Project e-HD: an archive system for electronic documents on High Dilution research

Carlos Renato Zacharias

UNESP, Univ Estadual Paulista, Guaratinguetá, SP, Brazil

ABSTRACT

Peer-reviewed journals and indexing agencies play a crucial role in the construction of knowledge since they discriminate between what is good science and what it is not. However, this represents only the tip of the iceberg of knowledge: below the surface, there is a strong undercurrent of ideas, unfinished theoretical elaborations, and multiple proposals for new experimental models. Some of interesting, other more limited and a further group untenable, they all share the fact that they are left aside and hidden from the sight of most people, including the scientists. This article introduces e-HD, a novel initiative to file electronic documents (e-doc) referred to High Dilution research. It is open to pre- and post-prints, lecture slides, videos, institutional websites and any other format of e-doc relevant to HDs. e-HD seeks thus to increase the visibility of HD research in the scientific environment.

Keywords: e-HD, Archive, Open Access, e-doc

Introduction

The study of HDs is a very exciting emerging field, because it challenges researchers to reflect about the current formally established knowledge and to search for new concepts, methods and models [1]. For this reason, the more organized the channels of communication are, the more active will become the interactions among its members favoring the production of knowledge [2,3]. This collective effort is essential to achieve the respect of peers, as well from society as a whole [4].

However, the intrinsic interdisciplinary of this field, which should be an asset, in practice proved to be an onus, since the results of research are scattered through countless media, from journals to websites and books. On the other hand, as an emergent field still lacking a definite conceptual structure, much of the work done does not attain the standards required for formal publication. In this way, many ideas and hypothesis that could bring novel insights are lost.

Peer-reviewed journals and indexing agencies play a crucial role in the construction of knowledge, since they discriminate between what is good science and what it is not. However, this represents only the tip of the iceberg of knowledge: below the surface, there is a strong undercurrent of ideas, unfinished theoretical elaborations, and multiple proposals for new experimental models. Some of interesting, other more limited and a further group untenable, they all share the fact that they are left aside and hidden from the sight of most people, including the scientists.

A possible solution to this quandary is open repositories or archives, where authors are free to place their contributions and make them available to all potential readers. In these systems, contributions are not peer-reviewed but merely evaluated as to compliance with a certain format and classified under a given heading. A further option is to include moderators and endorsers in order to ensure that the contents are relevant and interesting according to the state of ongoing research. A highly successful initiative in this regard is arXiv.org [5].

This paper, thus, introduces e-HD, a novel initiative to file electronic documents (e-doc) on HD research. Its pilot version [6] was launched in June 2010 and is open to pre- and post-prints, lecture slides, videos, institutional websites and any other format of e-doc relevant to HDs.

Basic Features

e-HD uses the Open Journal System (OJS) platform [7], a free software developed to manage scientific journals. It was adapted so that journal volumes became main fields of research or groups sharing a common theme. The pilot version of e-HD contains the volumes described in Table 1.

Table 1: Organization in volumes

Volume	Subject
1	Fundamental Research
2	Basic Research
3	Clinical Research
4	Pharmaceutical Research
5	Historical, Epistemological and Sociological Research
6	Plants and Microorganism Research
7	Veterinary Research
8	Education
9	Opinion
10	Book Review
11	Interviews
12	Website – Institutional
13	Scientific Journals

Any volume may contain several issues devoted to particular aspects of the main field. For example, volume 1 contains 2 issues, volume 2 contains 2 issues and volume 3, 3 issues (table 2).

Table 2: Organization in Volume and Issues

Volume(issue)	Main field	Subfield
1(1)	Fundamental Research	Experimental models
1(2)	Fundamental Research	Theoretical models
2(1)	Basic Research	Animal models
2(2)	Basic Research	Cell models
3(1)	Clinical Research	Evidenced Based Homeopathy
3(2)	Clinical Research	Case report
3(3)	Clinical Research	Pathogenetic trials

In turn, each issue contains some basic sections (table 3):

Table 3: Issues Sections

Sections
Open access (pre- and post-print)
Copyright restricted (post-print)
Slides
Videos

Each e-doc receives an identifying number coded as [YYYY;V:n] where **YYYY** represents the year of posting, **V** is the volume and **n** is a sequential numeric counter. The number of the issue is not indexed in order to permit more flexibility in the creation or joining of the issues within a same volume.

Whenever possible the copyright remains with authors, while the e-docs have a Creative Commons license [ref], where e-HD plays the role of licensor. In the case of restricted copyright (e.g., belonging to a publisher) authors must provide a written authorization during the submission procedure.

When submitting an e-doc to e-HD the author implicitly assumes full responsibility for the originality, authorship, contents, legal rights among other stipulations. Actual submission follows the 5-step procedure established by OJS. Texts must be set as PDF and slides in a format compatible with Microsoft Power Point ®. Due to limitations in storage capacity, videos cannot be uploaded, but the URL can be submitted accompanied by the data of the authors and an abstract.

Although the interface of the website is in English, e-docs in any language are accepted.

Next steps

e-HD was launched operating with its basic functionalities (submission procedure, search engine and announcements' page) and is ready to receive all kinds of e-docs. During the first 6 months more detailed information and tutorials will be inserted in the website, and users' suggestions are welcome. The management board will be opened in 2011 in order for experts to enroll as moderators, and the scope of volumes and issues will be refined based on the filed content.

