

25 YEARS OF LICERE: FROM PIONEERING IN LEISURE STUDIES TO THE NARRATIVES OF ITS JOURNEY

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ABSTRACT: This study addresses some aspects of the 25-year trajectory of the *Licere* Journal, from the Graduate Program in Leisure Studies (PPGIEL) at UFMG, highlighting its evolution from conception to consolidation as a reference in Leisure Studies. Using the oral history of its founders and analysis of data from the Journal's website, we aim to examine, disseminate, and preserve *Licere*'s trajectory, including its pioneering role, adaptation to digital culture, and future prospects. We analyzed 1,105 article publications across different editions of the Journal, all digitally accessible and categorized by gender, institution, and thematic axes covered by each production. Our analyses reveal that publications in the field of leisure demonstrate increasing prominence of women, UFMG had the highest number of publications among institutions, leisure and society emerges as a prominent theme, and the Southeast region leads in productivity. The *Licere* Journal stands out with its ongoing commitment to enriching knowledge in the field of Leisure.

KEYWORDS: *Licere* journal. Leisure Studies. Interdisciplinary periodical.

LICERE 25 ANOS: DO PIONEIRISMO EM ESTUDOS DO LAZER ÀS NARRATIVAS DA SUA TRAJETÓRIA

RESUMO: Este estudo aborda alguns aspectos da trajetória dos 25 anos da Revista *Licere*, do PPGIEL da UFMG, destacando sua evolução desde a concepção até sua consolidação como referência nos Estudos do Lazer. Utilizando a história oral dos idealizadores e a análise de dados do site da Revista, buscamos examinar, divulgar e preservar a trajetória da *Licere*, incluindo seu pioneirismo, adaptação à cultura digital e perspectivas futuras. Foram analisadas 1.105 publicações de artigos em diferentes edições da Revista, foi possível acessar todos os artigos de maneira digital, categorizadas por gênero, instituição e além dos eixos temáticos englobados por cada produção. Observamos nas análises que as publicações no campo do lazer evidenciam que as mulheres vêm se destacando, a UFMG foi aquela instituição que mais teve publicações, a temática lazer e sociedade se sobressai nos resultados e a região Sudeste lidera na produtividade. A Revista *Licere* se avulta com o compromisso contínuo de enriquecimento do conhecimento na área do Lazer.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Revista *Licere*. Estudos do lazer. Periódico interdisciplinar.

Introduction

The 25-year history of *Licere*, the journal of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Leisure Studies (PPGIEL) at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), raises issues that require some preliminary considerations while also prompting analyses and reflections on various topics. In this regard, it is interesting and motivating to propose this study to give visibility to the construction of *Licere* and the

experiences of the people involved in this process, from the idealization by scholars in the field to the consolidation of the Journal as a reference and means of disseminating scientific research on Leisure Studies in Brazil, thus going through the challenges, transformations and possibilities that involve scientific publications.

This study has two primary purposes. The first is to present historical points in the trajectory of Licere's development and establishment, based on excerpts from testimonies kindly provided by its founders. Using these interviews as a foundation, we highlight the pioneering role in Leisure Studies, the professional contributions of faculty members, the actions taken and planned for the launch of Licere, and some of the changes that have occurred, such as its transition to the digital culture and future prospects for the journal, including its internationalization with an English-language publication and the importance of interdisciplinarity in Leisure Studies. The second purpose of this text is to discuss the analysis of systematically categorized data on the content published in the journal throughout its history.

To achieve these objectives, we utilized oral history as a supporting instrument, conducting interviews with Professor Christianne Luce Gomes and Professor Hélder Isayama. Thus, we consider oral sources as valid in themselves, aligning with the way testimonies and oral evidence are analyzed, interpreted, and historically contextualized. In the second phase, information was gathered through direct observation by researchers of the electronic versions of the journal's issues. This meant that data collection for certain indicators was conducted in different sections of the journal's website between September and December 2023, categorized and presented in graphical form.

This work, developed within the scope of the Doctorate program at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Leisure Studies (PPGIEL) at the Federal

University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), aims to contribute to the deepening, dissemination, and preservation of the history and memory of Licere while generating unprecedented data on this scientific journal, which has gained prominence in both the Brazilian and international academic landscapes.

