

CROSSING THE BORDERLINE: editors' movement

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The **6th National Summit of Editors of Nursing Periodicals (ENEPEEn)** took place during the 55th National Nursing Congress (CBEn), in Rio de Janeiro, in November 2003. It focused on the discussion of the editorial process of nursing magazines. The following ones were pointed out among the most important issues: the diversity of existing magazines and the difficulty to get to know them all; the adaptation to international standards, seen as a requirement to meet indexation criteria and empower possibilities of repercussion in the world's scientific community; investment made by directors of periodicals in the qualification and independence of their editors as well as in the training of new editors (editors' qualification); shortcomings in the publishing process; little repercussion of nursing publications at international level. Some of these issues are in the process of being addressed due to the organisation on the part of the ABEn and of editors themselves, and as a development of the current requirements made by authorities that evaluate periodicals.

Other topics were discussed at the summit, including: the creation of a network of editors (creation of a forum); placing a link to nursing magazines on ABEn's home page, later evolving to a portal including these publications (initiative included in BIREME's BVS-Enfermagem). It is suggested that this space may make mailing lists available, assist in a strategy of indexation in internationally recognised indexes, encourage the standardisation of publishing rules, so as that specificities of nursing as a discipline may be considered; encourage the inclusion of periodicals in the Brazilian Association of Science Editors - ABEC. These measures would contribute to the evaluation by CAPES. In the discussions, participants were concerned about the adoption of these new technologies, the possibilities offered by electronic media, and the survival of the word printed on paper, since the former has virtually the same costs and would be available for free. From this point of view, the adoption of such technologies might be contributing to the loss of subscriptions, and this, on turn, would make periodicals unfeasible. To bypass this problem, it was suggested that there might be greater government financing to publicising this production. With regards to the adoption of technology, they also commented that the evaluation criteria employed by CAPES include the publishing in SciELO as a requirement so that a periodical can be classified as A at a national level and, thus, non-compliance with electronic standards may prevent a publication from being given this classification.

At the end of the event, they approved the creation of the **National Forum of Nursing Periodicals Editors**. Thus, we are already negotiating partnerships with organizations in São Paulo in order to make it feasible to hold the next summit in this city, probably in late June or mid August 2004. The preliminary programme is under discussion, and it is expected to last for two days, in accordance with a suggestion made by the Editorial Board of REBEn.

In addition, it is necessary to mention other important developments in the field of nursing publications. The first one is the launch of the *Revista Panamericana de Enfermería*, a half-yearly publication by the Pan-American Federation of Nursing Professionals (FEPPEN), No. 55 at CBEn. This publication is the first written magazine reaching the whole of Latin America. It is fully in Spanish and will be a powerful communication tool for nursing in the continent's countries, and, at the same time, it makes available some new space to publicise the profession's scientific output. The second is the **1st Iberian American Conference on Nursing Magazines**, promoted by the Fundación Index de Enfermería (entity in charge of the CUIDEN base), in Granada, Spain, between 27 and 29 November 2003, which had the participation of representatives from more than 30 magazines from Spain and other countries, such as Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Cuba, and Colombia.

The theme **Reality and future perspectives for Iberian American nursing magazines**, proposed by the conference organisers, was developed by the editors of several magazines, among which *Revista Brasileira de Enfermagem* (REBEn 70 years); *Revista da Escola de Enfermagem da USP* (36 years building the nursing science), *Revista Latino-americana de Enfermagem* (challenges in disclosing the scientific nursing knowledge produced in Brazil) and *Revista Texto & Contexto-Enfermagem* (The option for a thematic magazine).

The Conference was organized aiming at agreeing on strategies to promote the publicity of the Iberian American nursing production; valuing the possibilities of usage of the Internet as a universal support; proposing measures to include Iberian American nursing magazines into international databases; proposing new actions to improve the quality of nursing investigation; reviewing the difficulties for the scientific adaptation of publications, proposing uniformity criteria which meet international trends and the peculiarities of nursing as a discipline, as well as the emerging qualitative investigation designs; building a consensus and commitment on the part of the editors present to make come true the much dreamed about (and ambitious) project of creation of an Iberian American Editors Council(1).

The most important development at this meeting was the agreement to create an Iberian American Council of Nursing Magazines Editors, by appointing a group with representatives from ten magazines from several countries, which will be responsible for the administrative requirements involving the legalisation of the Council. Thus, the Council materialises to continue the actions adopted in this Conference and to set out mechanisms of relationship with similar initiatives in member countries, since many of them (Brazil, for instance) have already had plenty of discussion on these issues because of the

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similar meetings held on an annual basis. It has also been consensually decided at this summit to hold conferences every two years, and the next one will take place in Brazil in 2005, a commitment made by the Brazilian Nursing Association.

In order to organise a thematic issue of the magazine about nursing management, expected to be launched in October this year, the Editorial Council of the Revista Brasileira de Enfermagem created a group. To this effect, we will be receiving works from March to 31 July 2004, **exclusively at rebtematica@terra.com.br**. Texts must comply with REBEn publishing standards.

References

1. Amezcua, M. I Conferencia Iberoamericana de Revistas de Enfermería. Available at www.index-f.com. Accessed on: 23 December 2003.