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www.agro.unitau.br/ambi-agua
E-mail: ambi-agua@agro.unitau.br
Tel.: (12) 3625-4116

New accomplishments of Ambiente & Água scientific journal (doi:10.4136/ambi-agua.69)

Getulio Teixeira Batista

Professor of 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

ABSTRACT

Ambiente & Água – An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science (Ambi-Agua) was classified as B2 in the Interdisciplinary Area, the major thematic area of this journal, by CAPES classification system known as "Qualis". Also, the journal was registered in the Digital Object Identifier (DOI[®]) System. Three other facts were accomplished: 1) all published articles since April, 2008 have the submitted and accepted dates stamped; 2) long-term preservation will be now secured in association with DOAJ - Lund University Libraries and the e-Depot of the National Library of the Netherlands (KB); and 3) we entered into an electronic licensing relationship with EBSCO Publishing to have full text of our journal in EBSCO Publishing's databases in the near future.

Keywords: Ambi-Água; Qualis CAPES; DOI[®]; environment; water.

Recently, the Brazilian Agency from the Ministry of Education concerned with the graduate level education, known as CAPES, published its ranking of major scientific journals that have articles published by graduate school programs (master and doctoral degree students and professors) in Brazil. Ambiente & Água – An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science (Ambi-Agua) was classified as B2 in the Interdisciplinary Area, the major thematic area of this journal. CAPES classification system known as "Qualis" ranks all journals (national and international) based on bibliometric parameters, in the following categories:

- A1, highest level;
- A2;
- B1;
- B2;
- B3;
- B4;
- B5;
- C – lowest level.

This classification system is the result of a new structure for publication judgment that tried to improve the previous system and establish criteria that consider which “scientific journals” are relevant for each specific knowledge area and only those that met that criterion were classified by CAPES “Qualis”. In addition, only those publications that have renowned editorial board, peer review evaluation by ad hoc reviewers, and a valid ISSN can be considered. Some thematic areas have well established indexing criteria that can be used as reference, such as impact factor indices (H Index, for instance). CAPES considers that the two top strata (A1 and A2) should not be over populated in order to emphasize the unquestionable

quality of journals classified in these two strata that are left blank in several areas or include only journals that have long term irrefutable quality. Thus, each area indicates their own direction to improve the quality of its community scientific production and not only points out where the production that is being published but also emphasizes the highest classified journals of that area. Another feature of these “Qualis” new criteria is the policy to establish unique criteria for large knowledge areas such as Engineering or Health. Thus, inside a large area the rules should be similar, but a journal can still have different grades in distinct areas with different traditions. Therefore, Qualis continues to be the reference for the intellectual production of graduate “Strictu Sensu” programs evaluated by CAPES. More details on “Qualis” can be seen in Batista (2007) and in <http://www.capes.gov.br/servicos/sala-de-imprensa/36-noticias/2550-capes-aprova-a-nova-classificacao-do-qualis>. In this new classification system, the criteria of each area have to be approved by the Technical Scientific Council of Higher Education (CTC-ES) to secure transparency among the several thematic areas.

The classification of Ambiente & Água journal by Qualis CAPES opens up new opportunities to improve this journal’s infrastructure. From now on the journal can apply to government funds to cover operational expenses. The B2 grade obtained in its first classification was, in fact, an excellent one. This achievement could be compared with other grades received by several more traditional journals that publish in similar scientific areas. It certainly will increase the number of submissions due an increased confidence factor to be perceived by the scientific community. However, Ambi-Água scientific board will continually strive to improve its quality to deserve a better classification in future CAPES Qualis announcements.

Another important accomplishment is Ambi-Água registration in the Digital Object Identifier (DOI[®]) System that was conceived for identifying content objects in the digital environment, fulfilling an announcement made in the editorial of volume 3, number 1 (Batista, 2008). The DOI[®] System provides a persistent identification of a published article or object, even if it is deposited in a different location. In addition, it helps to secure intellectual content of online published articles, and facilitate the visibility to content suppliers. The system is developed and controlled by the International DOI Foundation (<http://dx.doi.org/>).

The DOI system was conceived in the late 1990’s to fulfill the need to uniquely and unambiguously identify content entities, rather than to refer to them by location addresses (URL). The International DOI Foundation was incorporated in 1998 to develop the system. The first DOI Registration Agency began in 2000; by mid 2008 around 40 million DOI names had been assigned through eight Registration Agencies affiliated with the DOI Foundation. The most widely known application of the DOI system is the CrossRef crosspublisher citation. Its service allows a researcher to link a reference citation directly to the cited content on another publisher’s platform. Ambi-Água is registered with this Agency by its editing institution, the Institute for Environmental Research in Hydrographic Basins (IPABHi). More details on DOI system can be seen in Paskin (2009).

As of this issue Ambi-Água has the following DOIs registration:

- [doi:10.4136/1980-993X](https://doi.org/10.4136/1980-993X) for the journal Ambiente & Água - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science;
- [doi:10.4136/ambi-agua.v1.n1](https://doi.org/10.4136/ambi-agua.v1.n1) for the first issue (volume 1, number 1, August 2006);
- ... up to [doi:10.4136/ambi-agua.v4.n1](https://doi.org/10.4136/ambi-agua.v4.n1) for the current issue (volume 4, number 1, April 2009);
- [doi:10.4136/ambi-agua.1](https://doi.org/10.4136/ambi-agua.1) for the first published article (August 2006);
- ... up to [doi:10.4136/ambi-agua.80](https://doi.org/10.4136/ambi-agua.80) for the last published article of this issue.

To resolve a DOI one has to link to DOI Foundation (<http://dx.doi.org/>) and type the DOI of the article or object. No matter where it is currently deposited the DOI should direct to the sought object.

Three other facts are worthy mentioning: First, all published articles since April 2008 have the submission and acceptance dates stamped on them. This is important for potential authors that could verify the throughput of manuscripts throughout the editorial procedure. This is also used in several indexing systems for journal evaluation. Secondly, long-term preservation of Open Access Journals will be now secured in association with The Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ) - Lund University Libraries and the e-Depot of the National Library of the Netherlands (KB) that announced the start of cooperation in order to secure long-term preservation of open access journals. The Swedish Library Association is generously acting as sponsor for this. Therefore, all articles published in *Ambi-Agua* are expected to have this additional storage location. Third, *Ambi-Agua* has entered into an electronic licensing relationship with EBSCO Publishing, the world's most prolific aggregator of full text journals, magazines, and other sources. The full text of our journal will be found on EBSCO Publishing's databases shortly.

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