Remembering the Past to Understand the Present: From Conception to the Launch of Licere

Two Young Scholars and a Dream: About the Founders of Licere

In 2023, Licere celebrated 25 years of history. To better understand this project, we spoke with its founders—two of the most prominent figures in the discussion on Leisure Studies in Brazil: Professor Christianne Luce Gomes, Ph.D. and Professor Hélder Ferreira Isayama, Ph.D. both affiliated with UFMG.

As faculty members of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Leisure Studies at UFMG, Christianne Gomes and Hélder Isayama coordinate research groups linked to the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). These are, respectively, the LUCE Research Group—Ludicity, Culture, and Education—and the Oricolé Research Group—Laboratory for Research on Training and Professional Practice in Leisure.

The academic backgrounds of the interviewees include Physical Education, with an emphasis on an interdisciplinary perspective, mainly focusing on the following topics: Physical Education and Leisure; Training and Professional Practice in Leisure; Interrelations of Leisure in Society; Multidisciplinarity; and Tourism. Additionally, Christianne and Hélder, as they are commonly called, are founders of the Brazilian

Association for Research and Graduate Studies in Leisure Studies (ANPEL) and members of the OTIUM Research Network (Ibero-American Network of Leisure Studies), which play significant roles in promoting and disseminating knowledge in the field.

Ibero-American scholars and global citizens, they have opened new research fronts in Brazil, Spain, Argentina, Portugal, Chile, and Colombia while critically and humanely engaging with societal issues. Their combination of personal and professional interests, both in their time and beyond, manifests in academic productivity marked by attentiveness, generosity, and contributions to the interdisciplinary field of Leisure Studies. Their body of work includes over 300 publications, encompassing participation in conferences, authorship and co-authorship of journal articles, book chapters, and books, with *Licere* as a part of this scholarly production.

As a response to a continuously reflective social practice in education and teaching, which legitimizes education in academia through teaching, research, and extension, these educators draw upon their emotional memories to share the journey of *Licere*'s creation.

The Very Beginning: From Collaborative Work to the Emergence of a Successful Partnership

In September 1998, volume 1 of *Licere* Journal was published. Initially named *Licere*—Journal of the Center for Leisure and Recreation Studies of the School of Physical Education (EEF) at UFMG, the inaugural issue was part of a collaborative project for scientific dissemination. Over the years, and with the popularization of the internet, the journal underwent digitalization, established a website, and expanded to

digital social networks, further increasing access to research in the field. But how was this journal initially conceived?

To answer this question, it is necessary to go back a little in history and understand the context of its creation. Thus, in exclusive interviews with the authors of the present exposition, the founders of the *Licere* journal narrate how it is linked to their professional trajectories, covering their entry into UFMG and the creation of PPGIEL.

Christianne Luce Gomes joined UFMG as a full-time professor in 1996, dedicating herself especially to Leisure, both in Physical Education and in other fields of knowledge. At the end of her undergraduate studies, she became fascinated by the theme of Leisure. Parallel to her professional work in schools, clubs, fitness centers, sports training courses, residential condominiums, summer camps, and holiday retreats in the early 1990s, her interest in the academic field was awakened. For this reason, she applied for and was selected to join the student body of the First Specialization Course in Leisure (a *lato sensu* postgraduate program), held by UFMG in partnership with the National Department of Sesi in 1993. The course was developed within the scope of the Center for Leisure and Recreation Studies (Centro de Estudos do Lazer e Recreação – CELAR), which was created on the initiative of Professor Leila Mirtes in 1990.

According to Chris, certain that she wanted to build an academic career, after completing the aforementioned postgraduate course, she enrolled in the Master's program in Sports Science at UFMG in 1994, where she defended her dissertation entitled *The Use of the Body by the Game of Power in Physical Education* in November 1995. Subsequently, she prepared for the teaching competition in the field of Leisure at the Department of Physical Education and was appointed to the position in June 1996, at the age of 25. At the time, in addition to teaching undergraduate courses, she

coordinated the Specialization Course in Leisure, supervised students, conducted research, participated in events, took on administrative activities, and developed university extension projects in collaboration with CELAR.

As the only Leisure professor in the Department, Chris managed, with the support of colleagues, to secure an additional faculty position for the field of Leisure. Thus, in 1997, a competitive examination was held at UFMG, specifically for Recreation and Leisure. In this context, Professor Hélder Isayama was approved, marking the beginning of a great partnership—successful ever since and continuing to this day. It is worth noting that the professor's association with UFMG occurred after he completed his Master's degree in Physical Education at the State University of Campinas (1997), where he defended his dissertation entitled "Fundamental Motor Skill: A Comparative Analysis Between Laboratory and Natural Situations."

