

## Editorial

# ABOUT ACADEMIC PRODUCTION IN EDUCATION: VISIBILITY AND IMPACT

In the world, knowledge production in the educational field is rather low. In 2015 and 2016, the number of magazines that addressed the educational topic in a database such as Scopus were just over 1,000 (1,066 in total). Out of those, only 32 originate in Latin America (3% of magazines on education in the world), and over half of those come from Brazil. Colombia is represented in this indexation system with only one magazine (*Revista Magis, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana*). This outlook identifies a need to produce and systematize knowledge in the educational field in Colombia and Latin America, and to place it in top referencing systems.

These figures contrast with the growing number of postgraduate training programs in Latin American countries, especially in Colombia. Yet, despite this increase, scientific knowledge does not appear in those indexes. This fact is puzzling since universities have undertaken appealing efforts for its students to produce agile texts aimed at replacing traditional theses. Although this is a global trend, in-house production seems to be the final outcome (in the form of internal work that has low impact and not enough readers).

This may be associated with the findings of the analysis of cites per document. Overall, social sciences production has very low reading index<sup>1</sup>; it is noted that the educational field has a citation index below 0.1, while fields such as medicine, physics or neuroscience have a citation index of more than 1.0, a vast difference in the scenario of reading and scientific citation. Another conclusion of the bibliometric analysis of this database is that production and citation of articles in Latin America have a similar behavior than those in Africa or the Middle East.

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<sup>1</sup> To better understand this situation, please refer to the Subject Bubble Chart of Scimago <http://www.scimagojr.com/mapgen.php?maptype=bc>

Other sources, such as Redalyc, show a production of 107 magazines on education in 2017. This source, unlike Scopus, adds magazines from Spain and Portugal to the list of magazines from Latin America. In this base, countries such as Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela exceed Colombian production (aside from these countries, Chile and Argentina were added in Scopus).

A complex situation arises from this situation, particularly for Colombia, which results in: low level of scientific publishing in education, low level of reading of academic papers and research results, low level of cites of those works, plus low level of usage of theses to produce papers to be published.

Being aware of these facts, this issue specially gathers the work of a group of researchers of the Master's in Education of Universidad de Cordoba – SUE Caribe. The research tackles a wide spectrum of the educational field: pedagogic strategies, didactics, project-based learning, use of ICT, teaching for understanding, universal design for learning, among others. We hope to boost academic production, especially coming from Master's in Education, which are a growing stage for research in education in Colombia and Latin America.

**Jaime Castro Martinez**

Editor