

Editorial

As *The Spanish Journal of Psychology* (SJP) completes its fifth year, it seems an appropriate moment to reflect on how far we have fulfilled the objectives set when publication began in 1998. Above all, we aimed to create a medium for the spread of scientific knowledge that fulfilled as many criteria of quality as possible. This obliges us to subject SJP to a progressive evaluation by national and international institutions. Within Spain, the public body most specialized in such matters is the Higher Council for Scientific Research (*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*). Its assessment, by means of 25 criteria, revealed that SJP already fulfilled satisfactorily 22 after its third year. Subsequently, and from an international perspective, the Latindex catalogue evaluated SJP positively in the 33 criteria used: 8 referring to basic characteristics; 9 to aspects of presentation; 8 to editorial management and policy; and 8 to content. Furthermore, the recently-created Red ALyC (Network of Scientific Journals of Latin America and The Caribbean—Social Sciences and Humanities) rated SJP as one of the 100 most relevant journals in Spain and Latin America. Currently, SJP is being subjected to a further, even more comprehensive, assessment by a group of experts from the University of Granada, using over 200 criteria.

These positive assessments of SJP can be seen to have been ratified, at least indirectly, and from both national and international perspectives, if we consider the databases in which its content is included. Within Spain, the ISOC database, devoted to the social sciences, and PSICODOC, specializing in psychology. In France, PASCAL, which includes material on biology, science and technology, and health sciences, and FRANCIS, more specialized in the social sciences. In the United States, MEDLINE, well known by specialists in health sciences, as well as PsycINFO and, more recently, e-psyche, familiar to psychologists. Moreover, the content of SJP can be found in the CSA SOCIAL SCIENCE COLLECTION, and the specifically education-related articles in ERIC. The overall result after these first five years is clearly positive.

A particular feature of SJP is the inclusion of Research Trends in its content. The aim is to offer established researchers the possibility of presenting, in a single article, what they consider the core of their work to date. So far, the researchers have been carefully selected (according to the quality of their work), and have been mainly from Spain. We shall gradually try to incorporate the work of distinguished researchers from other parts of the world, given that this initiative has been positively appraised by the contributors themselves and by other researchers. Indeed, the last issue of 2002 included the contributions of Russell to the field of “emotional facial expressions”, as well as those of Johnson-Laird to “mental models: models of deduction”. Our eventual aim is that researchers from anywhere in the world might consider SJP as a possible medium for making their work known to the international scientific community.

We were aware from the beginning that the hard copy of the journal should be accompanied by the corresponding electronic version. Thus, since the first number in 1998, it has been possible to access the full text of any article published in SJP at www.ucm.es/sjp

One of the modifications we shall be introducing from the current issue onwards is the extension of the period between referees' assessment and the publication of their names in the journal. While their identity was previously revealed every second issue, we have felt it more appropriate, in order to further guarantee the relevant degree of anonymity, to publish this list every fourth number.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that the next number (published in November) will be a special issue dedicated to highlighting the relevance and implications of the work of one of the most internationally well-known figures of twentieth-century psychology: Ivan Pavlov. It was precisely in 1903 when, at the Madrid Conference, Pavlov made public his initial findings on conditioned reflexes. This special issue, with international participation (Australia, Britain, Russia, Spain, United States), is structured according to three thematic sections: Pavlov in Spain and English-speaking countries; Pavlov's contributions to psychology and to related disciplines; and the applications and implications of his theory throughout the twentieth century in different significant areas of psychology (associationism, behavior therapy, etc.). As we pointed out in our previous editorial—2001, 4(2)—, these special issues represent a clear exception for the journal. However, given the excellent reception of the first of such issues (it appeared in three languages—Spanish, French and English—in three different journals), we cannot rule out a repetition of the experience, especially when circumstances are favorable, as we consider them to be this year on the centenary of Pavlov's presentation in Madrid of his theory of conditioned reflexes. Obviously, as has been the case up to now, we shall announce the publication of further special issues well in advance. — Juan Fernández, *Editor*.