FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA FOR THE DESIGN AND CREATION OF AN ACADEMIC JOURNAL IN MODERN LANGUAGES PROGRAM

Research project submitted in fulfilment

of the requirements for the degree of

Professional in Modern Languages

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Table of Contents

Title of the project

Feasibility study to establish the parameters for the design and creation of an investigative journal in Modern Languages program.

Summary of the project

For students, investigators and academicians of any discipline, it is important to have means that spread their findings, making them public and provide a contribution to the scientific knowledge. One of these means is the academic journal, a basic instrument to communicate the progress of the investigations of any discipline.

The inclusion of new Information and Communication Technologies (from now on ICT) has produced changes in the globalized world, not only in the scope of the academic information and communication, but also in the social structure of the dissemination of the scientific knowledge. This structure is integrated by authors, readers, journals and database editors, librarians, researchers and academicians; all of them, individuals that one way or another, have been participants of all these changes during this last decade.

Recently, the insertion of digital formats in the academic publications, have created different forms to organize, transmit and receive knowledge, carrying out an accelerated growth and producing a broad range of contents. For this reason, the journal that is expected to create is focused on enriching the knowledge within the languages field, whose purpose is optimize the forms of communication between people, through the research, analysis and formulation of new theories. On the other hand, the necessity of incorporating the study of foreign languages within the academic training programs, requires the development of new learning methodologies, turning the academic journal into an enquiry document for students, teachers and researchers in general.

This study expects to propose a space to publish academic papers related with the modern languages and focused on the learning and correct use as much in our mother tongue, as well as English, French, German and Portuguese language. The works made by students, teachers and

researchers would be included, within the thematic field of linguistics, translation, literature, culture, communication and management. Besides, it would have the support of experts in the process of edition and review of the articles.

The scope of the research is not limited, since the increasing use of ICT between education institutes has made that the exchange of information is faster end effective. In consequence, the journal's content would have the proper quality to be consulted by foreign institutions through the most important academic databases. Doubtlessly, this project implies a whole challenge for its producers, considering that it would be the first publication of sociocultural research of ECCI University, whereby it demands a thorough work in the quality of the product and the process of design and diffusion.

Description of the project

Approaching the problem

This section of the document elucidates the origin of this study and the analysis of the problem, posed through the research question. Currently, ECCI University has a broad catalogue of scientific publications related to its various professional programs, which have had an efficient diffusion management. Hence, some of publications have been indexed, especially in the engineering field. Some of them are:

- TECCIENCIA: indexed institutional journal of the ECCI University. Publication admitted in the national index of serial, scientific, and technologic journals of COLCIENCIAS since 2012.

- IngECCI: periodic publication of the Engineering Faculty whose main purpose is to divulge the scientific work of the Engineering program, especially in Computer Science. It was created in the first semester of 2012 and has a biannual circulation. All their articles are subject to peer review of recognized quality.

- EXPERIENCIA DOCENTE E.D.: electronic journal which the University proposes to create a mean of dialogue between the academic and administrative community of the higher education. Publishing experiences and research results related to the university teaching.

Nevertheless, the necessity of a scientific publication mean is evident on behalf of the Modern Languages program, whose importance and current positioning deserves the same representation. Thus, the following questions are worth to be asked: What is the procedure to create and maintain a serial publication, in the modality of online journal, which collects and divulges research papers related to the Modern Language professional program from ECCI University?

The unawareness of the strategies to create a journal that allows the academic community to publish their research works is the main problem to resolve. This professional program is relatively new and it has focused on providing students the skills and knowledge to be competitive and entrepreneur in a business world. Reason why, it is necessary to provide a means that evidence results and advances of their studies.

The coordination of Modern Languages program has promoted several activities of cultural immersion to show the talents and skills of the students in areas such as literature, translation, business venture and didactics to learn a second language. Even the literary journal *VOICES* belongs to Modern Languages program and was created to motivate students to immerse in literature in all its forms and expressions, which is an accurate mean of participation. However, it would be valuable to enrich the research activity through a journal that encourage people to share their experiences in the search of new knowledge.

The original idea of this study comes from the identification of three main issues within the University:

- Firstly, the increase of studies related to arts, humanities and social sciences developed through the research seedbeds, discover the necessity of a diffusion means. The program offers some subjects to give students the fundamentals of research, however not all the students maintain the interest to evolve their work until achieve the outcomes. Though there is research groups to promote and drive the projects, these are integrated voluntarily by a short quantity of students in comparison with the total of academic population.

- Secondly, at present time there is not an indexed publication means within Modern Languages program to facilitate the dissemination of intellectual production through the practice of research and the analysis of social dilemmas.

- Thirdly, it would be ideal to strengthen the exercise of writing in the students, since according to the survey results, they do not consider it essential for the professional growth. Others state there is not enough time to write academically. In addition, the university is offering different options to obtain the graduation; a thesis paper or a research work, which requires an arduous effort of written composition, are not the only ones.

Justification

This chapter presents the main reasons about which the study is considered as pertinent and applicable. The proposal to design the procedures to create an online journal, suggests to offer an accurate space to publish works related with the Modern Languages program, conducted by students, making an incursion in subjects such as literary theory, linguistics, cross-cultural exchange, management and learning of foreign languages. Taking into account that there is not a similar proposal in ECCI, the journal would motivate the academic community to participate in it, as comprehensive part of their professional growth.

A journal's content must have the proper quality, oriented to reach a good positioning in Colombia and Latin America. So it would be conceived as an instrument of cooperation in which a detailed work of compilation, edition, peer review process and diffusion, would be executed. The theoretical and methodological value of the project ensures a place of investigative convergence that would count on the help of professors and experts to do an invaluable contribution to the sociocultural development of our academic community. Thus, the journal would extend opportunities of exchanging and debating topics that allow the argumentation of humanistic and philosophical sights.

During this research, the necessity of identifying and surpassing the obstacles that prevent students from participating actively in university publications has emerged. This is a suitable

chance for them to put into practice writing techniques and abilities that demonstrate their argumentative thinking, according to what was established by the university.

Through the publication of this journal, it is expected to provoke a dawn of the interests for the study of several social and cultural disciplines. Moreover, the journal might be a communication channel that represents the ideology of the institution by means of the critic and argumentative opinion of its authors.

Theoretical framework

This chapter presents the foundations, conditions and data that support the emergence of the idea to create this research journal. In an article published by Girón (2006), it is stated that the increase of the academic production in Colombia has been evident since 70's decade. There has been a relevant change in comparison with previous decades, due to the favorable conditions for the professionalization of university teachers created by the policies and laws in this period. This is reflected in the considerable augmentation of full-time hiring of teachers staff, policies of master and doctorate degrees, the formalization of research as the main activity that supports the teaching and the grow of academic production with the increment of serial publications as consequence.

