Brazilian Congress on Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences: history, organization and scientific production

ABSTRACT

Objective: to present the history of the Brazilian Speech Therapy and Audiology Congress, exposing its organization and characterizing part of the scientific production published in its annals in the last ten years.

Methods: a theoretical, descriptive-exploratory study, with a bibliographic data source. The analysis was based on data available on the website of the Brazilian Society of Speech Therapy and Audiology, and restricted to the last ten years. The findings considered the year of publication, the publication category and the study area. The statistical analysis applied the Statistical Package for Social Sciences.

Results: since 2006 eleven specialties have been recognized. The areas available for submitting papers changed between 2008 and 2011. From 2012 to 2017, 7,296 participants and 5,166 publications were identified. A decrease in both publications and participants is seen since 2014. In 2017, the number of papers was higher than the number of participants. Submissions in the “thesis/dissertation” category increased by 110%. Papers of a specific field related to the human voice presented the highest number of papers in the period.

Conclusion: the increase in the number of specialists, added to technological advances, may partially justify a reduction in the number of participants; however, new relocations are necessary as a way to keep the event up to date and attractive, in face of the profession’s new trends.

Keywords: Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences; Publications; Conferences
INTRODUCTION

The Brazilian Society of Speech and Hearing Therapy (SBFa) is defined as a non-profit association which aims to bring together health and education professionals of the country with interest in academic and clinical activities related to the area. This institution was founded in October 1988, when a group of speech therapists met with the purpose of bringing to Brazil the First International Congress of Speech Therapy, which took place in the following year.

There are records concerning the first national meeting of the category, which occurred in November 1982 at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP). Since 1991, the Brazilian Congress of Speech Therapy and Audiology takes place annually, being considered by the organs of development as the most respectable event of the category.

The publication of the SBFa journal, which initiated in 1997, demonstrated increased profession recognition, encouraging the scientific production in the area.

In 2010, the administrative system of the organ was altered and was decentralized, involving a total of 70 managers from various departments and committees; besides the Teaching Commission. Currently, its coordination is composed of seven departments subdivided into 18 committees, as follows:

1. Hearing and Balance Department (Hearing Committee and Equilibrium Committee);
2. Department of Dysphagia (Childhood Dysphagia Committee, Adult Mechanical Dysphagia Committee and Adult Neurogenic Dysphagia Committee);
3. Department of Educational Audiology
4. Language Department (Supplementary and Alternative Communication Committee, Fluency Committee, Oral and Written Language Committee for Children and Adolescents, and Adult and Elderly Oral and Written Language Committee);
5. Department of Orofacial Motricity (Orofacial Motricity Committee for Adults and Seniors and Orofacial Motricity Committee for Childhood and Adolescence);
6. Department of Collective Health (Health Care Committee, Epidemiology Committee, Public Policy Committee on Education and Public Health Policy Committee);
7. Voice Department (Phonology Committee, Clinical Voice Committee and Professional Voice Committee).


The congress brings together undergraduate students to renowned professors. This heterogeneity is extremely positive, since it favors exchanging experiences between the participants instigating the curiosity in the younger ones and thus, intensifying scientific researches.

Its importance is evidenced by the significant amount of papers submitted, allowing the dissemination and socialization of the results of the researches in the area, performed by the participants.

Brazil has been concerned about monitoring the scientific production, addressing issues such as the production disperception-concentration, discrepancy of the various knowledge areas and comparison of this production with the international.

The increasing number of scientific publications in the country has led different areas to analyze the studies carried out and researches which have been developed, for considering such analysis important in the memory building process and improvement of knowledge. By delineating the historical panorama of a field, it is possible to know the research trends and if they offer necessary information for future execution.

According to Barros and Lehfeld (2003, p.30), scientific research "consists on the exploration, inquiry and it is the systematic and intensive procedure that aims to discover, explain and understand the inserted facts, or that make up a certain reality." Authors have been dedicated to the scientific production study, not only through publications in specialized periodicals, but also including books, theses, dissertations and congresses annals, since they also constitute dissemination means, accessibility and knowledge acquaintance.

In 2015, Maturana identified and analyzed the scientific production of theses and dissertations, produced between 2001 and 2011, analyzing the relationship between school-family of special education target children.

