

National publications and the BJPS: the future in our hands!

*“We are the memory we have
And the responsibility we assume.
Without memory we do not exist,
Without responsibility
Maybe we do not deserve to exist”
J. Saramago*

After reading this remarkable thought of so a distinguished Portuguese writer, José Saramago, the reader may question the reason for this “illustration”. Indeed, thinking about the moment of our publication, currently *Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, it can be highly appropriate.

In 2009 we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the publication. So much history, so many characters! With this past memory alive we have assumed the responsibilities of the present while in search for the future improvement.

If in 2008 we thought about being right in our decisions (Aranha, 2008), in 2009, believing in the change we took the plunge and broke the language barrier. Nowadays, writing about the new phase of the publication’s history, we are experiencing the second year of English as the official language of our journal. Have we discarded our nationality with this decision? The answer is no. On the contrary, assuming English as the official language ironically means to stand up for “our science” and turn it into more visible around the world. This was, and it is, our goal – to break the barriers of communication. This has not been an easy task towards our editorial process, in both the search for good professionals for reviewing and adequating the specialized terminology and in the search for funds to support those actions. Thanks to our insertion in SciELO, a national database, presently expanded throughout Latin America, which we defend and are proud of, we have now the availability of bibliometric indexes which allow the publication performance analysis. With those statistical data, the evolution of our visibility can be evaluated. In 2009, the increase of confirmed citation, comparatively to the previous number, was registered. This scenario can be depicted in Graph I, in which the number of citations from 2002 to 2009 is presented allowing us to evaluate the growth mentioned before.

Other information which can be figured from those data is that concerning the paper accesses or downloads. The previous *Revista Brasileira de Ciências Farmacêuticas* had 1.420.316 paper accesses during its edition and inclusion in SciELO data base, while the further *Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* presents 42.500 accesses, from its inclusion in the same base, in 2009. This shows a growth tendency higher than that observed before (Table I). That information leads us to the conclusion that our decision about the change of language was right. Let's then celebrate!

Nevertheless, to stimulate the Academy responsible for the development of Brazilian science to search for the advance of national indexed journals as effective ways of divulging its research which aims to be internationally recognized is our challenge. It is necessary to support them, despite the criticism on the question of quantity versus quality; the present and questionable processes of scientific productivity evaluation and the concern about the concourse performance. Besides, it is necessary to recognize the importance of using the English language in the science divulgation.

Being aware of the risks of changing our editorial policy, we confirmed the decrease in the number of manuscripts submitted for publication in the BJPS, as expected (Graph II). This reflects a cultural aspect which deserves to be reviewed although it takes time to be changed.

We insist on the question about the credibility the scientific community must give to BJPS, expressively widening its visibility. This fact, in addition to the efforts editors and collaborators have made, means to overcome the inferiority complex that we have been facing in national scientific journals, as also pointed out by Torresi *et al.* (2010) and Salinas (2010).

Although the number of manuscripts submitted for publication has decreased, the increasing of published papers has fortunately been maintained (Graph III). This fact has led to the increase in the received and confirmed citations, as we have been able to maintain the yearly average.

Other important evidence is that related to the BJPS paper accesses from September, 2009, to June, 2010. This fact leads us to believe that the journal multidisciplinary characteristic has been maintained; among the most accessed papers, many areas have been represented: Drugs and Medicines, Food and Nutrition, Pharmaceutical Attention and Pharmaceutical Care, Pharmacognosy and Cosmetics. It is also worth emphasizing that Editorials are among those papers. Those facts keep our purposes well defined. In addition, the interest of authors from abroad and of those from Brazilian states other than São Paulo has been increased. This implies BJPS visibility became wider in the national and international scenarios (Graph IV). Those data certainly put contradict myths and show us the ways to follow.