Giron (2006) supports the previous utterance assuming the fact of having eighteen academic journals since 1905 to 1970, to have seventy-six journals since 1971 to 2000. Just in the 70's, twenty two journals came into circulation, exceeding the total number of journals of the first period. In the 80's, twenty two journals were created; in 90's, twenty nine appeared; and in the course of the first decade of the new millennium, thirteen new journals have emerged.

Considering the historical advance of the academic journals in Colombia, a modern languages journal in ECCI university would contribute to this growth, producing new

knowledge, based on a specialized thematic such as the presence of foreign languages in the business management. Likewise, as academic divulgation space, the journal develops the inter-institutional cooperation oriented to three purposes in common: the encouragement of the scientific research, the editorial activity and the international visibility by digital means.

In regards of founding, academic purpose and university environment, academic journals in Colombia are influenced by the changes related to the regulation of post-secondary education. In the case of humanities, the founders or directors of the main journals have been engaged with education, culture, science, arts and the development of the disciplines.

This research process has allowed the authors to recover primary and secondary sources; and diverse types of events, concerning Colombian literature. Among the vast list of primary sources wherewith the first journals were founded, we can find poems, tales, short stories, fables, fragments of novels, oratory ant drama pieces, essays, songs, verses, testimonies, anthologies and selected readings. As secondary sources, biographical sketches, comments, notes, reviews, critique articles, bibliography studies, research reports, biographies and thesis works were retrieved. These texts are marked by the social emphasis of the epoch and the various perspectives of the literary studies. Their authors, local and foreigners, teachers and students, researchers or critics, have been linked to the higher education in Colombia or abroad.

Aspects such as the previously mentioned, have improved the higher education scenario in Colombia, especially during the last decade of XX century. However, the growth rate of the last three decades seems to have reached a breakeven point that perhaps, may constitute a standstill point, Vallejo (2005). According to the basic objectives established by the founders of the former journals, generally since their first editions, the academic journals turn into testimony and divulgation mean of distinct spheres of the intellectual activity related to the development of

sciences, the technology and the disciplines; the theoretical and methodological renewal; the research and critic activity over the humanistic and social knowledge such as culture, philosophy, literature, sociology, anthropology, history, linguistics, languages and ethnic literature; and the literary production of writers and students from academic centers renowned inside and outside of the country.

In addition, academic journals have been useful for the promotion of critical stances towards social events because they are engaged with the critic and politics function, Ramirez (2012). Through the processes of constitution and acceptance of the cultural identity, journals develops the interdisciplinary actions of the scientific community, providing answers to problems of the country with the leadership required to face the challenges of XXI century.

According to Gómez: "each society must lead its educational system on providing answers to current requirements that society demands" (2000, p.133). Currently, the production and dissemination of knowledge are essential factors for the higher educational system. Therefore, the labor of researching and educating are professions of high social valuation.

Moreover, (Jaramillo, 2006) stated that universities must leave their cloisters and get to society's service. Simultaneously he added that science must leave the labs to be taught in order to the society gives it its legitimacy. This statement allows the universities to discuss about the creation of new knowledge within their objectives and it must be available for the society, with effective instruments such as the academic journals, where the researchers can publish their work in the form of scientific papers.

Likewise, (Jimenez, 2008) argues that researchers have the necessity to publish the results of their findings. Accordingly, the scientific world has a validation system formed by experts to ratify, reject, correct and give feedback about the research results. In other words, the papers

represent original results that are subject to a rigorous process; in consequence they provide a greater reliability on the exposed ideas.

The scientific journals invite to deep reflections about the social co-responsibility of the authors and the institutions to share their experiences and outcomes, as their work are addressed to the society. This situation is closely linked with the usefulness of the new developed knowledge. Something that we all know is evident: the importance and necessity to foment the culture of the quotation between the current authors. The recognition of the other's work magnify the own work and display the dedication of the researchers community.

Currently, the involved people to communicate new knowledge through the specialized journals, have challenges related to different aspects of their operation: management, evaluation, network, the worry of a comprehensive quality, the use of unknown processes in Colombia such as marketing and benchmarking, the establishment of strategies that involve stakeholders into the journals, the culture of publication, the advantages of IT, the Open Access System, the document legal aspects and the vision of sustainable projects. The management of an academic journal demands persistence and consistency to reach the objectives, but the outcomes can be visible only through time, it is not an immediate task.

Regarding to serial publications, we can find two types of scientific journals: electronic and printed journals. The formers are characterized by being available on line, whereas the latters are published in paper. Some of the printed journals are mixed, that is, they have an electronic version too and its content not always is coinciding with its printed version.

The vast majority of academic journals are now available online. According to the ALPSP's 2008 report on scholarly publishing practice (Cox & Cox 2008), 96% of science and medicine and 87% of arts, humanities and social sciences journals were accessible electronically in 2008.

This represented a steady increase compared to comparable surveys conducted in 2003 (SM 83%, AHSS 72%) and 2005 (SM 93%, AHSS 84%). Only 10 of the publishers surveyed had yet to put their journals online; all were small publishers and six were university presses.

The online journals have numerous advantages compared to the printed versions, especially the speed of production and distribution and the reduction of costs. They also admit new possibilities as multimedia elements or the interaction of the reader with the platform. Besides, they are favored by the agents of the scientific politics, since with the new approaches of the culture of the 'Information Society'; the scientific progress emerges to all the society levels.

Self-referential framework

This chapter presents the importance of this study and the positive impact that it can cause in the academic environment from a personal perspective of the author.

This study represents a significance aspect in the academic community because it stimulates the research activity focused on identifying the way to spread the production of new knowledge in the university. Although the results are not formulation of scientific hypothesis, the practice of the qualitative research procedure encourages the researcher to question about the cross-cultural communication issues of the globalized world, whereby worthy outcomes can be obtained to be transmitted through the publication.

On the other hand, the journal would contribute to the visibility and recognition of the Modern Languages program, which immediate objective is obtain the quality certification granted by the Ministerio de Educación Nacional. Additionally, the academic journals are one of the measure instruments used by international entities to assess the scientific and intellectual production of a university, through the quality of its publications and the citation of its authors.

Other aspects such as the editorial methods of an online journal represent a task of merit for the editorial and scientific team in charge. Facets as image, design, editorial policy, the process to evaluate the quality, the digital conservation and the indexation are roles which execution brings the acquisition and recognition of professional experience, represented in the intellectual development of each participant.

Legal framework
In order to reach the objectives, maintain the regularity and be included in international databases, it is necessary to fulfill the legal requirements demanded by the university and Colciencias. The legal aspects which the journal must adopt are defined as follows.