The study by Da Silva, 2017, employed a systematic analysis of the annals of the Scientific Initiation and Extension Conference of the Federal Institute of
Education, Science and Technology of Tocantins to diagnose the production, by year and by knowledge area, during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The same has happened to the Speech Therapy area. Braga et al. In 2014, established bibliometric indicators related to indexed production, based on dissertations and theses presented in the postgraduate program of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology of a public institution, concluding that the concentration of articles published by post-graduate students, is in Brazilian journals, in the speech therapy area.

In 2017, the study by Nascimento et al. aimed to verify scientific productions correlating phonoaudiology and psychoanalysis, in the Brazilian and international literature.

In the same year, Witwytzkyj and Tavares, analyzed the current perspectives regarding Speech-Language Pathology and Public Health and presented their evolution, concluding that the speech-language pathologists prefer to submit their articles for publication in journals recognized by the professionals of the area.

Following the trend of other researchers and sharing the concern to understand both the professional scenario and the scientific panorama of the Speech Therapy and Audiology, the present study aims to present the history of the Brazilian Speech Therapy and Audiology Congress, the main event in the area, exposing its organization and characterizing part of the scientific production, published in its annals in the last ten years.

METHODS

This study is characterized as theoretical, descriptive-exploratory, based on bibliographic data source. It was elaborated from personal reflection and analysis of original primary documents. Considering that there was no involvement of human beings, it was not necessary to submit the study to the Ethics and Research Committee.

The bibliographic research provides a wide range of information, besides enabling the use of scattered data in numerous publications, also helping to define the conceptual framework which comprises the proposed object of study.

The systematic review was carried out during the months of December 2017 and January 2018. The main analysis of this study was based on data available on the website of the Brazilian Society of Speech and Hearing Therapy, which contains the links of all Brazilian Speech Therapy Congresses, since 1989.

It was decided to restrict the exposure of the event organization and the characterization of the scientific production published in the annals of the last ten years, so that it is possible to analyze the recent advances in publications.

The inclusion criteria considered the categories “poster”, “prize competitor”, “dissertation” and “thesis”. The works about categories “How I do it”, “How we did it”, “Departmental meeting”, “Panel”, “Round tables”, “Interdisciplinary symposia”, “Workshop”, “Workshops” and “Session of free subjects “or” Oral communications “(extinct since 2013) were excluded, as well as the Alternative and Supplementary Communication area, only present in the 2008 annals.

The content analysis proposed by Bardin (2011), consisted of three stages: pre-analysis; material exploitation and treatment of results.

From the obtained results, an instrument was elaborated to characterize the found material, making a script defined by three research areas: 1) year of publication, 2) publication category and 3) work enrollment area.

Afterwards, the statistical analysis was performed, employing the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 13.0, using the descriptive analytical method for data production, categorized according to their absolute (N) and relative (%) values.

Considering the total production in the last ten years, it was possible to make an analysis regarding temporality, throughout the period, and per year of congress.

RESULTS

The organization of the event was altered during the analyzed period. The areas below were available for papers submission, in each year of the congress:

- 2009 and 2010: the same areas of 2008, except Clinic in Alternative and Supplementary Language and Communication.
- 2011: the same of 2009 and 2010, excluding Public Health Management and subdividing the area
of “Public Policies in Health and Education” into “Public Health Policies” and “Public Policies in Education”.

- 2012 to 2017: Hearing and Balance (HAB), Dysphagia (DYS), Teaching Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (TSL), Orofacial Motricity (OM), Educational Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ESL), Collective Health (CH) and Voice (V).

To facilitate data presentation, collected in this study, they were divided into 2 phases. Phase 1 represents the period from 2008 to 2011; and phase 2 refers to the period between 2012 and 2017. This classification is justified by the alterations in the works submission areas.

Regarding scientific production, 4,408 researches were identified between 2008 and 2011, considering the categories available at the time: “prize competitor” \( n = 470 \) and “poster” \( n = 3,938 \).

During the years studied, 7,296 participants attended the event, showing a reduction of 65.3% in 2012 \( (n = 1,916) \) to 2017 \( (n = 665) \), when the number of papers published was higher than the number of participants.

