

IEEE-RITA Looking to the Future

THE IEEE LATIN AMERICAN LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES JOURNAL (IEEE-RITA) began its phase as an official IEEE journal in 2013, after its launch in November 2006 as an official publication of the IEEE Education Society [1]. Initially, it published articles in Spanish or Portuguese (2006–2012), and then starting in 2013 in English on IEEE Xplore with a Spanish or Portuguese version, through VAEP-RITA (Spanish or Portuguese Open Version). Since 2018, this double version of the articles in English and in Spanish or Portuguese was reinforced [2]: in English to facilitate its maximum dissemination to the scientific community through IEEE Xplore, and in Spanish or Portuguese to cover a double objective: 1) to make it easier for the Ibero-American community to publish articles on the subject matter of the journal, focusing first on the technical aspect of the article in their native languages (Spanish or Portuguese) and once revised in those languages, to be able to dedicate themselves to translating it into English, counting on the help of the ETAC (English Technical Advisory Committee) of IEEE-RITA for language revision; and 2) to facilitate the dissemination of their works in open access in their original languages (Spanish or Portuguese) on VAEP-RITA.

Also, since 2018 [2], we have enhanced the papers presented at high-level conferences, allowing and encouraging the extension of those papers to be able to be published in IEEE-RITA. And, in addition, we have worked to achieve free publications for authors.

Since the beginning of IEEE-RITA (November 2006), including the IEEE official journal stage (2013), IEEE-RITA has had an Editorial Board with a President or Editor-in-Chief and a Vice-President or Co-Editor, and a Scientific Committee. In order to adapt to the standards of IEEE publications, IEEE-RITA has dispensed with the Scientific Committee, and its functions have been assumed by the Associate Editors, expanding its composition with a greater presence of women and also more of Associate Editors coming from Latin American countries. This has also brought about a change in the structure of the Editorial Board, with only one President (Editor-in-Chief), and we took advantage of the opportunity to change the Editor-in-Chief, since his original mandate had clearly expired in this new stage. In this way, IEEE-RITA now fully complies with the standards of IEEE publications, maintaining the characteristic that in our opinion makes it unique: to facilitate the publication of quality articles in the field of learning technologies in the Ibero-American community, both in English for international dissemination, and in Spanish or Portuguese in an open manner, to facilitate dissemination in the Ibero-American community.

TABLE I
INDICATORS CS Y SJR

Year	#art	#art + #edit.	CS	CS: best Percentil	SJR	SJR best Quartil
2020	46	49	1.9	61	0.227	Q3
2019	22	23	2.2	71	0.256	Q2
2018	18	21	2	70	0.231	Q2
2017	26	28	1.5	63	0.255	Q2
2016	33	37	1.3	59	0.195	Q3
2015	38	46	0.7	37	0.24	Q2
2014	21	24	0.4	23	0.173	Q3
2013	27	29	0.5	30	0.187	Q3

#art.: number of articles

#edit.: number of editorials, both guest and institutional

IEEE-RITA has been included, even before this official stage started in 2013, in the CS (CiteScore) and SJR (Scimago Journal Rank) indexes, both from Scopus. The value of these indexes together with the number of articles published each year is captured in Table I. It can be seen that, despite the increase in the number of publications in the early years, the impact was increasing over the years. In this last year, the impact in these indexes has dropped due to the considerable increase in articles in the last year (more than doubling), but we believe that in the coming years, the increase in the indexes will return when the number of articles published per year is consolidated in the 40–50 paper range. Since 2013, 24 Special Issues have been published, and, currently, there are four in progress.

And, this year, IEEE-RITA has been included in the JCR (Journal Citation Reports) of Clarivate Analytics, within the ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index). JCR included until the last year (2019) the SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index), and SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded) indexes, but from this year (2020) also includes ESCI, where IEEE-RITA has been included since 2017. IEEE-RITA's goal will be to be included also in JCR's SSCI and/or SCIE index.

Within this process of electing a new Editor-in-Chief, the governing board of the IEEE Education Society in its session of July 1, 2021, and at the proposal of the Vice President of publications, Arnold Pears, elected Dr. Carina Gonzalez as the new Editor-in-Chief of IEEE-RITA effective August 1, 2021.

We have worked with Carina in the past, where the organization of EDUCON 2018 stands out, and collaborations with IEEE-RITA, first as Guest Editor of some special issues, and since last year (2020) as an Associate Editor. Therefore, we know well her value, and, therefore, we are certain that she will continue to improve the services that IEEE-RITA provides in the field of learning technologies to the Ibero-American

community, and we wish her the greatest success in this new stage of IEEE-RITA, where she will also have all our support. Welcome Carina!

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