Regulation. ECCI University, defining the policies related to own and other people's copyright. These principles are established in concordance with Law 23-1982 about copyright; the Decisión Andina 351-1993, that regulates the work in the ICT's framework and the Rectory Resolution 5 of September 14th-2011, which establish the intellectual property policies(Resolución Rectoral 5, 2011). Bogotá: Universidad ECCI.

Intellectual production. ECCI University considers intellectual production as every work in the artistic, scientific, literary or academic field susceptible to be materialized, divulged or reproduced by any mean, dependent on the Education Institute's guidelines. The expressions of the research and knowledge results are also considered as intellectual production(ResoluciónRectoral 5, 2011). Bogotá: Universidad ECCI.

Open Access. The Open Access is the free availability of the literature in internet that allows any user to read, download, copy, print or distributes the information without any financial, legal or technical restriction. The only limitation about distribution or reproduction is

giving authors the control over their work's integrity and the right to be properly quoted and recognized, (Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2002).

ISSN. It is the International Standard Serial Number, created by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) at the beginning of 70's, in response to the need of identifying the serial publications. Since 1976, the Colombian Institute for the Promotion of Higher Education (ICFES) was in charge of it. Nevertheless the decree 4141, issued on November 3th of 2011, the Ministry of National Education designated Ministry of Culture through the National Library, the function to manage the ISSN registry. Thus, the activity was taken by this institution since January 2nd of 2012.(Información sobre el código ISSN, 2016).

Creative Commons.It is an American non-profit organization devoted to expanding the range of creative works available for others to build upon legally and to share. The organization has released several copyright-licenses known as Creative Commons licenses free of charge to the public. These licenses allow creators to communicate which rights they reserve, and which rights they waive for the benefit of recipients or other creators. (Creative Commons Colombia, 2016).

Objectives

General objective

To establish the parameters to design an online journal to compile and divulge the research papers made by the academic community of Modern Languages program of ECCI University.

Specific objectives

1. To determine the methods of the editorial process of an academic journal.
2. To identify the requirements to index an academic journal in Colombia.

3. To constitute the thematic structure of the journal to differ from others.

4. To participate in research events, congresses and fairs to present the project and receive suggestions from experts, in order to enrich the foundations of creation process.

5. To explore similar journals from other institutions to interview its editors and know their experiences in editorial activity.

Methodological framework

The methodology applied to this project is described in this section. Aspects such as research design, modality and techniques to collect the needed data are presented as the strategies used to answer the research question. The idea proposed by Corbin & Strauss "The primary purpose of doing qualitative research is discovery, not hypothetic testing" (2008 p. 317) and "not trying to control variables, but to discover them" (2008 p. 318).

The following arguments to design accurate strategies to support the creation of a journal were taken into account to choose the methodology: 1) the academic journal is considered as a space of publication that privilege the researches made within the institution and favor the dissemination of knowledge.2) The exposition of diverse disciplinary sights about a specific field of study, would be gathered in just one mean, which not only enriches the academic training, but evinces the contribution of the student community to the academy. 3) The whole process from compilation to publication involves active students, graduated and internal/external academics, executing a collaborative work with a common purpose. 4) On-line journals have the advantage to reach all the university community, no matter the professional program.

The qualitative approach adopted in this study is founded on epistemological basis and tends to be descriptive, which is considered as a methodological strategy within the social sciences,

whose purpose is to explore the research questions but does not intend to offer final and conclusive solutions to existing problems. As a social practice, it is constituted by other practices: the scientific, directed to the production of new knowledge; the pedagogical, that expects to unify the scientific knowledge with popular knowledge into a new "transforming" knowledge that recover the processes of cultural and political creativity.

The main scope of this methodology would be reflected in the start-up of the journal, collecting information that guarantee a solid process of editing. Thus, the creation of a journal can represent great advances in the expansion of the Modern Languages program. Therefore, it is important that the project develops techniques and methods based on Colciencias' requirements for indexation of journals, which would be one of the future objectives when the journal is already published.

Research design and approach

As this project focuses on an exploratory design, that is, to explore a fairly unknown topic, it is necessary to get a broad spectrum of techniques to collect data in several disciplines such as specialized literature review, direct observation of similar editorial processes, Interviews and surveys. According to Creswell's observation (2009), the three essential phases of exploratory research are: observe, developed by document analysis through other journals review; think, developed through the design of editorial process; and act, developed through the data gathering and analysis.

This study expects to reach an interactive level, inasmuch the publication of the first edition of the journal, requires the execution of an action plan. That is the reason why this study must have continuity. Even when the first edition means the fulfillment of the action plan, a periodic evaluation would be made to measure the impact produced. Thus, the outcome of this evaluation

would be reflected on the improvement of the quality policies, that could be taken as reference by other emerging publications.

Exploratory research is adjusted to this project because this modality helps to diagnose the dimensions of problems so that successive research projects will be on target; in this case, the current situation of the university in relation to research, where the lack of participation by students is an evident issue. This modality helps to have a better understanding of the problem in order to describe and analyze what occurs before and during the project making. On the other hand, exploring other journals allows to do a deep analysis of existing journals, in regards to methodology, content and legal aspects that can be applied to an academic journal.

Population and sample delimitation

The population object of study is divided into three parts according to the specific purposes of study and action. The former is limited to the students of Modern Languages program in ECCI. Through a stratified probabilistic sampling, the aim is to know the expectations of the students regarding to the sort of content they want to find in the journal and their interest to participate writing for it. The latter is limited to teaching community, those who would contribute with articles to publish, as well as can collaborate as editors, peers and advisors. The third population is circumscribed to editorial community from other universities to assimilate guidelines and procedures of publication and indexation, besides to establish interaction lines to obtain valuable suggestions about revision and edition process.

Information gathering

Taking the features of qualitative research, the study of Colciencias' documents and research papers related to academic journals would be the main strategy of information gathering. Furthermore, semi-structured interviews to editors would provide a direct contact with

the source, in such a way, there would be a better clarity and veracity in the gathered concepts. For instance, the interview transcription to an expert in academic publications would add relevant references related to the process of creation, contents review and diffusion strategies of the journal. Finally, the survey would permit to obtain the accurate information about the target population's expectations to delimit the approach and to establish a thematic framework for journal's content.

The gathered data would be organized through the coding to facilitate the creation of the preliminary journal design. Statistics and measure running are not needed but a detailed description of the information is important in order to give the editorial team, a clear idea of the required aspects to publish.

The interpretation of the results would be connected with the predominant points of the theoretical framework, the proposed objectives would be considered and the research question would be answered. It is appropriate to mention that these results were be supported by an organized report presented in the last call for projects offered by research department of ECCI University, which after its approval, there would be permission and financial resources to the start-up of the Modern Languages journal.

