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## Building bridges to strengthen historical research in Nursing

Construção de pontes para o fortalecimento da pesquisa histórica na Enfermagem

Construcción de puentes para el fortalecimiento de la investigación histórica en Enfermería

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The Electronic Journal HERE, ISSN 2176-7475, is a continuous publication by the *Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem* (ABEn Nacional, Brazilian Nursing Association). HERE is one of only two journals worldwide dedicated to disseminating knowledge in Nursing History, Health, and Education, through the publication of articles that contribute to the expansion of theoretical and methodological references, historical records, and sources of historical research, fostering dialogue among researchers and those interested in the journal's scope.

Moreover, topics related to Nursing History have contributions in the political, reflective, and critical fields, as well as in the professional identity of workers in this field, including nurses, technicians, nursing assistants, and midwives. These themes influence the quality of healthcare, professional recognition, and social appreciation, positioning the journal as a tool for disseminating and shaping critical and reflective thinking.

In terms of management, HERE considers the qualification process of professionals in the field as fundamental, impacting socio-professional development in social and community contexts, while also providing spaces for reflection and reformulation of professional practice. History is a spiral—by looking at the past, we understand the present and envision the future. The translation of knowledge is a proposal for social transformation, addressing contemporary inequalities, forming a theoretical body that supports the resolution of society's daily demands, and fostering the production of technologies<sup>1</sup>.

It has been 93 years since the emergence of the first nursing journal in Rio de Janeiro, *Annaes de Enfermagem*, now known as the *Revista Brasileira de Enfermagem* (REBEn, Brazilian Nursing Journal). This journal was consolidated through the decisive contributions of nurses Rachel Haddock Lobo and Edith de Magalhães Fraenkel, with the goal of strengthening nursing as a scientific field and a source of knowledge production. It is worth noting that the journal faced periods of interruption due to a lack of resources to sustain its operation.

In 2009, the electronic journal HERE was created by ABEn Nacional within the framework of the Permanent Forum of Nursing History Researchers. Initially, it was published semiannually in an electronic and open-access format. Today, HERE is linked to the ABEn National Publications Directorate and the Nursing History Department of ABEn.

In this sense, the creation and implementation of a scientific journal focused on nursing and health represents a knowledge translation policy, serving as a tool for education and social transformation. It is also aligned with the concern of meeting academic quality indicators and the state agencies that regulate and monitor this field, reinforcing the challenge and opportunity of achieving recognition and visibility in the academic community<sup>1</sup>.

Among the crucial aspects for a journal to advance is the development of dynamic projects aimed at knowledge dissemination, serving as tools for strengthening emancipatory practices and processes. This involves taking on the challenge of editorial quality, ensuring that the journal prioritizes individuals and communities, while also shaping editorial management.

However, journals face dilemmas regarding the professionalization of editorial management and the need to invest in qualified and professional editors who understand the scientific editorial process, its developments, indexing procedures, and the social consequences and responsibilities involved.

Furthermore, the classification of journals by ranking tiers, which is often not well understood, has become an end in itself. But what is the true mission of a journal that is strategic for political thought among workers? Should it simply aim for high rankings, regardless of other factors? We believe not. While indexing processes are important, our mission is to ensure the fulfillment of our core objectives.

When analyzing the current landscape of our journals, despite being the most research-producing field in healthcare, we must ask: Does stratification truly reflect the socio-political role of these journals? Are editorial practices accurately captured by evaluation rankings? The criteria for journal classification often recognize research through a positivist framework, where science must be exact and immutable, tested like a mathematical equation, in order to achieve the necessary credibility within the knowledge production space.

Amidst the prevalence of predatory journals, achieving adequate recognition is quite challenging. This recognition should be based on research committed to societal transformation, following the comprehensivist paradigm rather than the positivist paradigm. It is crucial to unveil social and political phenomena to build a society centered on knowledge production with social responsibility.

Additionally, another editorial management challenge is financial constraints, which affect access to advisory services for indexing, visibility, and metric monitoring—all essential for improving editorial workflows, including submission timelines, manuscript evaluation, editing, and publication. Given this scenario, some pertinent questions arise: Have stratification processes helped reduce regional funding disparities? Which

states have the highest number of nursing journals ranked in the top tiers? How have research funding institutes supported journals?

We recognize the importance of open science, but is this open science sustained by researchers who fund knowledge production? Should open science be tied to market rules? The higher the journal's impact, the higher the publication fees and translation requirements for multiple languages. Do we truly aim to democratize and disseminate university-produced knowledge? Once stratified, can a journal maintain its previous performance?

From this perspective, the HERE editorial team has invested in qualification and process optimization over the past year, while also focusing on democratizing and popularizing knowledge dissemination. To achieve this, a journal identity policy was developed, based on an in-depth discussion about the identity image the journal could adopt, whether a personality or a symbolic representation of the profession. In the end, the original lamp model was chosen.

Regarding the advances implemented, the following initiatives were carried out: (i) the creation of a new logo, investment in and competition for new indicators for HERE, achieving success; (ii) the removal of duplicate web pages, along with the organization of the entire archive since the journal's inception; (iii) the update of the ad hoc consultant database, including their qualification for issuing reviews; and (iv) the revision of processes and article formatting, with investments in manuscript editing quality, the requirement for translation into two languages, and the request for a video from authors about their manuscript to enhance knowledge dissemination.

It is important to highlight that significant investments were made to improve communication, including the appointment of a dedicated team and the revamping of social media, supported by the hiring of a technical support company for Open Journal Systems (OJS). A networked and team-based work plan was established, with weekly meetings among collaborators to address journal demands, along with new communication flows between journal members and a review of existing workflows.

National and international institutional partners were engaged to integrate the journal, and it was promoted at national and international events, with the launch of three special calls. Additionally, there was coordination with the ABEn National Social Communication Director and the communication directors of ABEn Sections to publicize the journal.

To further increase journal visibility, publication fees were kept below market rates, recognizing that these costs often hinder nursing professionals from considering manuscript submission.

Regarding the future, we understand that we are at a critical crossroads for scientific journals across all fields, strongly linked to neoliberalism, the proliferation of undergraduate and graduate programs, and the high dropout rates in undergraduate studies, along with the declining interest in postgraduate programs. This crossroads primarily raises the question of what kind of science we need to disseminate, as well as how to mobilize universities toward more effective educational processes, fostering stronger research outputs that bring new insights or significant findings in knowledge production and people's lives.

Ultimately, it is crucial to question the primary purpose of a scientific journal, its mission and values, rather than being consumed by the relentless pursuit of higher rankings at any cost. Another key issue is the mobilization for public funding policies for journals, strengthening their relationship with universities, services, systems, researchers, and society as a whole.

It is essential to develop dissemination strategies that allow open science to function democratically, while also finding effective communication methods for the general public and ensuring its integration into healthcare services and systems. These aspirations align with a vision of science where stratification serves as both a pathway and a means to achieving a pluralistic, inclusive, democratic, and open knowledge framework.

## REFERENCE

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