Although they only met after starting to work together at UFMG, the synergy between Hélder and Chris seems to have emerged immediately and can be easily perceived in various moments of the professors' casual conversations.

We didn't know each other before. We met at the time of the competitive examination. I was part of the evaluation committee, and I had no idea who that person was, how he thought exactly, or what our academic relationship would be like once he joined. And I must say that this partnership was a gift because it has always been successful. We share common goals. We divide responsibilities, respect our differences, and strive to develop projects and initiatives in the field of Leisure that are committed to collective interests. One of the academic seeds we planted was the *Licere* journal (Gomes, 2024).

Thus, Hélder and Chris joined efforts not only to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of Recreation and Leisure at UFMG but also to expand the initiatives that had already been developed in the school by professors Leila Mirtes, Marilita Aparecida Arantes Rodrigues, and Ydalga Maria Ribas Rezende through CELAR. With the retirement of Professor Leila Mirtes in 1995, the two new professors, now integrated into the Leisure area of the Department of Physical Education, carried forward the project's actions and, from them, created new perspectives and initiatives, such as the Lazer em Debate Seminar and the Licere journal, as highlighted by Professor Hélder.

Coming from Unicamp (where he was also pursuing a Ph.D. in Physical Education), for Hélder, the Lazer em Debate Seminar emerged as a regional initiative—a small event that would bring together his colleagues already engaged with the phenomenon of Leisure. With direct contact with Professor Nelson Carvalho Marcellino⁶ (a sociologist, researcher, sociocultural animator, pioneer, and author of various works in the field of Leisure Studies in Brazil), Hélder was immersed in dialogues that led him to recognize the need to develop initiatives in the field of Leisure. In this context, he and Christianne conceived the idea of creating a scientific journal.

From the Idea to its Materialization: The Creation of Licere

The desire to create an academic journal on Leisure was born from the initiative of two young professors at UFMG—Chris and Hélder—driven by determination,

⁶ About the author and the websites: <https://cev.org.br/qq/marcelin/> e <https://cev.org.br/eventos/homenagem-nelson-carvalho-marcellino-40-anos-do-livro-lazer-e-humanizacao>. Accessed on: March 24, 2024.

energy, and enthusiasm to expand knowledge and promote the reach and engagement of Leisure professionals. Other complementary activities were developed⁷, reinforcing the process of expanding the qualification of Leisure specialists and organizing events in the field that helped to enhance an interdisciplinary perspective on the subject.

Initially, the journal project was based on a more informal production, aimed at publishing not only some texts written by guest speakers but, more importantly, the work being carried out by the students in the specialization program. Hélder recalls that, at the time, he had little understanding of the journal ranking system or the editorial processes involved in scientific publication.

We didn't have that understanding yet... about how journals were evaluated. We weren't very aware of this aspect of publishing. We understood that scientific publication was important. There was no such overvaluation of journals to the detriment of books. Still, we created this space with the intent of publishing more specific works on the field of Leisure, but with a regional focus, highlighting what people here at the school were producing." (Isayama, 2023)

The idea was set, the intention was to group and disseminate the work and research that was being developed and discussed on the theme of Leisure at the time by the group, with the main objective of contributing to the advancement of the area and expanding, through publications, what was being produced at that time. The texts in article format were composed of discussions at meetings, "[...] the second issue, for example, has four or five articles published from the lectures that some people gave at the Lazer em Debate Seminar". Hélder remembers that there were texts by Professor Silvio Ricardo da Silva, Professor Leila Mirtes, and other people who gave lectures at

⁷ Falcão; Debortoli and Rosa (2019) in the text "From CELAR to PPGIEL: a history of construction and work for the development of leisure", tell the actions developed by professors Christianne and Hélder that contributed to the expansion and improvement of university teaching, research and extension projects in the area of Leisure. Available at: <https://repositorio.ufmg.br/bitstream/1843/44205/2/Do%20celar%20ao%20PPGIEL.pdf> Accessed on: March 24, 2024.

the Seminar (Isayama, 2023). Chris, in turn, talks about the motivation for creating Licere Journal. She clarifies that the motivation, “obviously, may have been different for me and for him”, Professor Hélder. My interest, in particular, was awakened shortly after the National Recreation and Leisure Meeting (ENAREL)” (Gomes, 2024). This event took place in Belo Horizonte in December 1997, organized by the City of Belo Horizonte in partnership with UFMG, where Chris and Hélder were members of the scientific committee. The IX ENAREL was held as a commemorative milestone of the centenary of the capital of Minas Gerais, and brought together an audience of approximately 700 people (scholars, researchers and professionals with training in different areas), coming from several states of Brazil.