Data analysis

Colciencias' requirements

Based on the previous study of the official guidelines to postulate an academic journal to indexation service, the following aspects were considered as the main conditions required by Colciencias in order to be classified and included into the *National Bibliographical Index Publindex:*

1. To have the ISSN.

2. To have an editorial committee and a chief editor responsible for the publication.

3. To have a periodicity declared and respected.

4. To have the essential function of publishing research results.

5. The papers must be submitted to evaluation by experts specialized in the field of study covered   by the journal. The peer review process must be clearly presented in the guidelines for authors.

6. To have a call for papers directed to the community specialized in the field of study covered by the journal.

In addition, the general criteria to be categorized are:

1. Scientific quality

2. Editorial quality

3. Stability

4. Visibility and national recognition.

In this context, these requirements must be fulfilled by the journal with the aim of being part of the Colciencias' index and these would constitute the foundations to aspire to be included in an international database.

Survey

The following is the analysis of the data obtained through a survey sent to every student of Modern Languages program on July 27th - 2016. The survey was made by means of e-mail using a Google Docs platform and the data were collected during the period of July 27th to September 10th. 105 answers were received, which represent 20% of the total academic population of the program.

The survey consisted of five questions and its main objective was testing the students' opinion regarding to the significance of having an own research journal of the Modern Languages program. Moreover, aspects such as thematic field, interest for researching, writing and publishing within the Humanities discipline, were consulted.

Significance of the creation of an academic journal for the program

Graph 1

The graph 1 summarizes the students' opinion related to the importance of having our own publishing space. It shows that **48.1%** of the survey respondents consider that the Modern
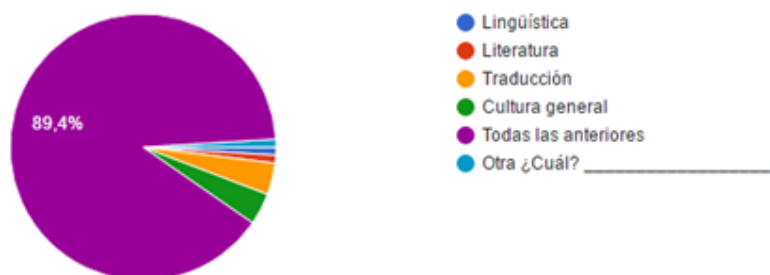
Languages research journal is very important aspect to develop the research within the program.

Other **48.1%** of population consider it as important and just a **3.8%** consider it as a trivial aspect.

Type of journal's content

Graph 2

The perception of the survey respondents about the type of content they would like to find in

the journal, is showed in graph 2. It demonstrates that **89.4%** are agree with the inclusion of

Humanities disciplines such as Literature, Linguistics, Translation and Culture as key topics

where the students can make an incursion through their researches. However, the second part of

the question opens the possibility to propose additional themes, which give the editorial team

useful ideas about specific information to include in the journal. From the **1%** that suggested

another type of content, the interest by knowing scholarships offers and postgraduate programs

abroad, predominates.

Personal interest in academic writing

Graph 3

3. En lo que lleva cursando este programa académico ¿Ha desarrollado interés por escribir?

(104 respuestas)

- Si
- No
- Si su respuesta es No, ¿Cuál cree que es la causa?
  _____

12,5%

85,6%
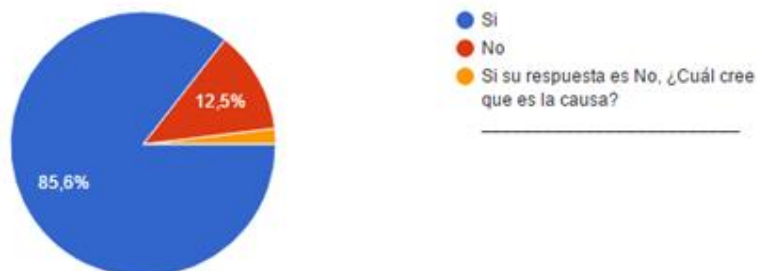
An important aspect to take into account for the creation of journal is the students' motivation for writing. Not only research papers, but essays, translations and theoretical reflections as well. The results of the graph 3 show that **85,6%** of survey respondents are interested on writing.

Interest in writing for the journal

Graph 4

4. ¿Le interesaría participar escribiendo un artículo, reseña o ensayo para ser publicado en la revista?

(104 respuestas)

- Si
- No
- Tal vez más adelante

49%

7,7%

43,3%
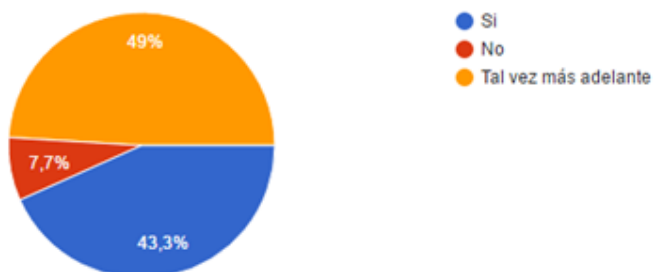
The graph 4 shows that the journal can count on a wide participation of the students producing contents to publish, since **43,3%** declared to be interested on writing for the journal and **49%** stated that they probably would do it in the future.

Significance of research in the Modern Languages program

Graph 5

5. ¿Qué importancia tiene para usted el desarrollo de la investigación en su área de conocimiento?
(104 respuestas)

- mucha
- baja
- le es indiferente
- no cree que sea importante

91,3%
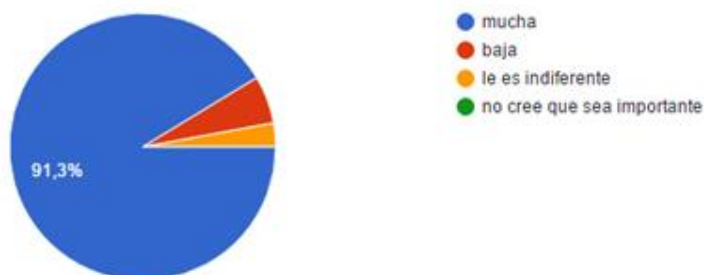
The question 5 generated an interesting detail related to one of the journal's objective that is to be conscious of the relevance of research within the academic environment. From the total of survey respondents, **91,3%** consider the research as very important in this knowledge field. On the contrary, just **5,8%** state that research has a low importance and for **2,9%** of students, is irrelevant.

