

# Reflecting on Two Years of Progress and Anticipating Future Challenges for *Ingeniería e Investigación*

## Reflexión sobre dos años de avances y anticipación de desafíos futuros para *Ingeniería e Investigación*

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In this document, as Editor-in-Chief of *Ingeniería e Investigación* for the past two years, I will reflect on the substantial advancements we have made while also acknowledging the challenges that lie ahead. With the unwavering support of the Faculty of Engineering of Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UN, Bogotá Campus) and our dedicated editorial team, we have worked to strengthen the Journal's position as a leading platform for the dissemination of high-quality, open-access scientific research in the Global South. This editorial reviews the period spanning 2023 and 2024, highlighting our accomplishments and outlining the Journal's future direction.

One of the most significant developments during this period was the expansion and professionalization of our editorial team. The appointment of Dr. Lenin A. Bulla-Cruz as technical editor has been pivotal in improving the quality and efficiency of our editorial workflows. Similarly, the invaluable contributions of our assistant editors Gisela Camacho Triana and Julián Arcila-Forero have been instrumental in enhancing the speed and quality of manuscript evaluations. Additionally, the revision of our editorial policies {emphasizing ethical rigor and transparency} has provided clear guidelines for both authors and reviewers. These efforts reflect our broader commitment to upholding the Journal's integrity and ensuring clarity in our publishing processes. For up-to-date information about the editorial team, scientific committee, and submission guidelines, we encourage stakeholders to visit our official OJS page: <https://revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/ingeeinv>

In line with our mission to maintain a modern and accessible journal, we undertook a comprehensive redesign of our visual identity. This update was complemented by the establishment of an integrated digital marketing strategy, which we see as essential in today's rapidly evolving academic landscape. By embracing digital marketing, we aim to increase the journal's visibility, engage with a broader and more diverse audience, and adapt to the changing needs of modern researchers. As academic publishing increasingly shifts to online platforms, maintaining a strong digital presence is vital for improving the discoverability of our work and ensuring that the research we publish reaches its intended audience at both the regional and global levels. Through active engagement on platforms such as X (formerly Twitter, @IelJournalUNAL) and LinkedIn (Ingeniería e Investigación Journal), we are fostering meaningful discussions within our growing scholarly

community. While we are still in the early stages of building our digital presence, we are learning valuable lessons and remain committed to expanding our reach and deepening engagement in the years ahead.

Additionally, I am pleased to report that *Ingeniería e Investigación* has continued to strengthen its position in prestigious scientific journal ranking systems. In the Scimago Journal Rank (SJR), the Journal has maintained its position in the third quartile (Q3) since 2020, with an *h*-index of 18 and a steadily improving SJR value, which rose from 0.190 in 2021 to 0.238 in 2023. The SJR measures a journal's scientific influence by considering both the quantity and quality of citations, reflecting how central the average article is to global scientific discussions. Meanwhile, in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR), we achieved a journal impact factor (JIF) of 1.0 in 2022. Although the JIF adjusted to 0.6 in 2023, we successfully maintained our position in the third quartile (Q3). This represents a challenge to further strengthen the quality and impact of the research we publish. We are committed to meeting this challenge by continuing to enhance the visibility and academic influence of *Ingeniería e Investigación*. For more details in this regard, please visit Scimago's website: <https://www.scimagojr.com>

A key focus of our efforts has been reducing the time from submission to publication, thereby improving the overall experience for both authors and readers. Through strategic investments in editorial management and the optimization of our review processes, we have successfully reduced the average time from submission to initial decision by 30%. This achievement was made possible through streamlined coordination within our editorial team and the implementation of improved workflow systems.

While we take pride in our accomplishments, we remain mindful of the challenges ahead. One of our primary objectives in the coming years is to expand our national and international community. Achieving this goal will involve strengthening collaboration with research institutions, enhancing our indexing and visibility, and continuing to attract high-quality submissions that meaningfully contribute to the field of engineering.

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Furthermore, we remain steadfast in prioritizing the ethical integrity of our publishing practices. As part of this effort, we are dedicated to combating predatory publishing and adhering to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

Looking forward, we are also preparing to introduce a series of specialized workshops and resources aimed at helping authors to deepen their understanding of open science, master digital tools such as LaTeX and OJS, and adopt best practices in academic publishing. These initiatives will reinforce our commitment to engaging with the scholarly community and strengthening *Ingeniería e Investigación*'s role in global scientific dialogue.

As we move forward, *Ingeniería e Investigación* remains dedicated to fostering a rigorous and inclusive scholarly environment. The past two years have been marked by significant strides in editorial excellence, digital engagement, and global recognition. However, our journey is far from over. With the continued support of our editorial team, authors, and UN's Faculty of Engineering, we look forward to building upon these successes and addressing future challenges, ensuring that *Ingeniería e Investigación* continues to thrive as a platform for high-impact research in the field of engineering.