Final remarks

e-HD is one more attempt to insert HD research in the scientific scenario giving visibility to all contributions in this field. The quality of each posted e-doc will contribute to the general acceptance of HD as an emergent field of science. Thus, authors are encouraged to revise critically their contributions since e-HD must remain non-peer-reviewed.

e-HD do not substitute peer-reviewed journals. Authors should take care to upload an article *only* if they are certain that they will not later wish to publish it in a journal that prohibits prior distribution on an e-print server.

References

- [1] Zacharias CR. Where we are going to? [editorial]. *Int J High Dilution Res* [online]. 2009 [cited 2009 Nov 13]; 8(28): 80-81. Available from: <http://www.feg.unesp.br/~ojs/index.php/ijhdr/article/view/355/398>.
- [2] Zacharias CR. The High Dilution phenomenon, Yours to Discover. [Editorial]. *Int J High Dilution Res* [online]. 2009 [cited 2009 Nov 13]; 8(26): 1-2. Available from: <http://www.feg.unesp.br/~ojs/index.php/ijhdr/article/view/331/378>.
- [3] Zacharias CR. To unite to be free [Editorial]. *Int J High Dilution Res* [online]. 2008 [cited 2009 Nov 13]; 7(23): 46-47. Available from: <http://www.feg.unesp.br/~ojs/index.php/ijhdr/article/view/281/350>.
- [4] Zacharias CR, Bertagna R, Domingos PHS. ReNPAD: a brazilian network for researchers in High Dilution. *Int J High Dilution Res* [online]. 2009 [cited YYYY Month dd]; 8(29): 191-198. Available from: <http://www.feg.unesp.br/~ojs/index.php/ijhdr/article/view/362/411>.
- [5] arXiv.org. Cornell University Library; [cited June 10 2010]. Available from: <http://arxiv.org/>
- [6] e-HD. e-HD launched!; [cited June 12 2010]. Available from: <http://www.feg.unesp.br/~ojs/index.php/ehd/>
- [7] Public Knowledge Project. Open Journal System; [cited June 10 2010]. Available from: <http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>

PROJETO E-HD: UM SISTEMA DE ARQUIVAMENTO PARA DOCUMENTOS ELETRÔNICOS SOBRE PESQUISA EM ALTAS DILUIÇÕES

RESUMO

Revistas com revisão por pares e agências indexadoras exercem um papel crucial na construção do conhecimento, uma vez que discriminam o que é e o que não é uma boa ciência. No entanto, estas representam apenas o topo do iceberg do conhecimento: abaixo da superfície existe uma forte movimentação de idéias, elaborações teóricas não terminadas e múltiplas propostas para novos modelos experimentais. Algumas são interessantes, outras mais limitadas, outras inaceitáveis, porém todas dividindo o fato de que são deixadas de lado e fadadas ao esquecimento pela maioria das pessoas, inclusive os pesquisadores. Este artigo introduz o projeto e-HD, uma nova iniciativa para o arquivamento de documentos eletrônicos (e-doc) relacionados a pesquisas em Altas Diluições. e-HD está aberta para pré- e pós-prints, slides de palestras, vídeos, websites institucionais e qualquer outro formato de e-docs relevantes para a área. e-HD busca dessa forma aumentar a visibilidade das pesquisas em HD, no ambiente científico.

Palavras-chave: e-HD, arquivo, acesso abertos, e-doc

Proyecto e-HD: un sistema de archivamiento de documentos electrónicos sobre la investigación em alta dilución

RESUMEN

Revistas revisadas por pares y los organismos de indexación desempeñan un papel crucial en la construcción del conocimiento, ya que discriminan entre lo que es buena y lo que es mala ciencia. Sin embargo, esto representa sólo la punta del iceberg del conocimiento: por debajo de la superficie, hay una fuerte corriente de ideas, elaboraciones teóricas no terminadas y múltiples propuestas para nuevos modelos experimentales. Algunos de ellos interesantes, otros más limitados y un grupo aún insostenible, todos comparten el hecho de que se los dejan alejados y ocultos a la vista de la mayoría de las personas, incluyendo a los científicos. En este

artículo se presenta proyecto e-HD, una novedosa iniciativa para reunir los documentos electrónicos (e-doc) vinculados a la investigación de las altas diluciones. Está abierto a pre- y post-prints, las diapositivas de conferencias, videos, sitios web institucionales y cualquier otro formato de los e-doc para HD. e-HD pretende aumentar así la visibilidad de la investigación en altas diluciones en el ambiente científico.

Palabras clave: e-HD, archivo, acceso abierto, e-doc

Licensed to [GIRI](#)

Support: authors declare that this study received no funding

Conflict of interest: authors declare there is no conflict of interest

Received: 01 April 2010; Revised: 02 June 2010; Published: 30 June 2010.

Correspondence author: Zacharias CR, zacha@feg.unesp.br

How to cite this article: Zacharias CR. Project e-HD: an archive system for electronic documents on High Dilution research. *Int J High Dilution Res* [online]. 2010 [cited YYYY Month dd]; 9(31): 85-89. Available from: <http://www.feg.unesp.br/~ojs/index.php/ijhdr/article/view/403/436>