New goals arise and must be achieved, such as the necessity to increase BJPS in the Pharmaceutical Sciences worldwide; the publication of special and theme numbers, with the participation of foreign authors; the peer-review system improvement, giving more agility to the publication process, besides other initiatives. We have the responsibility to implement them all, although the expertise of some other editors must not be discarded as they faced the same problems in the past, which can not be out of our future debates. Torresi and colleagues (2010), editors of the well-known *Quimica Nova*, Professor Jailson B. de Andrade, *Journal of Brazilian Chemical Society's* editor and Professor Silvio R. A. Salinas, member of the *Brazilian Society of Physics*, published some notes in the respective journals/society stressing the little knowledge of Brazilian researchers about the national scientific journals. They pointed out the question of licensing the national scientific periodicals to international conglomerates with the purpose of increasing their international insertion, emphasizing the risks to the free access, which compromises the science democratization. Following those scientists and editors, we must highlight the importance of SciELO data base, a successful initiative, internationally recognized (Gerves, 2009), and agree with the chemists who defend that “the extension and international extension of ScieLO clearly show its success, which goes against the economic power of some big international companies because of the high fees they request for a paper” (Torresi *et al.*, 2010).

If in the beginning of those Editorial questions as nationality, responsibility and commitment were highlighted, we must now defend the national scientific journals. We hope they can keep free access and represent, at least partially, the national scientific production; they deserve special attention from the financial agencies and massive investment from the editors in the quality of their journals. All those factors are meaningless without the collaboration of the scientific community towards the advance of those publications. Yes, the future is in our hands!

I thank Professor Elizabeth Igne Ferreira, Scientific Editor of BJPS, for the opportunity to write this Editorial once again. By presenting our experiences, challenges and worries, we hope to have contributed towards the important reflection about our great responsibility.

Leila R. de Carvalho Aranha
Executive Editor
Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Table I

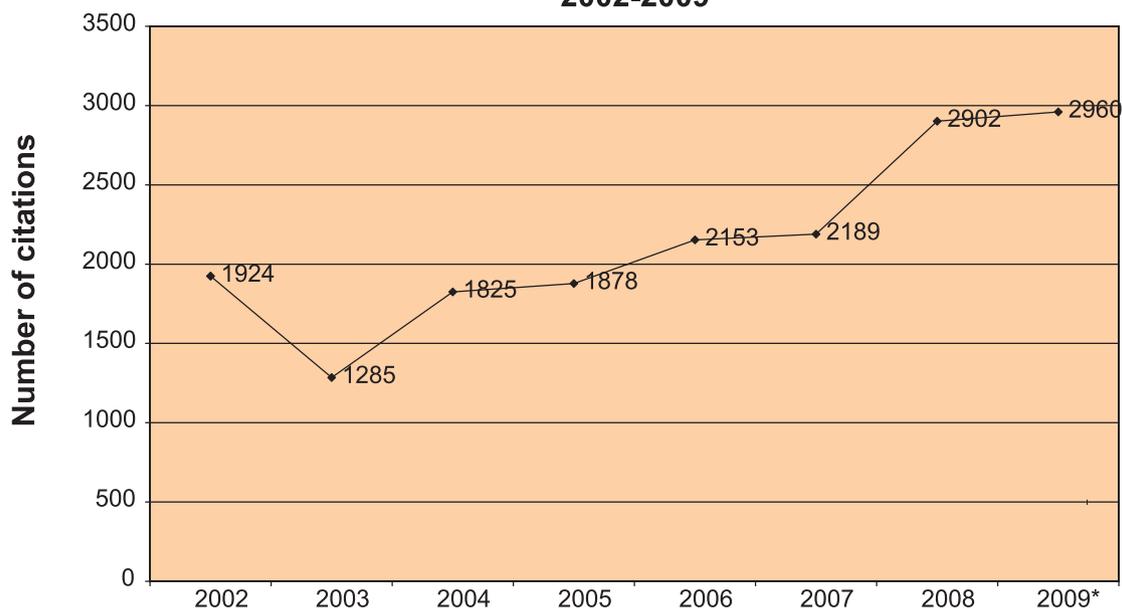
BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES								
Numerical basic / SCIELO*								
CONTENTS AND CITATIONS								
Year of Publication	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009**
Number of articles per year	45	47	58	53	58	68	79	96
No of granted citations	1924	1285	1825	1878	2153	2189	2902	2960
No of received citations	17	22	21	21	33	57	97	6
Average articles per issue	11,25	11,75	14,50	13,25	14,50	17,00	19,75	24,00

