

Revista Gaúcha de Enfermagem: 50 years of commitment to ethical and top-quality dissemination of scientific knowledge



Revista Gaúcha de Enfermagem: 50 anos de compromisso na disseminação do conhecimento científico com ética e qualidade

Revista Gaúcha de Enfermagem: Cincuenta años de compromiso con la difusión del conocimiento científico con ética y calidad.

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This is an epic moment. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Revista Gaúcha de Enfermagem (RGE), created in 1976, is to solidify its trajectory, painted not only by numbers, but above all, by unique voices that, in the multiplicity and convergence of their tones, gave identity to the publishing movement in scientific nursing in southern Brazil. Writing this editorial was a challenge that led us to encounter these voices, unveiled between the lines of RGE over half a century.

This is, therefore, an invitation to revisit the roots that sustain RGE throughout its trajectory and to attest that memory and future intertwine to reaffirm its commitment to the dissemination, ethics, and quality of knowledge produced in and for nursing. Even in the face of changes and innovations throughout its history, this commitment remains the fundamental basis for the journal's existence.

The emergence of RGE coincides with a period of profound transformations in the country and in Brazilian nursing itself. The University Reform of 1968, the growth of undergraduate courses, the first initiatives to create postgraduate nursing courses in the 70s, and the advancement of educational and healthcare research at the time, created a favorable environment for the birth of a journal that represented the critical thinking of nursing in Rio Grande do Sul.

The creation process of RGE began in the late 1970s by Professor Dirce Pessoa de Brum Aragón, a faculty member of the Department of Assistance and Professional Guidance (Departamento de Assistência e Orientação Profissional - DAOP) at what is now the School of Nursing and Public Health of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Escola de Enfermagem e Saúde Coletiva da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul - EENFSC-UFRGS), and also the mentor and first editor of RGE, which was initially linked to her department. Her conception was that the consolidation of a robust and socially legitimized professional practice required dedicated spaces for scientific dissemination, capable of recording, analyzing, and problematizing experiences in care, teaching, and management in health/nursing.

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To this end, she understood the journal as an instrument of transformation, capable of fostering critical reflection, consolidating knowledge, and projecting nursing as an autonomous scientific field.

Professor's Dirce vision, in her approach to nursing as a science, directed her editorial focus towards technical and scientific issues, thus characterizing it as an academic field. It also included in the publication legislative milestones of the profession, participation in professional bodies, category events, job market for nursing and health and education policies⁽¹⁾. Responsible for all stages of the editorial process, Professor Dirce instilled in the journal a pioneering, artisanal character, deeply committed to the ethical and methodological rigor of scientific production, even before the formalization of many of the norms that would come to govern scientific communication in the country.

When we revisit Volume 1 of RGE, we rediscover a time when Brazilian nursing was consolidating its first steps towards a scientifically grounded practice. In the inaugural editorials, numbers one, two, and three, the purpose that guided its creator emerges clearly: to offer nursing professionals in Rio Grande do Sul and the country their own space for the production, recording, and circulation of knowledge. This space can support professional training, enhancing practice, and developing emerging research in nursing.

It is noteworthy that, according with the voices expressed in between the lines of RGE, the systematic presence of poetic, biblical, and spiritual texts is particularly evident in Volume 1, in its first three issues. These texts were published at the end of each issue, articles, and after the editor's notes. These texts were written by philosophers, national and international writers, and nursing professors from EENFSC-UFRGS, making the editorial section dedicated to an aesthetic moment. This is believed not to be episodic, but rather to characterize the journal's editorial policy and, consequently, the cultural values of its publishing house. It is believed that such literary resources contributed to consolidating an epistemological field in which technical knowledge and human experience are not dissociated.

RGE ceased publication on two occasions between 1978 and 1979, following the death of its mentor and first editor, Professor Dirce Aragón. In 1982, it came under the administration of the EENFSC-UFRGS Organization, when its publication was once again interrupted due to financial, organizational, and technical-managerial reasons, which were overcome thanks to the efforts of many faculty, students, administrative staff, and others. Thus began a new cycle in the publication of RGE.

Following this cycle, it is observed that over the following decades, RGE's publishing process underwent various transformations to maintain its editorial flow and meet the emerging needs imposed by the scenarios of scientific publishing in the national and international context. These innovations also reinforce the journal's fundamental commitment to establishing itself as a reliable and contemporary channel for the consumption of scientific knowledge.

From 1997 to 1998, RGE published abstracts of dissertations and doctoral theses by faculty members of EENFSC-UFRGS, originating from the Southern Region Postgraduate Network (Rede de Pós-Graduação da Região Sul - REPENSUL). In 1999 and 2000, two special volumes were published with review articles produced by the first class of students of the Post-Graduate Master's program in Nursing. Continuing this initiative, in 2000 the first articles from these graduates' dissertations were published.

From 2008 onwards, RGE was incorporated into UFRGS' Electronic Journal Publishing System (Sistema Eletrônico de Editoração de Revistas - SEER), enabling the scientific community to access manuscripts published in different volumes online and free of charge. It is important to emphasize that, to this day, RGE remains one of the most prominent journals at the University, in terms of bibliometric indicators.