DATA ANALYSIS - SURVEY		
Category	**Sub-category**	**Coded Analysis**
Importance of the creation of journal		**A1** According to this result, the students' opinion confirms what is argued in the justification of the project, regarding to the necessity of creating the journal.
Journal's content	Content suggested in the question	**B1** The perception of the survey respondents about the type of content they would like to find in the journal, is showed in graph 2. It demonstrates that 89.4% are agree with the inclusion of Humanities disciplines such as literature, linguistics, translation and culture as key topics where the students can make an incursion through their researches. This concept allow to have continuity with the content thematic proposed for the journal.
	Other content suggested	**B2** From the 1% that suggested another type of content, the interest by knowing scholarships offers and postgraduate programs abroad, predominates.This statement reflects the significance of having international experiences to complement the professional development, which can be included in the journal as a special section.
Interest for writing	Affirmative answer	**C1** The results of the graph 3 show that 85,6% of survey respondents are interested on writing. This number, apart from confirming that the vast majority of students are willing to express their ideas in a text, makes easier the reach of one of the objectives of the project, which is stimulate students to write and maintain that motivation for producing new knowledge.
	Negative answer	**C2** Trough the second part of the question, where respondents were asked to give their reasons about why they do not have interest for writing, is possible to know that the main reason is the lack of time and because they do not fell sufficiently qualified to write a publishable paper yet.
Participation in the journey	Affirmative answer	**D1** Since 43,3% declared to be interested on writing for the journal, the outlook regarding to the acceptance of the call for papers would have a great reception. Thus, if there is product, the publication of the first editions would be totally possible.
	Uncertain answer	**D2** With a number of 49%, this indicator seems wide, however it is not considered as negative, because the most of responses were given by 2nd and 3rd semester students, which means that they prefer to be better prepared to write a quality paper.
Importance of research		**E1** Question number 5 generated an interesting detail related to one of the journal's objective that is to be conscious of the relevance of research within the academic environment. From the total of survey respondents, 91,3% consider the research as very important in this knowledge field. On the contrary, just 5,8% state that research has a low importance and for 2,9% of students, is irrelevant. With this result, it is precise to conclude that the interest in research would be the central concept to maintain the journal in continuous operation and would be the direct channel to do valuable contributions to languages learning.

Interviews

Interview 1

On September 30th - 2016, at the Foreign Language Department of National University of Colombia, an interview to Chief editor of the academic journal *Matices en Lenguas Extranjeras,* professor Veronique Bellanger was carried out. The objective of the interview was obtain information about the history, editorial process, quality and configuration of the work team of this journal.

The following are the main aspects to emphasize after the analysis of the 20 answers provided by the professor.

- The journal *Matices en Lenguas Extranjeras* of the Foreign Language Department of National University of Colombia was officially presented in 2007. However, the project starts in 2006 since the previous process of design, achievement of ISSN registry and legalization (due to the procedures for public entities) took one year.

- The main contribution provided by this journal to the academic community is the diffusion of research in various disciplines related to foreign languages through a rigorous work of quality evaluation.

- Journal *Matices*differ from other linguistics serial publications because it encompasses a wider thematic field, not only linguistics. Furthermore, the journal publish papers in nine languages, Russian and Mandarin included.

- *Matices*belongs to LatinAmerican database Redalyc. However, they are currently working to join the network Scielo.

- Its regularity is biannual and it is adjusted to all the indexation and categorization guidelines of Colciencias.

-The editorial team is integrated by internal staff only and having master degree is a requirement to be part of the team.

- The evaluation process is anonymous and every paper is revised by two peers at least.

- The measuring of the visibility is made through the quantity of the registered visitors of the web page, but they are working on adopting other worldwide measure methods.

- According to professor's statement, the research activity in Colombia, in regards to Humanities is stagnant, due to public policies are not sufficient to support the research.

- As final recommendation, professor Veronique suggested to adopt the innovation in the *Interlingua's* contents, since a good journal must have an own identity to reach the expected impacts and produce the reader's interest.

Interview 2

On October 18th - 2016, an interview to Chief Editor of the journal *Lenguas en Contacto y Bilingüismo,* professor María Del Pilar Flórez was carried out. This journal is produced and edited by Caro y Cuervo Institute in Bogotá-Colombia. Caro y Cuervo Institute is an entity assigned to Ministry of Culture and its main objective is to cultivate the scientific research in fields such as linguistics, philology, literature, humanities and the history of the Colombian culture. The whole interview is transcribed as follows:

1. Firstly, could you please provide us a short historical background of the journal? (Taking into account that it is not published in the web page).

The journal *Lenguas en Contacto y Bilingüismo* was created in 2010, as a purpose suggested by a research team called *Bilingüismo y Lenguas en contacto*. It arises with two specific objectives. First, to create a publication mean to divulge the results of research developed inside of the research group. Second, to make possible the participation of other researchers of the institute. Subsequently, upon acquire the ISSN registry, the call for papers was extended to external researchers interested in the same study field.

2. ¿What is the main contribution that the journal has made to the academic community?

The most important contribution is to concede an especial space to the topics related to languages in contact and bilingualism, as well as studies of Spanish as foreign and second language.

3. ¿How is the journal *Lenguas en Contacto y Bilingüismo* different from other similar journals?

The difference consists mainly in being a digital journal, specialized in bilingualism and languages in contact with Spanish. In particular, teaching-learning Spanish as foreign and second language.

4. What is the criterion to determine the regularity of the publication?

Its regularity is biannual. This criterion is established due to the low offer to papers produced in relation to these topics per year.

5. Why a digital journal and no physic?

Because of two reasons. First, the journal has more diffusion through internet on the national and international level. Second, by economic factors, since the printout of each edition represents a large amount.

6. How are the work staff formed (editorial, scientific, design team) inside the journal?

   The editorial committee is formed by the active members of the research group. The scientific team is selected according to the specialty and experience into the study field and the design team is formed by employees hired exclusively for the press department of the Caro y Cuero Institute.

7. What kind of professional training is required to be part of the scientific or editorial team?

   The members are active researchers that have been hired by the institute, the journal does not hire external persons. In regards to scientific committee, they must be experts with a wide experience in this fields of study.

8. What are the knowledge areas that the journal addresses? How is delimited its thematic field?

   The knowledge fields are defined within the bilingualism and languages in contact. Other topics are included such as studies of Spanish as second and foreign language and teaching experiences.

9. How you can measure the impact caused by the journal in the academic environment?

   Based on the statistics by the number of visitors of the web page and the download of papers.

10. From your point of view, what is the current situation of the country regarding to research and intellectual production in Humanities?

The research in general has been affected by liberal vision of the government. Consequently, the budget for research is reduced year by year, especially in humanities field. Despite of this situation, the academic community expects that institutions and research centers contribute with great studies which can do a significant worth to the society.