*Last processed date july-16-2010

Available at: <http://statbilbio.scielo.org/stat_bilbio.index.php?no=03xml & state=03 & lang=pt & issn=1984-8250>. Accessed on : 19 jul. 2010

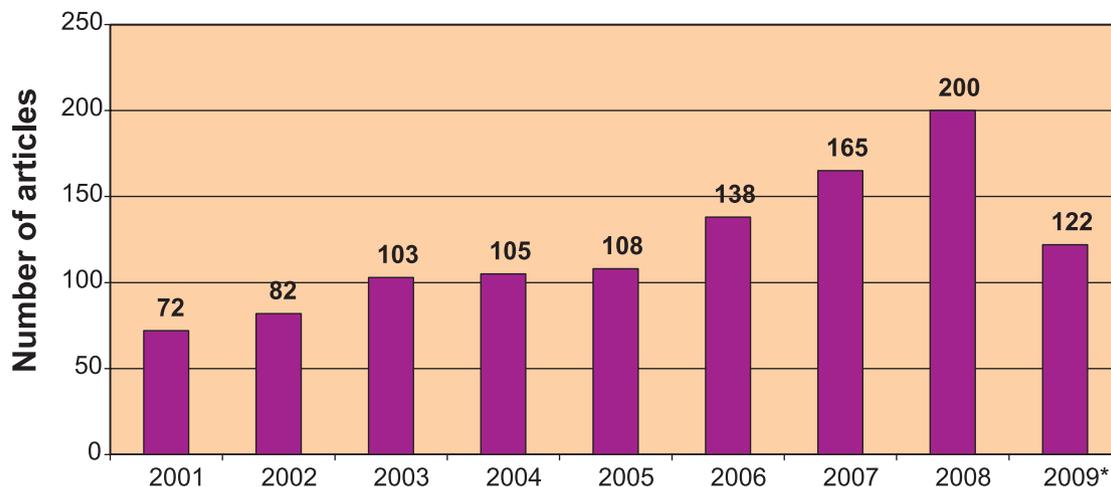
**Admitted to SciELO Brazil collection at Sep. 2009

Graph I
Granted citations per year
2002-2009



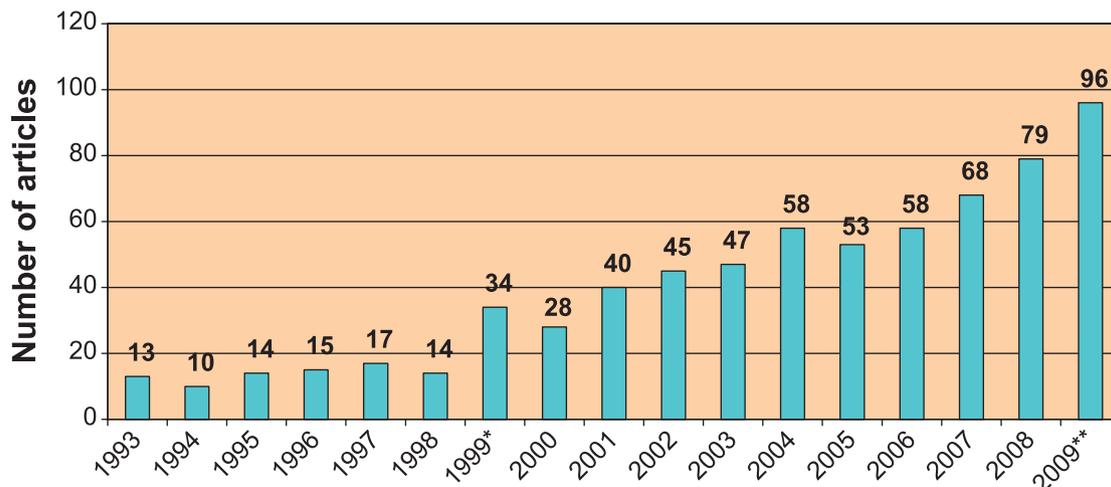
* Change to Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Graph II
 Submitted articles per year
 2000-2009



