centro de Información Tecnológica de La Serena-Chile, CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), KISTI (Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information), Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Academic Analytics, Labtiva, Talis Education Limited (TEL), Patent Calls Inc., The British Library, Pubget Inc., CambridgeIP Ltd., Cambia - Queensland University of Technology, Microsoft, Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), Ex Libris Group, Matrixware Information Services, Symplectic Limited, H.W. Wilson, EasyBib, and Ontario Council of University Libraries. Each of these organizations has different policies to disseminate our metadata in their database to their clients.

The number of submissions per year, the number of articles accepted for publication, and the time between submission and publication reveal the continuous improvement of the journal (Table 1).

Table 1. Journal statistics from 2007 to 2011.

Parâmetros	2007*	2008	2009	2010	2011
Published editions	5	3	3	3	3
Published articles	19	29	43	52	52
Submission total	75	82	122	126	176
Peer evaluation	21	48	68	116	114
Accepted	34 (45%)	33 (40%)	43 (35%)	50 (43%)	31 (27%)
Evaluation time (days)	75	58	54	128	78
Time to publication (days)	45	158	117	190	137
Registered users	327	461	762	923	1177

**Ambi-Agua* was effectively launched in April 2007 when the two issues of 2006 (August and December) were also published.

One of the established goals for this year of 2011 was to increase the number of articles published to 20 per issue. This was possible due to the increased quality and number of submissions. This also makes the journal eligible to be considered by SciELO indexation. We achieved that goal in the last two issues. But 20 articles per issue is about the maximum that we can afford considering that until now the journal receives no financial support and practices the complete open access policy, not charging anything to authors or readers. It can be observed that we operate with a very small staff which can be checked at http://www.ambi-agua.net/seer/files/Ambi_Agua_V6_N3.pdf. We need to improve our infrastructure to decrease the time between submission and publication and to possibly increase the number of papers per issue. But to receive support from CNPq and recognition from CAPES or SciELO, our published articles have to be cited by articles published in journals indexed by the *Journal*

Citation Reports[®] that critically evaluate the world's leading journals, with quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data.

With the increasing interest of the scientific community, indicated by the number of downloaded published articles (Tables 2 and 3) and, more recently, by the number of submissions (Table 1), we believe that this recognition might happen soon. But this depends largely from our scientific community to increase citations to our published articles.

To monitor the access to the different papers, the journal has been monitored since 2007 (Table 2 and Figure 1) using Google Analytics that collects information about visitors and tracks how visitors interact with our website, including where they came from, what they did on our site, allowing this way a good grasp on how the journal is impacting the community. This has been continued as we changed the host in March, 2010 (Table 3 and Figure 2).

It can be observed that even though the great majority of people interested in *Ambi-Agua* is from Brazil, it has raised a continuous interest from other countries, especially US, Mexico and Portugal. Just for the recent period of monitoring the new domain (March 01, 2010 to November 30, 2011), the journal has been accessed from all five continents, 144 countries and from 1,722 different cities.

Table 2. Number of visits of the 10 most frequent visiting countries of journal hosted at <http://www.agro.unitau.br/seer> from September 16, 2007, with a gap from March 01, 2008 to April 27, 2008, up to August 30, 2010, when this site was blocked for access.

Country	Visits	% Visits
Brazil	62,037	83.64%
Portugal	1,580	2.13%
United States	1,510	2.04%
Mexico	1,051	1.42%
India	900	1.21%
Spain	535	0.72%
Colombia	403	0.54%
China	354	0.48%
Argentina	329	0.44%
United Kingdom	325	0.44%

Table 3. Number of visits of the 10 most frequent visiting countries of journal hosted at <http://www.ambi-agua.net> from March 01, 2010, when monitoring began, up to November 30, 2011.

Country	Visits	% Visits
Brazil	21,668	78.02%
Mexico	752	2.71%
United States	693	2.50%
Colombia	638	2.30%
India	477	1.72%
Portugal	328	1.18%
Argentina	273	0.98%
China	216	0.78%
United Kingdom	183	0.66%
Spain	145	0.52%

The number of weekly visitors has been kept about 500 since we have begun monitoring, with peaks of 730 visitors around the publishing dates of new issues when the number of daily visitors reaches 250 (Figures 2 and 3).

