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www.agro.unitau.br/ambi-agua

E-mail: ambi-agua@agro.unitau.br

Tel.: (12) 3625-4116

**Editorial of the First Edition of the “Ambiente e Água” Scientific Journal
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Getulio Teixeira Batista

Professor at the Master Degree Program in Environmental Sciences of the University of Taubaté.
Estrada Municipal Dr. José Luiz Cembranelli, 5.000; Bairro Itaim; 12.081-010 - Taubaté, SP
E-mail: ambi-agua@agro.unitau.br.

This release is the first edition of this new interdisciplinary scientific journal, named Ambiente e Água - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science, Ambi-Agua, in short. The journal was so named to characterize the emphasis in publishing scientific papers in the areas of Environmental Sciences and Water Resources, once these scientific areas typically integrate systems and processes of the ecosphere (biosphere and atmosphere). Specifically, this Journal will publish scientific findings in the area of Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Environmental Engineering and Sanitation, Forest Engineering and Forest Resources, Ecology, Aquiculture, Oceanology and Fishing Resources, Agronomy, Agrometeorology and Agricultural Engineering, Global Change, Fishing Engineering and Zootechnology, Geography, Geology, Environmental Science, Environmental Legislation and Pollution, among others. As well as, papers in the areas of Remote Sensing, Geotechnologies and Spatial Analysis concerned with the study of water, environment and public health.

This Journal is being edited by the Institute of Environmental Research in Hydrographic Basins (IPABHi) and by the Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences of the Research and Graduate School of the University of Taubaté, initially with three issues annually. The Journal is published on-line, using the SEER System, an integrated digital publishing software package distributed by the Brazilian Institute for Science and Technology Information (IBICT) (<http://www.ibict.br/secao.php?cat=SEER>), that was developed based on the "Public Knowledge Project (Open Journal Systems - <http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/>)" of the British Columbia University that has been built upon the experience of other systems developed for preservation of data (Rosenthal et al., 2005). This system will allow great visibility, powered by the OAI-PMH Protocol and several tools for digital data preservation. All editions will be freely available to the community.

Even though this is an electronic publication, articles will be published in typical printed publication format, that is, with numbered pages to guarantee the appropriate credit to the authors. The papers are published in the "Portable Document Format" (pdf) format, that guarantees the visualization of the original layout of the article, as it had been printed and with restriction for text copying. Printing and download of the articles in the same digital format (pdf) for subsequent reading. To increase the visibility, each issue will be available as a single file. Thus Librarians could print the entire edition, for consultation in their libraries. In the future, pending upon financial support, the Ambi-Agua Journal will be printed in paper to increase the visibility of the published articles.

THE MISSION

The mission of Ambi-Agua is to publish inedited scientific articles that contribute to knowledge advancement in the areas of interest of the Journal, with asserted quality. The visibility of the papers will be emphasized by the compatibility with the "Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting" (OAI-PMH) and by constant search for

indexation by relevant scientific citation indices. Quality was planned since the conception of this journal. The first initiative of the Editorial Board was to invite scientists with high scientific productivity as *Ad Hoc* referees of the articles. The community's response was very positive. By the time of this release over 200 scientists of high scientific stand, voluntarily registered as *Ad Hoc* referees. The Committee Board will do its best to have this journal, in a relatively short term, ranked in a good position on the CAPES classification system that asserts the quality of scientific journals.

EDITORIAL FEATURES

The main decision of the Ambi-Agua Editorial Committee was to use an integrated management system for electronic publishing (SEER) not only to facilitate management tasks, to allow authors follow up each step of the evaluation process of his/her submitted article, and to expedite and reduce communication costs. Another benefit comes from its integration with the OAI-PMH that provides independent interoperability of the application based on the metadata collection. That protocol involves two classes of participants: Data Providers, the ones that expose the metadata (as done by the Ambi-Agua administrators) and the Service Providers that use the collection of the metadata to add services that enlarge the visibility of the articles using unique identifiers.

Since the release of this first edition, Ambi-Agua is operating normally by the SEER system, accessible at the address: www.agro.unitau.br/ambi-agua. To access articles for reading purpose just click "CURRENT" on the menu, to have access to the published articles. For article submission the user has to register in the system as an author by just filling in his/her data in the "REGISTER" tab.

The journal layout and articles' format follows the principle of simplicity: a single column, a single margin (2,5 cm in all sides), articles with flexible size and traditional structure of presentation of a scientific article. The norms for citations follow the recommendations of ABNT-NBR 10520 and for the references, the recommendations of ABNT-NBR 6023. Adopting these norms was a difficult decision of the Editorial Committee considering the international scope of this journal, however, this is a mandatory condition for acquiring external funds from Brazilian funding agencies. To give some uniqueness to Ambi-Agua Journal, those norms were slightly adapted (Beraldo; Pereira, 2001) preserving, however, all of the necessary requirements to characterize the cited publication. To help authors that are unfamiliar with some of the specificities of those norms, the journal has the support of a Librarian of Reference that revises each article before publication. The articles, besides undergoing through the evaluation process by *Ad Hoc* peer reviewers and by the Editorial Committee, are reviewed for linguistic quality improvement, preserving, however, the style of the authors' expression.

The journal has established a strategy to guarantee originality, access and preservation of the articles. This is achieved by using the SEER system that incorporates the LOCKSS system (*Lots of Copy Keep Stuff Safe*TM - <http://www.lockss.org/>). LOCKSS creates a system of distributed files among participant libraries. It allows them to create permanent files of the journal issues for preservation and restoration. In the future, depending upon financial support, Ambi-Agua will implement the "Digital Object Identifier" (DOI), developed by the DOI Foundation (www.doi.org) that connects the reader with the publisher and helps on the copyright management, what certainly will increase the accessibility of the published articles.

FINAL REMARKS

The release of *Ambiente e Água* is intended to be a service to the scientific community in the areas of water resources and environmental sciences from Brazil and worldwide. Especially, it is expected that **Ambi-Agua** contributes to the international scientific publication and to the global scientific integration. This Journal publishes original articles in Portuguese, English and Spanish languages. In this first edition, articles were published in all three languages from different areas of the Americas (Central and South). These articles deal with the relationships between sea surface temperature and lobster (*Panulirus argus*) catching; the variability of hydrologic response associated to episodic events such as El Niño and La Niña; detection in almost real time of deforestation in Amazonia; the combined effect of irrigation and nitrogen fertilization on wheat yield; climatic characterization and temporal trends of air temperature and precipitation; and, the spatial increase in irrigated areas in the mid Vale do Paraíba do Sul region in southeast Brazil, which characterizes the interdisciplinary nature of this Journal.

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