In this scenario, a collection with hundreds of pages was published in print, containing texts from speakers, presenters of oral communications and posters presented at the event, “being valuable material on Leisure in that period. Shortly afterwards, at the turn of 1997 to 1998, we decided to invest in the project of creating a journal about Leisure, it would be the first in the country on this topic” (Gomes, 2024).

However, the process of building Licere was considered difficult by its founders. Firstly, one can list the arduous search for resources to make the journal and its respective publications viable. Both in terms of finance – an initiative considered by Hélder as a fundamental issue when it comes to printed journals, as well as journals in digital format – and human resources. In this case, whether to make suggestions, to work voluntarily or even to author the work.

We knew it would be a great challenge, because, unlike other types of publication, an academic journal requires the involvement of several people willing to work voluntarily, whether as editors, members of the scientific committee, evaluators, authors and readers interested in expanding their knowledge about Leisure. Among other things, we needed to mobilize authors, define article submission rules, systematize an evaluation process and ensure the journal's periodicity so that it would have continuity and instigate the interest of potential readers (Gomes, 2024).

Still, Hélder reports that the true dimension of what publishing a scientific journal entails only begins to be truly understood in practice, with the emergence of obstacles: “I don’t even know if this vision we have today was the same as it was back then. But, we had this intention of helping the area to advance, trying, then, to publish something that was being produced at that moment in history” (Isayama, 2023).

The Latin word “licere” was thought of as the title of the Journal because it is the etymological root of the word leisure, and also because it was well known by scholars of the subject in Brazil and other countries. The choice of the journal’s name is explained in the editorial of its first edition, as follows: “it was a suggestion from one of the members of the CELAR Study Group. A word of Latin origin, “licere” means “to be lawful, permitted”, and represents the basis of the very constitution of the meaning of Leisure in our historical sociocultural context”⁸. The proposal was that it would be printed, free of charge and, in principle, published annually (Gomes, 2024). Also counting on suggestions from some partners, such as Nelson Carvalho Marcellino, Antônio Carlos Bramante, Heloisa Turini Bruhns and Maurício Roberto da Silva, the latter being cited by Hélder (2023) as a name that greatly influenced the structuring of the periodical itself, with vast experience as editor and creator of the “Motrivivência”

⁸ LICERE - Revista do Programa de Pós-graduação Interdisciplinar em Estudos do Lazer, Belo Horizonte, v. 1, n. 1. set. 1998. Available at: <https://periodicos.ufmg.br/index.php/licere/issue/view/98>. Accessed on: March 27, 2024.

Journal, he provided several ideas and tips on the organization into sections, as well as respective names that remain to this day.

Very well received by the academic community, *Licere* was soon recognized as a pioneering journal, with the potential to contribute greatly to the dissemination of knowledge produced about Leisure in our country, being yet another initiative committed to the consolidation of this field (Gomes, 2024).

“And When We Went to Get the Journal from the Printing Shop, We Said: We have to celebrate this achievement!” – *Licere* is then published

The project was approved by the Department of Physical Education and the 1st edition was published in September 1998. A non-profit, pioneering journal on the subject in Brazil, in its first Editorial, Hélder and Chris initially discussed the significant advances that discussions on Recreation and Leisure were gaining in recent years, “both in terms of the deepening of interdisciplinary theoretical-practical studies, and the expansion of its scope of action in our society”⁹. And, as a consequence, they demonstrate the growing interest in participating in this process by different social actors, be they academics, researchers, and/or professionals from different areas.

Regarding the organizational structure of the Journal, we describe the sections and a summary of their objectives and characteristics. With the aim of supporting the rethinking of Leisure through different points of view, in the “Multiple Views” section, four references in the field were invited to write specifically about the idea of the concept of Leisure, sent to the dossier entitled “Leisure, conceptions and meanings”,

⁹ LICERE - Revista do Programa de Pós-graduação Interdisciplinar em Estudos do Lazer, Belo Horizonte, v. 1, n. 1, set. 1998. Available at: <https://periodicos.ufmg.br/index.php/licere/issue/view/98>. Accessed on: March 27, 2024.

which were: Antonio Carlos Bramante; Leila Mirtes Santos de Magalhães Pinto; Luiz Octávio de Lima Camargo and Nelson Carvalho Marcellino. The inaugural edition also featured works in the “Articles” section, written by Christianne Luce Gomes; Gisele Maria Schwartz; Heloisa Turini Bruhns and Lamartine Pereira da Costa, with themes involving Leisure and its relationship with professional training; with the sublimation of playfulness within the school context; with culture and technology and with contemporary historical and philosophical approaches, respectively.

