

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

This issue of *História, Ciências, Saúde — Manguinhos* brings two reasons for inviting our readers and contributors to join us in celebrating. The first is that the journal is now indexed in PubMed-MEDLINE, the world's most heavily used set of databases for health and medical professionals.

In the mid-1960s, bibliographic, technical, and scientific services began undergoing computerization. As the popularity of the internet spread, the 1990s saw more and more information become available on worldwide electronic networks. One of the oldest continuing databases is Zoological Record, a service whose coverage extends back to 1864. Under the responsibility of the British Museum of Natural History and the Zoological Society of London, it can now be accessed at <http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/200.jsp>.

PubMed-MEDLINE, sponsored by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>), covers some forty databases and receives over one million hits a day. According to a web page produced by Indiana's Purdue University—which, as a matter of fact, is an excellent guide for anyone who wants to navigate PubMed (visit <http://www.idi.ntnu.no/emner/tdt46/docs/Introduction%20to%20PubMed2.pdf> and see also *Guide for Finding History of Medicine or Older Medical Articles in PubMed* <http://info.med.yale.edu/library/historical/PubMedguide.html>)—the U.S. National Library of Medicine came into being thanks to Civil War veteran John Shaw Billings' efforts to organize the library of the US Army's senior medical officer, or Surgeon General. Billings' index cards soon turned into published lists, giving birth in 1879 to the *Index Medicus*.

In the mid-1960s, with the advent of the computer, *Index Medicus* was transformed into the Medical Literature and Retrieval System, or Medlars for short—christened *Medlars Online* (MEDLINE) when it was made available over the internet ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)).

MEDLINE became an open-access resource in 1997. It contains some nine million bibliographic references from over 4,500 periodicals, most dating back to 1966. Although it includes publications from over seventy countries, 80% of the articles are written in English—thus leaving out thousands of journals written in other languages, in countries with less tradition in research.

It was precisely to alter this correlation of forces that in 1997 the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) was born, a successful project backed by two Brazilian funding agencies (Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo/Fapesp and Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico/CNPq), along with the Latin

American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (Bireme). This portal of scientific periodicals encompasses a collection of titles from Brazil, a number of other Latin American countries, Spain, and the Pan American Health Organization (<http://www.scielo.org>).

The inclusion of *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* in *Scielo*, in 2000, was a watershed moment in the history of the journal. Among the many benefits reaped from our listing with *Scielo*, we can now add the journal's indexing in PubMed-MEDLINE, which links users directly to texts available at the Latin American e-Library. If you'd like to check it out, just jot down and follow this lengthy address: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=PubMed&term=Hist+Cienc+Saude+Manguinhos> [Journal: \_\_jrid23004].

*Manguinhos'* listing in PubMed-MEDLINE also comes thanks to the support of Elizabeth Fee, author of major studies in the history of health and the individual responsible for this sector of the U.S. National Library of Medicine. This past April, Dr. Fee gave the 2006 opening lecture at the Graduate Program in History of Health Sciences, part of Casa de Oswaldo Cruz/Fiocruz. Her topic was "The World Health Organization and AIDS: what can we learn from history?" She graciously agreed to be interviewed as well, and the text of our conversation will be published in the next issue of *Manguinhos*.

PubMed (<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>) comprises over sixteen million citations from MEDLINE and other life science periodicals, dating back to the 1950s. At first, PubMed practically mirrored the information found in MEDLINE, but since incorporating the databases built by the National Institutes of Health's Human Genome Project, it has served as the integrator of the hypertexts and records that have grown up around the Project, all part of the wealth of computerized bio-databases now in exponential expansion.

From 1951 to present, PubMed contains all historical articles indexed in MEDLINE, a database of current medical literature, and articles published in history periodicals not covered by the older indexer. Data on 1951-65 were added recently (a word to the wise: since records differ for articles indexed post-1966, it's good to employ more than one research strategy). Besides PubMed, don't miss out on two other sites: History of Science, Technology and Medicine (<http://echo.gmu.edu/index.php>) and the HISA Base (Bibliographic Base in History of Public Health in Latin America and the Caribbean), which also include books, book chapters, and theses (<http://www.coc.fiocruz.br/areas/dad/hisa/>).

In 2003, Ruth B. Martins wrote a Master's thesis entitled "From paper to computer: the trajectory of two Brazilian scientific journals" (Graduate Course in Information Sciences, Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia [IBICT], and the School of Communication, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro [ECO/UFRJ], Rio de Janeiro)—recommended reading for anyone who wants to know more about this complex universe of virtual libraries and indexers. In it, she shows how inclusion in MEDLINE is a veritable landmark for any periodical, like our older brother, *Cadernos de Saúde Pública*. New contributors and readers saw the latter journal in a different light once it made its

debut in the database they held in highest esteem. This encouraged the periodical to open up to new topics, in turn garnering a broader audience of readers and contributors. Let's hope we'll find ourselves going the same route.

The second important event that we'd like to celebrate with you, our readers, has to do with this threshold that *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* has just crossed. As we announced in the last issue, our editors have chosen six articles from among those published in the last two volumes to be translated into English, using CNPq funding earmarked to support Brazilian scientific periodicals released in an open-access electronic format.

The selected articles are "Medical reform in Brazil and the US: a comparison of two rhetorics," by Flavio Coelho Edler and Amy Kemp (v. 11, no. 3, Sep.-Dec. 2004); "Transformations in curing practices in Rio de Janeiro during the first half of the eighteenth century," by Tânia Salgado Pimenta (v. 11, sup. 1, 2004); "Revisiting the Spanish flu: the 1918 influenza pandemic in Rio de Janeiro," by Adriana da Costa Goulart (v. 12, no. 1, Jan.-Apr. 2005); "'Gold earrings, calico skirts': images of women and their role in the project to civilize the Amazon, as observed by Elizabeth Agassiz in *Viagem ao Brasil: 1865-1866*," by Fabiane Vinente dos Santos (v. 12, no. 1, Jan.-Apr. 2005); "Anthropology, race, and the dilemmas of identity in the age of genomics," by Ricardo Ventura and Marcos Chor Maio (v. 12, no. 2, May-Aug. 2005); and, lastly, "Globalization and environmentalism: polyphonic ethnicities in the Amazon," by Luiza Garnelo and Sully Sampaio (v. 12, no. 3, Sep.-Dec. 2005). The English translations of these articles will soon be available at SciELO.

I would like to close by reiterating our invitation to all authors whose articles have been approved for publication in our journal: submit an English version of your paper as well, because through Scielo and with the help of the powerful tool PubMed-MEDLINE, it will most certainly travel around the world.

*Jaime Larry Benchimol*  
Editor