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## The Evolution of the Scientific Journal

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When we have a scientific journal in our hands, we are usually unaware of the recent history that precedes it or of the remote past that has made its existence possible. A look into the past allows us to appreciate the meaning of a publication of that nature.

In a retrospective of printed literature, it is essential to mention, even briefly, the development of oral language, whose origins are lost in the fog of human history, and of written language, whose beginnings date back the peoples of Mesopotamia around 3,500 years ago. In the Middle Ages, monks in monasteries were the ones who mainly preserved and translated the scientific texts written in ancient Greece by authors such as Aristotle, Democritus, Leucippus, Pythagoras, Archimedes, and Eratosthenes, among others. The invention of the printing press in the mid-15th century in Germany by Johannes Gutenberg boosted the dissemination of printed literature and, particularly, of the book as we know it today.

In the 14th century, with the onset of the Renaissance, there was a renewed interest in scientific subjects. Subsequently, by the 18th century, during the Enlightenment, written communication of a scientific nature was predominantly epistolary and took place among the most prominent scientists of the time. In 1665, what is considered the first scientific journal was published in France under the name *Journal des Savants*.

With the development in science and technology, particularly over the last two centuries, the dissemination of knowledge and scientific findings has transcended all borders. It is estimated that there are around 24,000 scientific journals in circulation worldwide. Printed publications in traditional format compete nowadays with electronic formats, the dissemination of which is increasing. Both contribute to accelerating the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Given the significant scientific output in the modern world, implementing classification and rating methods has become necessary to address the nature and quality of publications. Publishing houses' standards, set through their internal guidelines, and the peer review process for articles proposed for publication are fundamental requirements to ensure journal quality.

Journals published by universities often include articles on subjects beyond those of scientific interest, such as program evaluations and essays of different types.

These publications, which acknowledge the name of the institution where they are typically produced, grant the seal of respect inherent to the institution..

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