Furthermore, in “Daily Experiences”, a section dedicated to reports on professional experience, completed or in progress, there is a text by Vânia de Fátima Noronha Alves. In turn, in “Entre-Vistas”, a space dedicated to content formulated from interviews or debates, Maria Lígia Marcondes de Camargo presents the “rescue” and production of Rubinho do Vale’s Folklore. The dissemination of information about scientific production in the field is the focus of the “Tome Ciência” section, which presented summaries of the Specialization Monograph by Márcio Aparecido de Freitas Silva, and the Master's Dissertations by Humberto Luís de Deus Inácio and Cristiane Ker de Melo.

Finally, in “Stay Tuned” the editors announce a “Discussion List on Recreation and Leisure on the Internet,” interestingly, an invitation for a free subscription for Internet users who have access to an e-mail connection. This list, entitled “CEVLazer-L”, had been created in February 1997, at the State University of Campinas, and was a space for discussion about Leisure and Recreation, under the responsibility of Prof. Eduardo “Lalo” Soto, from Uruguay. With objectives such as analyzing issues related to the field, presenting information about events and conferences related to the area and disseminating bibliography on the subject, at the time of publication, it had 90

subscribers from 7 different countries (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Spain, Portugal and Uruguay). The “TV Specialization Course in Leisure 1999-2000 – CELAR EEF UFMG – Postgraduate Lato Sensu” is also publicized, with general information describing the objective, target audience, total workload, subjects and period of completion of the course. Finally, there are guidelines for collaborators (authors), publication rules and a “Subscription Form”, which gave the right to 2 years of receiving the Journal, that is, 2 copies (1999/2000), for the price of R\$15.00.

Thus, with an emblematic cover featuring an illustration of a blue and orange bird playing “Hopscotch”, the 144 pages of the first edition marked the beginning of Licere’s 25th anniversary. Helder tells us that while the academic part had the collaboration of people in the area, friends who already worked in this field, the graphic part, however, worked with the services of the publisher “Centro Audiovisual”. People were hired to carry out the graphic design, illustration, editing and printing of the Journal. In fact, at one point Chris comments: “the concept of the cover had more to do with the creator of the cover than with us. But for us it was a very welcome contribution. And that's how we started the journal. We were very, very excited!” (Gomes, 2024).

Figure 1: Cover of the 1st edition of *Licere* Journal



Source: Revista *Licere*¹⁰.

The excitement is noticeable in the tone of the speeches of the creators Hélder and Chris when they remember the launch of *Licere*. In a mix of emotion and reflection, Chris reports that after collecting the first copies from the printer, such was the enthusiasm of seeing the project materialized that they realized the need to celebrate the event. A happy hour was then organized at a restaurant close to UFMG at the time. With its credibility enhanced by the fact that it has a robust structure with a cover, graphic design, content considered relevant and important authors, the celebration of its first publication had the help of several people, including UFMG professors, students and former students, and colleagues outside the Institution. The adhesion was spontaneous,

What we really wanted, and want, is to contribute to the advancement of this field. We even had the presence of Rubinho do Vale, a well-known musician in Minas Gerais, who played and sang with us. We are counting on the presence of many dear people. It was an event in Belo Horizonte with a very special meaning for all of us who were engaged in the field of Leisure, in fact, wanting to do our best so that this field would grow (Gomes, 2024).

¹⁰ LICERE - Revista do Programa de Pós-graduação Interdisciplinar em Estudos do Lazer, Belo Horizonte, v. 1, n. 1. set. 1998. Available at: <https://periodicos.ufmg.br/index.php/licere/issue/view/98>. Accessed on: March 27, 2024.