DATA ANALYSIS - INTERVIEWS			
Category	Journal: Lenguas en contacto y bilingüismo	Journal: Matices en lenguas extranjeras	Comparative Analysis
Experience	It was founded in 2010 and acquires its ISSN registry the next year. Six editions published.	It was founded officially in 2007, acquires ISSN registry this same year and it has published nine editions.	**A1** Both has been sponsored by government entities and they have processed legal registry. However *Matices* has a wider experience.
Academic contribution	Opening of publication space for specific subjects such as languages in contact and bilingualism, as well as studies of Spanish as foreign and second language.	Diffusion of research in various disciplines related to foreign languages, Russian and Mandarin included, through a rigorous work of quality evaluation.	**B1** It is interesting to identify that each journal tends to establish an original and innovative purpose according to its strength, in order to reach specific public, more than a great multitude of readers.
Visibility on databases	Biblioteca digital Caro y Cuervo	Redalyc	**C1** Despite of having more than six years of experience, only journal *Matices* is indexed in an international database, which reflects that the goal to reach the indexation requires a strict work of editorial and scientific quality and accurate management.
Periodicity	Annual	Biannual	**D1** The journal *Lenguas En Contacto* argues its periodicity due to the low offer of related papers, whereas *Matices* states that the time of one semester demands an accelerated work to maintain this periodicity. In concordance to these viewpoints, it is necessary to do a deep analysis of the periodicity criteria in order to have the enough time to publish a good quality product.
Publication modality	Virtual	Virtual	**E1** The journal *Lenguas En Contacto* justifies this modality based on the efficacy and scope of the diffusion on the worldwide level. The journal *Matices* assertrs that this modaliy represents lower production costs. Both of arguments are totally valid and convincing to design *Interlingua* as a virtual journal.
Structure of staff	The editorial team is formed by permanent researchers of the entity and for the scientific team, external experts are convened.	The editorial team is formed by university staff, whereas the scientific team, by internal and external peers and researchers.	**F1** Both journals work with researchers of the same institution but they convene externals teachers for peer review process too. This methodology would be applied to *Interlingua's* editorial process since the specialized external evaluation guarantee the quality and rightness of the journal's content .
Staff training	Teachers with Master's degree	Teachers with Master's degree, also the chief editor has PhD degree	**G1** Apart from independent criteria of each journal in regards to their staff's training, the aptitude and experience of the work team is a requirement of Colciencias and other institutions to reach the indexation.
Thematic field	Bilingualism and teaching of Spanish as foreign and second language.	Linguistics and teaching of foreign languages	**H1** Each journal is characterized by selecting original content. The thematic field that interlingua expects to adopt as innovative element is the integration of the foreign languages with the corporative management in a global context.
Visibility measurement	It is measured through the quantity of visitors in the journal's web page	It is measured through the quantity of visitors in the journal's web page	**I1** Although this is the most practical method to measure the visibility, it is possible to consider other schemes as a reader's opinion blog to measure the impact produced.
Current situation of research in humanities in Colombia	"The research activity in Colombia, in regards to Humanities is stagnant, due to public policies are not sufficient to support the research "	"The research in general has been affected by liberal vision of the government. Consequently, the budget for research is reduced year by year, especially in humanities field. Despite of this situation, the academic community expects that institutions and research centers contribute with great studies which can do a significant worth to the society".	**J1** Both of editors coincide to state that the research outlook in Colombia is not encouraging due to lack of government. Regarding to *Interlingua,* it may obtain a better option of financial support for beign guaranteed by a private university.

Instructional design

The data presented in this section provide the basic information for the start-up of this project and report some actions taken as initial development of the journal.

Activities timeline

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	MONTHS (2016-2017)											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Data gathering (Survey)	X											
Call for papers		X	X	X				X	X	X		
Constitution of editorial policy	X	X	X	X								
Papers collecting			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peer review process				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Revision, Correction, Editing				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Journal design		X	X	X	X	X						
Launch of 1st edition						X						
Publication of 2nd edition												X
Research applied to journal development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Results/products and potential beneficiaries

New knowledge production

Result / Product expected	Indicator	Beneficiary
Gathering of the first editions' papers	Call for papers	Journal and authors
legalization of Journal	Achievement of ISSN registry	UNIECCI Modern Languages seedbed
Inclusion of the journal in databases	Indexation	Journal and Modern Languages program

Strengthening of the scientific community

Result / Product expected	Indicator	Beneficiary
Recognition of the research process within the Modern Languages program	Publication requests from internal and external authors	Journal and Modern Languages program
Create links with similar indexed journals	Agreements to share peers and papers	Academic community
Knowledge exchange	Open diffusion of contents	Academic community

Social appropriation of knowledge

Result / Product expected	Indicator	Beneficiary
Research production	Papers	Journal and authors

Diffusion of new knowledge	Papers publication	Academic Community in general
Indexation	Inclusion on international databases	Academic Community in general

Impacts expected

Impact expected	Period short-term (1-4 years), mid-term (5-9 years), long-term (10 or more years)	Verifiable indicator	Assumptions
Augmentation of interest for Modern Languages program	short-term (1-4 years)	Publication of papers	Journal editions
Recognition of the University through its publications	mid-term (5-9 years)	Academic forums , citation, indexation	Certification by Colciencias

Budget

Global budget

RUBRIC	SOURCES			
	ECCI*	Compensation 1**	Compensation 2**	Total
STAFF	6			0
EQUIPMENT	1			0
SOFTWARE	$800.000			$800.000
FIELD JOURNEYS	$1.200.000			$1.200.000
TECHNICAL SERVICES	$1.000.000			$1.000.000
TOTAL				$3.000.000

Description of staff expenses

Full-time / Half-time staff

Name of researcher	Academic training	Role within the project	Time commitment (Hours)	Total Weeks	Total Hours	Amount*
Franklin Arciniegas	Master	Editor	4	12	48	0
Yobany Mora	Master	Peer (spanish)	4	12	48	0
Jorge	Master	Peer	4	12	48	0

Vargas		(English)				
Andrés Robayo	Undergraduate	Coordinator	10	12	120	0
					Total	0

* The cost for teacher's staff is estimated in equivalence to work exemption of 20% for peers and 30% for editor.

External staff

Name of researcher	Academic training	Role within the project	Time commitment (Hours)	Total Weeks	Total Hours	Amount*
Camila Chaves	Master	Peer (English)	4	8	32	0
Román Camilo Díaz	PhD	Peer (spanish)	4	8	32	0
Víctor Espinoza	PhD	Editorial consultant	4	8	32	0
					Total	0

Equipment acquisition

Equipment	Justification	Sources			Total
		ECCI	Compensation 1	Compensation 2	

Computer / Printer / Scanner	It is necessary to provide a space with PC, printer and scanner to support the tasks of the editor. The physical space must have internet connection	Borrowing			Borrowing
Total					0

Description of software to acquire

Software	Justification	Sources			Total
		ECCI	Compensation 1	Compensation 2	
Website domain	It is essential for the diffusion of the journal	$ 600.000			$ 600.000
Hosting	It is necessary to publish and maintain the visibility of the journal	$ 200.000			$ 200.000
Total					$800.000

Valuation of field work

Destination	Nº of journeys	Unit cost	Sources			Total
			ECCI	Compensation 1	Compensation 2	
Cámara Colombiana del Libro – Instituto Caro y Cuervo	2	$50.000	$100.000			$ 100.000
International Book Fair 2017	1	$300.000	$300.000			$ 300.000
Interinstitutional events – Seminars about editorial function	2	$100.000	$ 200.000			$ 200.000
Total						$ 600.000

* The attendance to lectures and workshops related to editorial function, organized by entities such as Cámara Colombiana Del Libro and Instituto Caro y Cuervo, are opportunities to obtain new knowledge and updated information about the editorial labor of the academic publications in Colombia. In addition, it would be important to participate in the ECCI stand during the next Book's Fair, to make *Interlingua* public.