The RGE editorial horizon took on a new perspective when, in 2010, it became part of the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) collection. In this capacity, it became necessary to comply with the organization's requirements imposed on all journals indexed in it, such as implementing strategies for internationalization and editorial professionalization. In addition to these regulations and seeking to integrate into the world of scientific publishing, RGE's content was licensed under the Creative Commons (CC) BY-NC 4.0 license, later replaced by the current CC-BY license. In accordance with the Directory of Editorial Policies of Brazilian Scientific Journals

– Diadorim – and the international directory SHERPA/RoMEO, the journal authorizes the archiving of the final version of the article in open access digital repositories⁽²⁾.

The consolidation of ethical guidelines of RGE's scientific writing was aligned with international standards starting in 2010, seeking adjustments to the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the ethical resolutions for research with human beings determined by the National Health Council in its 1996 and 2013 guidelines, and, more recently, with research reporting guided by the EQUATOR® Network.

In this context, it is evident in RGE's trajectory that the publishing process undergoes complex transformations in response to the continuous commitment to integrity, transparency, and scientific quality, as a vehicle for disseminating knowledge with national and international relevance and visibility.

In the pursuit of modernization in the editorial process, in 2016, the journal migrated from Open Journal Systems publishing to ScholarOne Manuscripts®, providing greater agility to editorial workflows and thus reducing the time between submission and decision on manuscripts, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness. In 2017, all volumes from 1976 to 1992 were included in SEER, enabling free online access.

In order to ensure permanent access to the publication, the journal's content is preserved by the Brazilian Network of Digital Preservation Services Cariniana and the LOCKSS Program – Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe (Stanford University)⁽³⁾ and in LUME, UFRGS' Digital Repository. These are strategies to anchor the preservation of these five decades of academic and scientific production, something of immeasurable importance for recording nursing knowledge and projecting its future more concretely.

The continuous publication method for RGE's publication was adopted in 2018, in response to emerging demands from SciELO, providing immediate access to articles as soon as they are approved and edited. In 2019, it began using the iThenticate® similarity detection software, in accordance with good editorial practices, which aligns with its commitment to disseminating knowledge produced in nursing ethically and with quality.

RGE's participation in forums/associations on the national scene, whose purpose is to discuss and define policies for scientific publishing, has been constant over the last decade. RGE participates in the Nursing Journals Portal (Portal das Revistas de Enfermagem - Rev@Enf), the Journal Editors Forum of the Brazilian Nursing Association, and is affiliated with the Brazilian Association of Scientific Editors (Associação Brasileira de Editores Científicos - ABEC), as well as being part of the CAPES Journal Portal, another space for disseminating and accessing its publications.

The inclusion and maintenance of indexing in international databases has been a continuous objective on RGE's agenda, which has intensified in the last decade, in response to internationalization, visibility, and the consequent broad dissemination of the knowledge produced. Thus, it is indexed in the following databases: CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature), CUIDEN (Base de datos de Enfermería da Fundación Cuiden), EMBASE, International Nursing Index, LILACS (Literatura Latino-americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde), LAPTOC (Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents), LatIndex (Sistema Regional de Información en Línea para Revistas Científicas de América Latina, el Caribe, España y Portugal), MEDLINE/PubMed, MEDLINE Complete - EBSCOhost Research Databases, SciELO Citation Index, and SCOPUS.

Its solid indexing, notably its configuration in SCOPUS (currently scoring CiteScore 1.8 in 2024), MEDLINE/PubMed, and SciELO, combined with numerous editorial qualification initiatives over the past five decades, allow RGE a privileged position in the stratification of bibliographic production according to the proposal of the nursing area document at CAPES for the four-year period 2021-2024.

Another aspect that makes the journal unique in its fiftieth year is the initiative, since 2015, to publish special issues addressing national governmental agendas and/or those of international bodies, as well as emerging interests within the profession. This disseminates state-of-the-art knowledge of these policies to the nursing scientific community, contributing to knowledge translation.

RGE is in the process of adopting the principles of Open Science, which seeks to increase the transparency of data, methods, and processes of scientific research and dissemination, in addition to improving and defending science as a public good and a right for all. Thus, it maintains its commitment to democratizing access of knowledge and promoting high-quality research. In this regard, RGE is listed among the journals registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

This presentation offers an overview of the paths taken by RGE in 50 years of service to the nursing scientific community, as one of the longest-running and most respected scientific journals in the field of nursing in Brazil. But while the past lends solidity to RGE's history, the future calls for attention to emerging challenges impacting health, nursing, and contemporary societies.

May this fiftieth anniversary be, at the same time, a memory and a call to action: a memory of what has been accomplished and a call to action for the challenges posed by editorial sustainability that are emerging. May the coming decades renew RGE's founding commitment to ethics, quality, and the dissemination of knowledge that honors nursing and serves society.

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