### Table 1. Papers published in the annals of the Brazilian Congresses of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, from 2008 to 2011*, classified by area and category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearing and Balance</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>660</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>226</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching in Speech Therapy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orofacial Motricity</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>513</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>432</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluency</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phononcology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collective Health Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech - Adults and elderly people</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech - childhood and teenagers</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>841</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Public Policies in Health and Education</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>179</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical voice</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>212</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional voice</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>382</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>108*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language clinic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative and Suplementary communication</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 155 942 110 987 97 1139 108* 870 4408

* In the annals of 2011, publications of works competing for prizes were not identified by area.

Legend: PC: Prize competitor, P: poster.
available. It was observed that 2012 presented the largest number of publications and that, in the last three years, there was a production decrease in the areas “Hearing”, “Orofacial Motricity” and “Voice”.

Table 2. Total of papers published in the annals of the Brazilian Congresses of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, for poster, prize competitor and thesis / dissertation categories, from 2012 to 2017, per area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>HAB</th>
<th>DYS</th>
<th>TSL</th>
<th>OM</th>
<th>ESL*</th>
<th>LGG</th>
<th>CH</th>
<th>VOICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>186</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>1,171</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>5,166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The area of Educational Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences was included in the annals of the Brazilian Congress of Speech Hearing Pathology in 2013.

In 2017, 697 papers were published in the different categories: “thesis / dissertation” (n = 63), “prize competitor” (n = 720) and “poster” (n = 4,383). There was a significant increase in the number of theses and dissertations (110%), simultaneously to a decrease in the other categories.

Figure 2. Papers published in the annals of the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, from 2012 to 2017, classified by submission category

Figure 3 shows the total number of papers published in the category “poster”, in the Brazilian Speech-Language Pathology Congress annals, classified by area and year. It was observed that all the available areas showed a reduction in the number of publications from 2012 to 2017.
DISCUSSION

The Brazilian Society of Speech Therapy and Audiology plays an important role in the professional category that it represents, struggling for its interests and bringing together health and education professionals.

Over the years, with the crescent recognition of the profession, alterations have occurred in the profile of the class. Consequently, the association demanded reorganization in its administrative system. In 2010, the management decentralization occurred, and the departments with their respective scientific committees were implemented.

After some adjustments regarding the areas available for works publications, they remain unchanged since 2012.

This relocation was aimed at grouping subareas which studied unusual themes. For example, the areas “Clinical Voice” and “Professional Voice” have been merged and transformed into the current area called “Voice”.

The event was also adapted to the format and its programming was modified, so that the course classrooms started to be identified by the name of the areas they represented:

Considering the growing number of Departments and the consequent increase in the amount of scientific activities carried out in the venue of the congress, in 2012, the SBF’s Executive Board needed to expand the number of rooms in the congresses, to house all. [...] With this enlargement, it would naturally be necessary to associate an image with a visual identity that, above all, could facilitate the congressmen location. Thus, the Board of Directors understood that in large events, such as the Brazilian Congress of Speech-Language Pathology, it would be better for the congressmen to locate themselves according to the representative pairs of their areas [...] (SBFa, 2013).

In its last edition, in 2017, this physical disposition was not observed.

Regarding the publications, after analyzing the papers published in the annals from 2008 to 2017, 9574 abstracts were identified among the “poster” categories (n = 8321), “prize competitor” (n = 1082) and “dissertation / thesis” (n = 63), so that 2010 presented the highest amount of submissions.

The scientific production is presented as an activity for generating ideas, innovation, reflection and
knowledge dissemination. The information derived from these studies is one of the essential forms for propagating the intellectual work in a specific area of knowledge28.

Several Brazilian studies applied, as methodology, the analysis of annals of congresses, aiming to verify the published papers evolution, in a given area, or to analyze the profile of the researches carried out by a specific category19-24.

The Brazilian Congress of Speech-Language Pathology has presented a significant scientific production in the last 10 years. The submission rules to annals of events are less rigorous and the process is less bureaucratic, when compared to the instructions of qualified journals. Nevertheless, the annals are still considered as an important way to propagate information and to make the research available for reading.