Description of technical support

Technical Services	Justification	Sources			Total
		ECCI	Compensation 1	Compensation 2	
Copy-editing	This procedure is necessary to ensure the writing and spelling quality of the contents	$600.000			$600.000
Web designer	An expert in web design is required to create the image of the journal	$400.000			$400.000
Total					$ 1.000.00 0

Description of travels

Destination	Justification	Tickets	Stay	Days	Source		Total
					ECCI	(External entity)	
ECCI University	Two persons of the editorial	$300.000	$300.000	2	$600.000		$600.000

Medellín	team would visit the seat in Medellin to present the journal and do a call for papers.						
					TOTAL		$600.000

Events attendance

As part of the project's development, it is appropriate to mention the experience obtained through the participation in a dissertation, where the project was presented. It occurred during the National Congress of Research Seedbeds (EINSI) 2016, organized by Fundación Redcolsi. This event took place in May 6 to 8 in 2016 at Universidad Uniagustiniana in Bogotá. This annual event promotes the research within the national schools and universities. Its main objective is to support the research in Colombia creating international academic networks to drive the most representative research ideas of the students.

The main benefit achieved in this participation was the evaluation of *Interlingua's* project by external experts in humanities, who posed the next recommendations as feedback:

The project is an excellent proposal according to the objectives devised. However, it corresponds to a hard work that must be done by a team, not by only one person; preferably with the collaboration of qualified teachers in each area of the journal. Besides, although the idea arose from the student's initiative, it is necessary to take into account that it would turned into property of the university when it carries out. On the other hand, it is essential to delimitate the field of knowledge since the term 'humanities' includes a countless of disciplines. Finally, if the

journal achieves the expected significance and recognition, it must be characterized by making the difference in comparison to other current journals.

Considering the previous recommendations, the following actions were taken:

1. Through the research seedbed, a group of five collaborators was formed in August 2016; it was integrated by Modern Languages students who have contributed from the start-up of the project. They have carried out documental and editorial activities, content design and marketing of the journal. Likewise, a teacher's team was convened to integrate the scientific and editorial team.

2. Although the idea came from a student, it is absolutely clear that *Interlingua* journal would be property of ECCI University after its launch.

3. The thematic field was circumscribed to the disciplines related with the current Modern Languages professional program. As result, the following concept map was proposed:
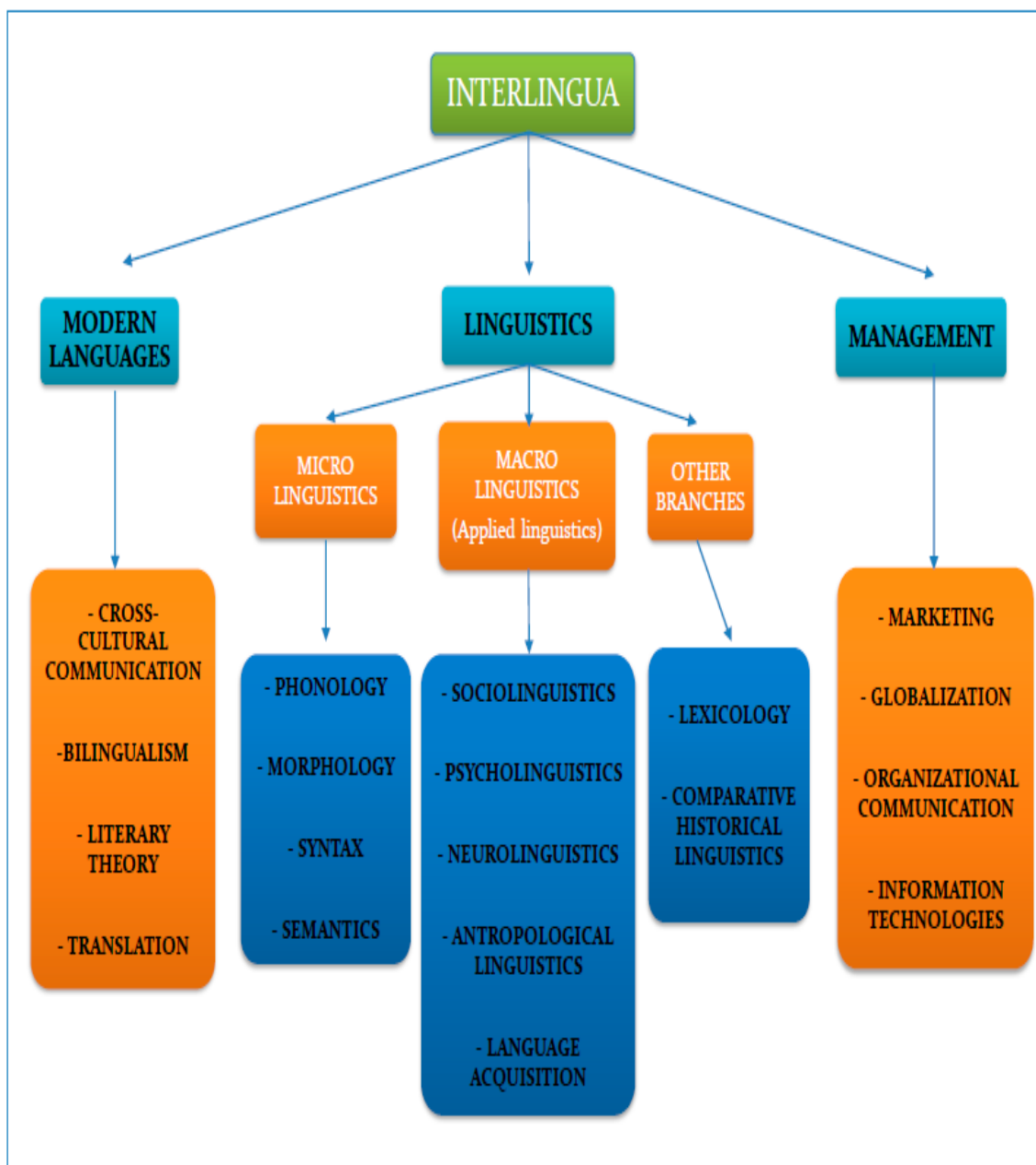
Conformation and progress of the research group

The research seedbed Discourse, Culture and Communication in Modern Languages

program was established in 2013 under the direction of teacher-researcher Franklin Arciniegas

Ovalle, with the aim of motivating students to develop research techniques and skills and

conduct new theories about current communication and culture.

