

# ΣΟΦΙΑ – SOPHIA

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## Editorial

### Higher Education and its Relationship with Publishing Processes

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Education is a process of permanent training that is based on the integral development of people. It is materialized in a series of skills and values that produce intellectual, emotional and social changes in the individual through their different stages: primary, secondary and higher education.

In the latter, professional training is provided, it is the stage that ends the academic learning process and each country contemplates different educational levels in its system. In Colombia, higher education is divided in two levels: undergraduate and graduate. The first, in turn, has three educational levels: professional technician, technological, and professional; the second is divided into: specializations, masters and doctorates. In each of these educational levels, research is the main strategy to promote in order to meet the needs of society and respond to the cultural, social and economic demands that countries experience. It is through investigative processes that new knowledge is generated and the critical spirit is strengthened. In this sense, research constitutes a fundamental factor for higher education.

In Colombia, the entity in charge of collecting and classifying the results of research activity is the Ministry of Science and Technology

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(Minciencias). This is done through the model of recognition, classification and measurement of research groups and more recently researchers, which has various strategies to weight these indicators and the continuous growth of this activity. Among these strategies are the publication processes, the central theme of this article, since they are inherent to the dynamics of research.

Research as a process derived from academic work in higher education comprises a series of actions aimed at projecting results around a specific topic that is addressed by the researcher: first, they must choose the topic. This includes justifying why and for what purpose the study would provide impact or new knowledge to its target audience and to society. Then, a state of the art of this topic that contextualizes the advances that others have made on it is established. This allows the researcher to define their objectives and thus, guarantee a new development of their research. Next, the researcher establishes the methodology to be used to achieve the previously outlined objectives; Depending on the nature of the study, you will work alone or with others. Generally, when accompanied, the researcher will do so with a work group called a research seedbed, made up of undergraduate students who are training in research. Once they have applied their methods, corroborated hypotheses, and found their results through the research process, the project is finished and ready to socialize. It is important to say that the work does not end with the presentation of the project results, but rather with their publication and dissemination (Ganga, Castillo and Pedraja-Rejas, 2016).

This process comprises the final stage of a research project, publication in a scientific journal. Understanding it as a stage implies that publishing is part of research, given the social nature

of science, and also that publication is conceived as a means, not as an end in itself for the researcher (Olave, 2010).

Finally, once researchers are at this point in the process, they must meet a series of requirements to carry out the publication successfully, one of them is the preparation of a scientific article. For this, all scientific journals in Colombia and anywhere in the world establish quality criteria for their application or presentation. Generally, journals request abstracts in Spanish and English, keywords, a structure that presents in an explicit, orderly and summarized way everything carried out and proposed in the project: introduction, methodology, results, discussion of results and conclusions. In the final part of the document, the bibliography used is presented. For the organization and presentation of said information, the finished project becomes a fundamental input for the preparation of the article. The length is kept to an average of 20 to 30 pages. This type of manuscript is presented under the category of research derived articles.

As part of the publication process, when choosing a good journal to share our results with, it is relevant to take into account that it meets the following criteria: that it has an impact factor greater than 4 (this can be reviewed in *Google Scholar* or *Publish or Perish*); that is indexed in two or more international databases or indexes such as *Scielo*, *Redalyc*, *Scopus* or *Web of Science (WOS)*, as this will give more scope to our work; and that it declares to be an open access scientific journal, that is, that the platform does not charge for reading or downloading.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that scientific journals publish different types of articles: research, reflection, review, case studies, essays, book reviews among other documents, all of these, although with different

discursive structures and purposes are derived from academic processes immersed in higher education. That said, we present to you volume 16, number 1, of 2020 in which you will find research results, review and reflection of research teachers in different contexts of Latin America.

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