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Ambiente e Água – An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science in its third year of publication (doi:10.4136/ambi-agua.37)

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This April 2008, volume 3, number 1 issue of Ambiente e Água – An Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Science is a landmark for Ambi-Água to achieving national and international recognition. This year it is expected that the primary system for scientific journal evaluation in Brazil, QUALIS CAPES (<http://qualis.capes.gov.br/webqualis/>) will review the quality and geographical impact of Ambi-Água inasmuch as many Lattes curricula of scientists involved in Brazilian post-graduate programs show publications in Ambi-Água in the last two years. Batista (2007a) discussed details of CAPES evaluation procedure. In addition to the quality appraisal, CAPES also indicates the regional impact of scientific journals as local, national or international. Once a journal is evaluated by CAPES and has three years of on-time publications, CNPq, the major scientific support agency in Brazil, accepts applications for funding that journal. This may significantly improve the operational facilities of a granted journal.

Ambi-Água editorial board is proud to announce that since its first issue it has been circulating on-time. This has raised the confidence of the scientific community as reflected by the increasing number of manuscript submissions. In fact Ambi-Água has increased international interest indicated by four recent submissions from abroad that are currently undergoing peer review evaluation. We are continuously monitoring the journal's consultations since October 2007. From that time to February 2008 we received 6,230 visits that viewed 22,396 pages (3.59 pages/visit) from 89 countries and 742 cities from all continents. Scientists from 22 different universities or research institutions have already published in Ambi-Água. This number will go up to 32 when all submissions are considered.

Some uniqueness to Ambi-Água is worth mentioning: the scientific focus on environment and water resources, and keeping the interdisciplinary scope seems to have been welcomed by the scientific community. An important aspect of the editorial process is the time for manuscript evaluation. Normally, Ambi-Água has been operating on three month period at most from submission to manuscript approval or rejection. This has to be credited to the ad hoc peer review panel members that have been very diligent. Communication between authors and editor has been always prompt and effective to increase author's motivation and confidence. The use of SEER on-line editing system provided by IBICT (<http://www.ibict.br/secao.php?cat=seer>) allows the authors to continually follow their manuscript review process. This system allows users interface in English, Spanish and Portuguese. All authors' guidelines are presented in English and Portuguese and shortly will be available in Spanish as well.

Another positive aspect of Ambi-Água is its open access publishing policy powered by OAI-PMH as described by Batista (2007b). This greatly facilitates the indexing of Ambi-Água by several data harvesters. A relative success has been achieved as a result of efforts to make this journal widely indexed and visible as can be seen in <http://www.agro.unitau.br/seer/files/tabela.htm>. Another determination of the Editorial Board is to have in the near

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future the Digital Object Identifier (DOI[®]) System (<http://www.doi.org/>) assigned to published articles.

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