Annals publications constitute a so-called “gray” literature, since it flows rapidly between peers and does not depend on the formalization required to present conventional documents25. According to Lacerda et al. (2008)26, they are considered unconventional and constitute the type of literature which is not available in commercial channels.

The increased flexibility regarding submission rules encourages students to participate in the event and share their researches. It is an opportunity to discuss the study with the peers and to obtain recognition of the academic society for the efforts.

Meadows (2000, p.39)27, classified the scientific communication into two types: formal, when they establish a lasting existence and depend basically on the vision, highlighting the books and periodicals; and, informal, when communication is manifested through speech, without official registration:

“Congresses and conferences are the prototype of informal interaction. The oral interaction ranges from a lecture delivered before a large audience to the trivial conversations during a pause for coffee”27.

Participation in scientific events enables contacts which may even interfere in the professional future of the individual; since they enable the intention to enhance knowledge: “Congress and conference participants can plan specific contacts in advance, also some unforeseen, but useful, during the event”27.

Regarding the history of the Speech Therapy specialties, the first five areas were recognized in 2006: Audiology, Language, Orofacial Motricity, Voice and Collective Health. Since then, considering the professional demand, seven additional specialties were generated to meet the different needs and requirements of the category: Educational Speech-Language Pathology and Dysphagia (2010); Gerontology, Neurofunctional Speech and Hearing Pathology and Phonoaudiology at Work (2014) and Fluency (2017). There are currently 6633 titles in the country. The areas of “Audiology”, “Orofacial Motricity” and “Voice” present the highest concentration of specialists.

The social insertion of the speech therapist, the professional activity and the expansion of the labor market, has led the professional class to resume the debate on specialties in 2001, initiating a new process to update the resolutions. In order to organize the work methodologically, it was employed the Dacum method - methodology of description of occupations and curricula, following the principles of education based on skills – aiming to establish dynamics that could help defining the gaps which required the creation of new specialties28.

The constant creation of new specialties in the last decade, can either be considered an important achievement of the profession, as an expansion of knowledge of the Speech-Language Pathology in subspecialties; as it can be considered as a detachment from the general view of science and the patient.

According to Ferigotti and Nagib (2009)28, the specialties are subject to the dynamic processes of Speech Therapy and cannot therefore be permanent or immutable, and may, depending on the circumstances and needs, undergo alterations of names, mergers, creations and/or extinctions.

This rise in the number of specialists has consequently caused an increase of qualified professionals to teach and share their knowledge. Increasingly targeted courses may have contributed to the significant reduction of enrollments in the Brazilian Congress, which was recorded progressively since 2014.

The national parameter has pointed to a trend of professionals seeking to improve their knowledge after graduation by investing in different types of courses in the areas of interest.

Regarding the types of professional training offered, in addition to congresses and meetings, extension, improvement and specialization courses were identified. Faced with so many offers, many professionals prefer to attend events that best fulfil their needs.
Using the descriptor “courses for speech therapists” in a search site, different options for updating, denominated as extension courses, specializations, online courses and video lessons were found. They included: “Fundamental parameters of speech-language assessment in autism”, “Extension Courses - Educational Speech-Language Pathology: improving practices, programs and guidelines”, “Current trends in the evaluation and treatment of behavioral dysphonia”, “Brain Stem Evoked Auditory Potential: understanding concepts”\(^{29}\). Recognized institutions, such as the Albert Einstein Hospital and the Brazilian Dyslexia Association, for example, also offer training in several areas.

It was observed that the numbers of hours, the venue and the type of course (in classroom or online), are factors taken into account by the students, for the enrollment.

According to Alonso\(^{30}\), in 2010, the Brazilian Statistical Yearbook, for online studies, estimated in 2008, a total of 2,504,438 Brazilians enrolled in online courses. Of these, 40% attended graduation courses and 39% were lato sensu. The other students were distributed in different levels of education.

The technological advances reached in the last years, including the educational area, have also interfered on the participants’ attendance to important national events. The presence, once guaranteed of certain groups has now become dubious, in face of new empowerment possibilities.