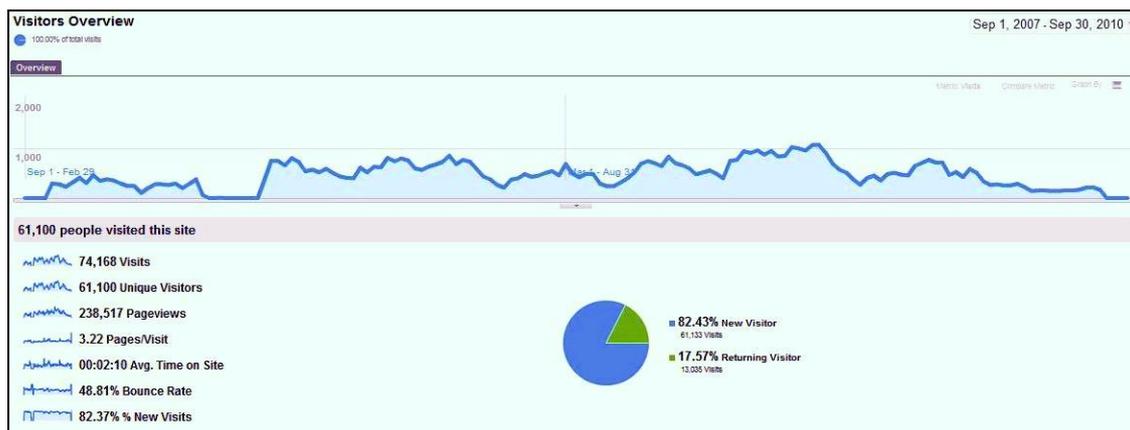


Figure 1. Monitoring of the number of weekly visits to the journal hosted at <http://www.agro.unitau.br/seer> from September 16, 2007, with a gap from March 01, 2008 to April 27, 2008, up to August 30, 2010, when this site was blocked for access.

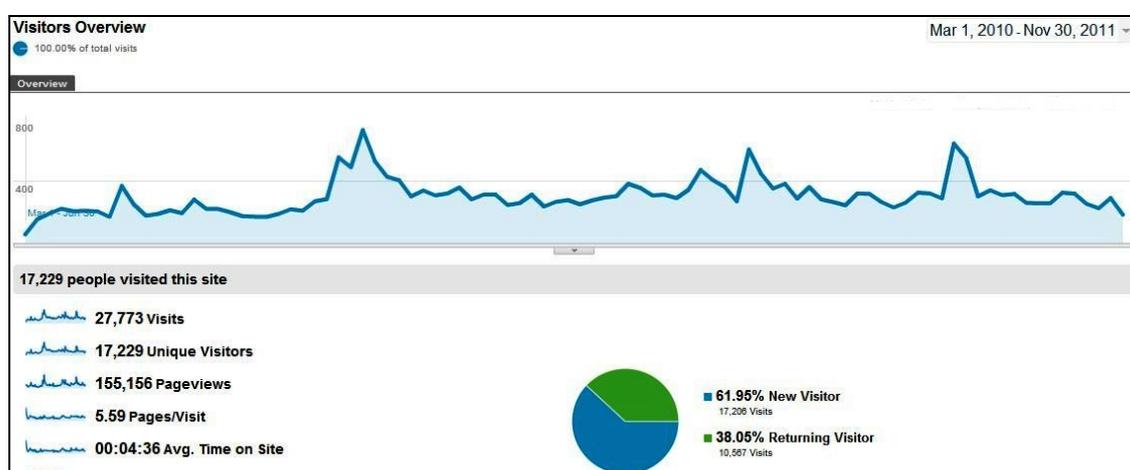


Figure 2. Monitoring of the number of weekly visits to the journal hosted at <http://www.ambi-agua.net> from March 01, 2010, when monitoring began, up to November 30, 2011.

One important step that we have taken was to store all published articles in the Mendeley™ host. This is another measure to increase the storage security of the journal.

2. FINAL REMARKS

Ambi-Agua continues to have the doi™ registered for all published articles. This facilitates tremendously the visibility of the articles. It was demonstrated that *Ambiente & Água* (Ambi-Agua) is gradually reaching its goals and raising a growing interest in the scientific community. However, we need to work to obtain funds to support the Journal's editorial process that currently depends exclusively on voluntary work, with the support of the University of Taubaté (UNITAU) and of the Institute of Environmental Research in Hydrographic Basins (IPABHi). This is limiting the potential of the journal to increase the number of issues per year. We are grateful to our fellow members of the Ad Hoc reviewer's panel for their competent and effective work, as well as to the authors that have submitted high quality manuscripts.

3. REFERENCE

BATISTA, G. T. Characteristics of *Ambiente & Água - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science* (Ambi-Agua) as completing its fourth volume. **Ambi-Agua**, Taubaté, v. 4, n. 3, p. 18-22, 2009. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4136/ambi-agua.99>.