

Editorial issue 91

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I begin this editorial, the final one I prepare as Editor of *Innovar* journal, by expressing my gratitude to the administration of the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the National University of Colombia for the trust they placed in me to lead this journal over the past six years. In addition to the honor this experience bestowed upon me, it also served as a space for learning and an opportunity to contribute my part to the consolidation of the journal. I would also like to extend my best wishes to Professor Juan Javier Saavedra Mayorga as he embarks on his role as Editor-in-chief of *Innovar*. I believe that the characteristics of the academic community that has established around this publication, along with the professional and personal qualities of its editorial team, will be a highly valuable support for Professor Javier and his new role.

Throughout its over 30 years history, *Innovar* has become a top-notch reference for the publication and dissemination of research studies conducted primarily in Colombia and Ibero-America in the fields of management and social sciences. The success of this editorial endeavor is grounded on the efforts of multiple stakeholders, such as the authors who have entrusted us as a platform for sharing their work, the reviewers who ensure the quality and significance of published content, the readers who dedicate time and resources to acquaint themselves with areas of interest or simply explore our materials, the Editorial and Scientific Committees that have contributed to the visibility and consolidation of editorial policies, and, of course, the editorial team that orchestrates and materializes these efforts.

Sustaining and laying the groundwork to enhance the yields of this uninterrupted publication process of *Innovar* has also entailed considering the demands of the context and updating the policies and procedures of the journal as appropriate. For instance, in 2016, the introduction of the impact factor as a criterion for classifying academic journals in Colombia meant that the quartile assigned to a publication based on the model of the Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR) or the Journal Citation Report (JCR) defined its category, regardless of the quality of the editorial process. This required the editorial team of *Innovar* to rethink its visibility strategies, as the resulting change in our classification¹ prompted certain criticisms—even within our own Faculty—beyond the well-founded critiques of this model, which are summarized, for example, in the works by Arias et al. (2020)² or Castañeda-Rodríguez et al. (2023).

The situation mentioned above led to the decision of publishing a special issue every year—starting in 2019—with the aim of convening specific academic communities around disciplinary topics of interest in the field of management and organizations. Such an initiative allowed the journal to gain visibility around certain discussions, as evidenced by the success of the two calls for papers in the field of organizational studies (2020 and 2023), as well as the calls for studies in critical accounting (2021) and marketing (2022). This strategy, which has been institutionalized to the extent that 2 calls for special issues are now even published

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¹ In 2017 *Innovar* was placed in C category, after withholding its A1 category since 2008.

² *Innovar* editorial staff participated in the preparation of said article and established their position regarding the classification model for academic publications implemented by Colciencias in 2016.

two years in advance, also emphasized the importance of reducing our peer-reviewing and publication timelines.

Upon assuming the role of editor-in-chief of *Innovar* in 2018, I found that practically the publication of the next four issues were already covered with articles that had been accepted after the peer-reviewing process. While this spoke positively to the recognition of the journal, it also implied a lengthy waiting period for the authors to see their works published. Consequently, it became necessary not only to strengthen the monitoring of the entire editorial process by integrating most of its phases into the Open Journal System (OJS)³, but also to introduce an early publication model that facilitated the dissemination of academic production in a timely manner. In this regard, table 1 presents an overview of the reduction in waiting times for authors per issue.

Table 1.

Reduction in preprint publication times.

Issue	Formal publication month	Preprint publication month	Anticipation time in publication
80	April 2021	March 2021	5 weeks
81	July 2021	May 2021	8 weeks
83	January 2022	November 2021	9 weeks
84	April 2022	November 2021	20 weeks
85	July 2022	January 2022	24 weeks
88	April 2023	December 2022	16 weeks
89	October 2023	February 2023	32 weeks
91	January 2024	June 2023	24 weeks
92	April 2024	June 2023	40 weeks
93	July 2024	June 2023	52 weeks
Average			23 weeks

Source: data from a report presented to *Innovar* Editorial Committee (2023).

On another note, there has been a shift in publication patterns, particularly in the last decade, towards a preference for digital formats, which are commonly regarded as more effective in the dissemination and circulation of knowledge (Chan, 2004). *Innovar* experienced this same situation through the decrease in demand for printed copies and a growing trend in total downloads of our contents from ojs. Additionally, the discussions taking place in Colombia regarding an open science policy (Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, mayo de 2022) recently led us to decide on a transition from a physical publication to a digital one.

Indeed, during the past meeting of the Editorial Committee, in June 2023, the aforementioned change was approved, consistent with contemporary dynamics in the dissemination of science. Thus, issue 89 of *Innovar* (July-September 2023) marked our final printed edition. In line with this pronouncement, the

³ For this reason, the reception of articles for the regular process was interrupted on November 1, 2020, and resumed on September 1, 2021.

transition from early publication to continuous publication was also approved, aiming to maintain our relevance as a suitable and timely platform for the dissemination of research studies in the field of management and organizations in Colombia, Ibero-America, and the rest of the world. I believe these adjustments enable us to align our processes with international trends without sacrificing our identity.

This editorial summarizes some of the main changes established in *Innovar* under the conviction that they will not only contribute to its consolidation as an international reference in its thematic field but also promote more agile, timely, and effective publication dynamics. As always, I trust that the articles comprising this issue will be of interest to both our new and regular readers.

DISCLOSURES

The author declares no institutional or personal conflicts of interest.

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