As for the research field “area for paper submission”, studies concerning the “Voice” area have deserved special attention. In this study, the highest number of publications of the period was recorded, both in the thesis / dissertation category (\(n = 20\)) and in the prize competitor category (\(n = 153\)), which in 2017 registered a 75% decrease.

Regarding the categories of studies presentation, 4383 posters were identified. The areas of Educational Audiology and Public Health were the only ones which indicated an increased number of publications from 2016 to 2017. A reduction was observed in the other six areas.

This same drop observed for papers submission, has also occurred for event enrollments; even more aggressively. In 2017 the number of participants was lower than the number of publications.

Tachibana et al. (2004)\(^{31}\), carried out a study with Psychology undergraduates, in order to identify the meaning they attributed to complementary activities, such as scientific events. The results showed that teachers are the greatest motivators for the students’ participation, and the interest in acquiring more knowledge can be a differential in their professional education.

By verifying the influence that the academic professionals have upon the students, there should be a reflection concerning the stimuli that the students are receiving to participate in congresses, both as listeners and as paper authors: knowledge acquisition is fundamental for the progress of science and an opportunity for improving scientific findings.\(^{32}\)

The fact that several authors have submitted more than one work per person, implies that the current audience of the event presents a profile oriented to the academic area, and therefore, the number of papers has increased. Or, it may also denote that there was lack of interest of clinicians in attending the congress, and for this reason, the reduction in the number of enrollees has evidenced the amount of papers.

In any case, all aspects discussed point to the necessity of rethinking the organizational structure of the Brazilian Congress of Speech-Language Pathology, perhaps in the same way, as in 2012: “understanding the current context of scientific production in a certain area of knowledge constitutes an essential element for new research proposals to emerge in the academic field”.\(^{33}\)

In 2006 Gontijo et al.\(^{34}\) made an analysis entitled “The impact factor of the annals and their insertion in the national scientific universe”, in which they presented the concern upon the impact factor of the Annals concerning the Brazilian Congress of Speech-Language Pathology, which, according to the authors, was “below the desirable and incompatible with the robustness of the Brazilian Dermatology, therefore, not corresponding to its real insertion in the national scientific universe.”

It is clear the importance of publications in scientific congresses annals and their representativeness for the professional category. Identifying the reduction in the number of publications requires a response, and if that does not occur, it may trigger a non-returnable process, altering the promising pathway of the Speech Therapy.

**CONCLUSION**

This study aimed to present the history of the Brazilian Congress of Speech Therapy and Audiology exposing its organization and characterizing part of the scientific production published in its annals in the last ten years.
From the analysis of the event history, it was possible to understand the reasons why there were alterations in its organization during the period from 2008 to 2012. It was necessary to reshuffle the areas of submission of papers, to keep the congress up to date and attractive, in line with the profession’s new trends.

The scientific production characterization considered the following investigation areas: year of publication, category of publication and area of paper submission. There was a significant reduction in the number of participants and submissions, mainly from 2014.

One reason for this reduction may be related to the increased number of specialists, able to teach courses in their respective areas as well as the technological advances, which guarantee the flexibility of time in online platforms.

With the opportunity to prioritize individual needs as well as personal amenities, it has been more attractive and convenient for the professionals to choose these types of training.

This study pointed out the limitations and achievements related to the scientific production in the annals of the Brazilian Congress during the last ten years. From the identification of the current panorama, it is possible to rethink strategies and articulate new proposals.

Throughout periods of time, the conceptions, realities and professional needs undergo alterations, as well as the teaching dynamics. An innovative proposal will be necessary to stimulate the interest of students and the newly graduated, as well as to recall the professionals who have stopped attending events.

It is also worth noting that a study focused on the survey of the participants’ profile enrolled in the congresses would bring significant contributions for a reflection on the evolution of the event.

REFERENCES


## ANNEX 1

### List of the Speech and hearing pathology events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CITY-STATE</th>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>São Paulo - SP</td>
<td>November 25 to 27</td>
<td>I Encontro Nacional de Fonoaudiologia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Santa Maria – RS</td>
<td>May 1 to 4</td>
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Source: Brazilian Society of Speech Therapy and Audiology (available at: http://www.sbfa.org.br/portal)