*Changed to: Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

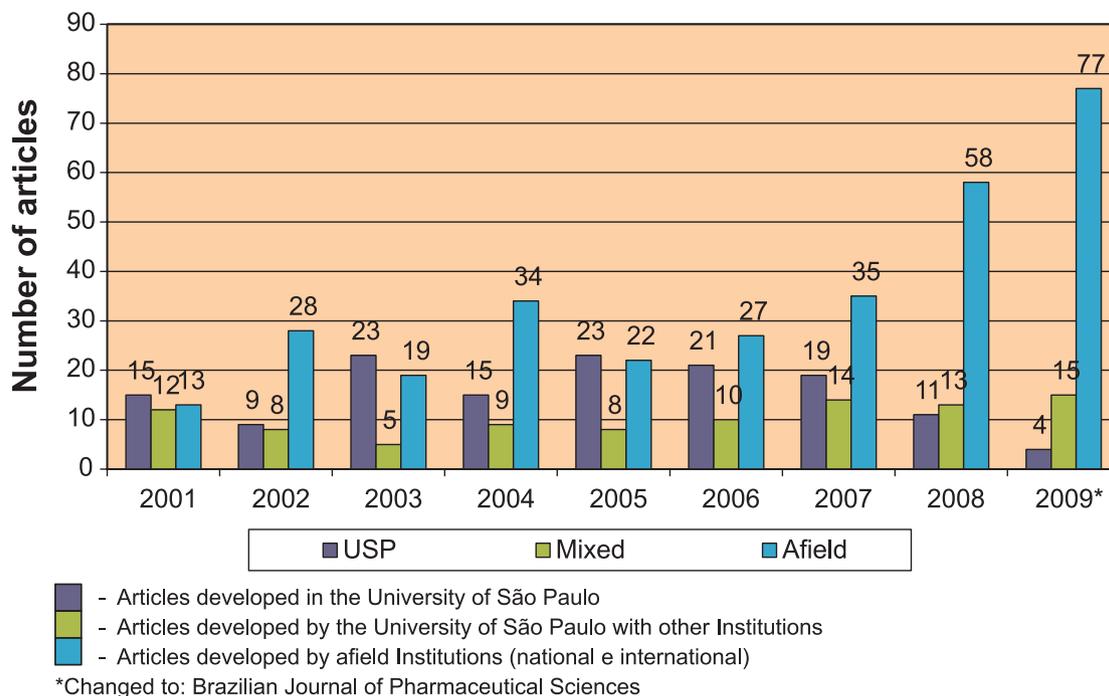
Graph III
 Published articles per year
 1993-2009



*Changed to: Revista Brasileira de Ciências Farmacêuticas/Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Changed to: Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Graph IV
Origin of published articles



REFERENCES

ARANHA, L. R. C. Reflexão para novas decisões. *Rev. Bras. Cienc. Farm.*, v.44, n.2, 2008.

GERVES, W. Globalizing science publishing. Editorial. *Science*, v.325, p.920, 2009.

SALINAS, S. R. A. Associação entre a Springer e o Brazilian Journal of Physics. *Boletim SBF*, n.1, 2010. Available at: <<http://www.sbf1.sbfisica.org.br/boletim1/msg201.htm>>. Accessed on: 16 jun. 2010.

TORRESI, S. I. C.; PARDINI, V. L.; FERREIRA, V. F.; ANDRADE, J. B. Há futuro para as revistas das sociedades científicas? *Quim. Nova*, v.33, n.2, p.243, 2010.