By means of learning and practice of research dynamics, the seedbed is focused on creating critical thinking and humanistic sense through the innovation. Thus, the emerging ideas and projects from Modern Languages program are supported and students are encouraged to search solutions for the main problems arisen from languages learning and cultural interaction of the globalized world.

Some relevant projects have been developed from the research seedbed such as *Interlingua academic journal* and *Augmented Reality as learning environment,* which have been presented in various research congresses organized by the foundation Colombian Network of Research Seedbeds (Redcolsi). Currently, there are other projects in process such as *Translation Office, Video games as learning tool, Phonetics-Phonology-Prosody and Linguistic line-up.*

In particular, the work team of *Interlingua* are integrated by 4 students of 3rd semester who help with the research tasks. They come to the project in last year and would continue with the realization of the journal.

Call for papers

On last November 25 the call for papers was opened to receive the material for the first edition of the journal. The information was divulged through a massive e-mail to all the Modern Languages community. In addition, some posters were located at the coordination office and teacher's room.

Conclusions

Through the development of this study during more than two years, it has been possible to state that the strategies for the creation of an academic journal requires a strong knowledge about the complete editing process of scholar publications. Every specific aspect must be clear and consistent in order to design an accurate procedure that allows the start-up of the project. Therefore, the results obtained by means of data analysis are presented in this chapter in order to answer the research question.

First, apart from knowing, designing and determining the strategies and methods needed to create an academic journal, this study allows to conclude that the project would be pertinent in ECCI University due to the absence of a publication space about research contents within Modern Languages program. The information obtained from students' opinions confirms that the majority of population agree with the proposal. In addition, students approve the thematic contents of the journal because they feel identified with the subjects related to their professional program, hence they would be motivated to integrate the various research seedbeds and write for the journal. Likewise, it is completely clear for students and teachers that the research activity is very important within the academy. Thus, the universities are organizations of high level scientific knowledge production; because of this, it is unquestionably relevant that this research task be known out of the institution of origin, (Ganga, Paredes and Pedraja-Rejas, 2015). Consequently, the best way to reach this purpose is the publication in an indexed journal.

It is necessary to become familiar with the needed procedures of journals edition such as, call and reception of papers, constitution of scientific and editorial committees, design of editorial policies, peer review process and quality revision; along with technical means such as web domain, Open Journal System software and graphic design programs; and finally, no less

important: legal considerations such as ISSN, copyrights and open access license. All these aspects must be well structured within a journal and must be known by all its members, authors and contributors; in this way, the journal would guarantee its quality to be divulged national and internationally. Besides, the quality must be the most important characteristic to care because the journal would represent the objectives of the university in terms of humanism.

According to the interviewee's statement and suggestions, there are some matters related to contents and visibility that are essential to keep in mind in order to stand out from the rest of similar journals, these are the thematic field and the inclusion in databases. The innovative proposal of the journal to have its own identity and to differ from others is the interrelationship between modern languages and management, topics which students and teachers can take into account to develop useful researches. As a result, the journal would be a proper consult mean not only for the community interested in linguistics and languages, but readers interested in forms of communication within corporative and business world. Therefore, the journal would be part of databases with the advantage of having various subject categories to be consulted within the humanities field.

Based on the Publindex manual of Colciencias' requirements for the classification of scientific journals, it is clear that the journal must fulfill certain standards such as periodicity and configuration of scientific and editorial teams. Thus, this journal expects to maintain one edition per semester due to all the time implied to launch a serial publication of 5/10 articles with a proper design and quality. In regards to editorial and scientific committees, these are not completely defined from the beginning of the journal's functioning, despite of having some teachers and students recruited in the project, these work teams can increase to the extent that journal acquires prestige and recognition.

On the other hand, it is appropriate to consider that the university is able and has the conditions to promote and provide financial support to maintain the journal. This observation comes from the characteristics of the benefits offered by the university in the last call for research projects, to which this project applied and whose approval is outstanding. Even if the response is negative, journal can be developed with few resources because the institution could provide a space in its web platform, the design would be made by students and the work of editorial and scientific teams is voluntary as the main mission of the journal is the contribution to the academic community.

At last, within the research process, the scientific communication is fundamental because if there is not a correct dissemination and diffusion of the obtained knowledge, it is equivalent to not to do the research. The scientific journals represent the principal communication means to publish the advances of research in certain areas, each of them with a particular identity, objectives and mission. Thus, the circulation of the attained knowledge must be transmitted with the exclusive aim of contributing to the society's development. In that sense, this journal would be the participation mean from ECCI's Modern Language program to the scholar community and the increase of knowledge.

Limitations and questions for further research

While carrying out this study, some limitations and possible future restrictions were identified. Firstly, the literature belonging to qualitative research within the humanities field is limited and out-of-date. Although it's true that Colombia is not prominent in this area, it seems that nowadays the universities are giving priority to other areas of study and the research is focused in the applied sciences and technology. In recent years some publications have appeared that predicted the end of the humanities. This situation has to do with the development of science and technology (they serve as the guide for the development of societies), and the world economy, which does not tolerate the unproductive or the "accessory" (Rivero, 2013). In this context it is worth asking, what are the situation of humanities today? What do they produce?, and how do they work within the universities in Colombia?

In regards to research process in ECCI, the projects conducted through the research seedbeds takes too much time to produce effective outcomes. This is maybe due to two factors. One, the students present good ideas but these ideas are not correctly developed because of the lack of enough training in research procedures and this is reflected on the superficial written works. Two, the lack of the adequate time to execute an organized research plan is a current problem of students, even in teachers too, because of the majority of this people spend the day in their job. At this point, it is pertinent asking, could the university recognize the labor of research (only in the case of having a stipulated research project) as a subject?, in other words, would the institution willing to suppress any particular subject to provide student the opportunity to research and validate that time within his professional program?

In spite of the state entity responsible for promoting the scientific research in Colombia Colciencias, try to implement methods to favor the research development due to the irrefutable

increase in the country, the government does not assign the sufficient resources to drive the

project. As a result, without a reasonable support, the progress of innovative emerging ideas

from research groups would be halfway. It is an existing issue and the outlook seems to not

improve, graduated in Colombia need to complement their professional careers with foreign

master and doctorate scholarships, financial and physical resources to develop their researches

and opportunities within the companies to acquire experience through the practice; however this

benefits are reduced because of the poor budget for the research in Colombia. Hence, it would be

pertinent to look for support from private companies, but this could be demonstrated with a

specific eventual study.

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