However, it is worth noting that this episode was just the first of several releases made until the second issue came out the following year. The annual frequency was the option initially chosen due to the challenge of Licere consolidating itself as a successful project and, therefore, needing to proceed with caution. Therefore, the frequent participation of editors in events was a powerful tool used to publicize and distribute printed material. With suitcases stuffed with journals, the creators of Licere and their undergraduate students who participated in study groups, disseminated the periodical whenever opportunities arose, such as at an event organized by Professor Nelson Carvalho Marcellino, at Unicamp, which Hélder recounts in a humorous way, as shown in the following excerpt:

And then Chris and I went by bus to Campinas, with our suitcase full of journals, with as much as we could carry. And we launched it at Unicamp, at this event. So we distributed these journals, because we didn't want to return with a full suitcase (Isayama, 2023).

Regarding other forms of distribution, Hélder tells us that it was not a very well-ordered process at the beginning. Soon, the print run had around a thousand copies, and they were also shared free of charge outside of the events, for partners, mainly university professors, who received (in person or by mail) two copies (one for the professor and another for the library of the institution linked to them) in order to promote the Journal. There was also an exchange between libraries, so that a given institution would send its periodical to the EEFFTO library (School of Physical Education, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy at UFMG), and, in exchange, would receive Licere.

In addition, there were subscriptions, and later sales, since the first issue had surplus resources from funding related to Lato Sensu Postgraduate Studies, but

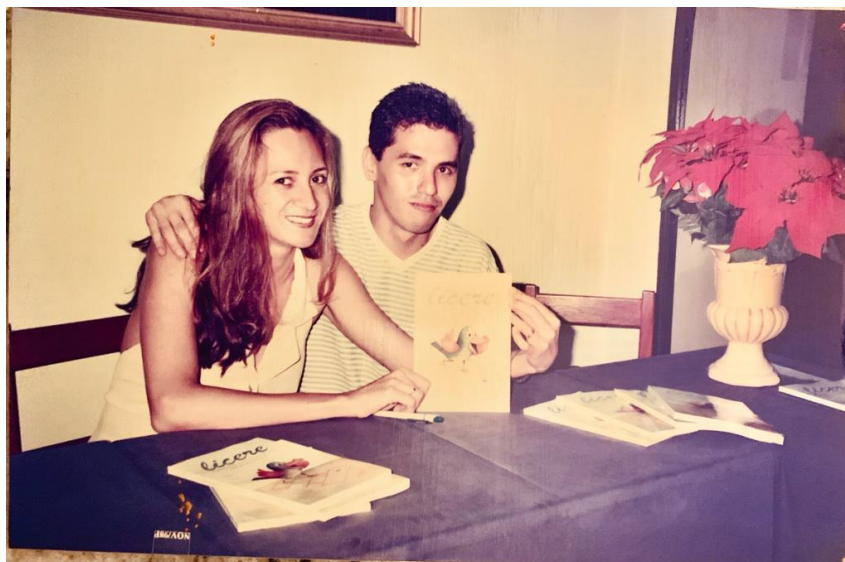
subsequent editions needed means to make their continuation viable, even though we were aware that “these sales did not cover everything, but they helped us to publish the next issue” (Isayama, 2023). The amount charged for the journals was variable and contributed to covering the costs of the UFMG publisher's services.

In this context, in a process considered “very homemade and amateurish”, Hélder and Chris opened a joint bank account exclusively for Licere, into which people deposited the value of the copy and then sent an email confirming that the payment had been made, so that the journal could then be sent by mail. “It was a lot of manual work and a huge investment for me and Christianne. And some people, of course. Mainly undergraduate students who participated in our study groups and who helped us do this” (Isayama, 2023).

In short, remembering some of the steps taken on the path from the idealization to the realization of Licere - with the launch of its first edition - highlights the latent feelings of unity, gratitude, dedication and purpose that underpin this journey, even if it was slow. “I think that the youth of that time made us say “ah! Let's do it, it's going to have to happen, this is how it can be done”. Today I would be more careful”, said Isayama, (2023). “I only have good memories of that initial period and of the others that came after”, said Gomes (2024). When asked to leave a message for the two young people from 25 years ago, if it were possible to go back in time, Isayama (2023), smiling, says: “It was worth it, I would do it all over again! [...] Of course there was that question of audacity, [...] a lot of naivety [...]. But, I would say: Drink more, because it will feel really good later. We will reap many fruits from here!” Gomes (2024), in turn, emotionally, responded: “You will face countless difficulties in the process of

consolidating Licere, but it will be worth it! Continue working in partnership, aiming to generate contributions to the field of Leisure studies in Brazil.”

Figure 2: Recorded on the day of the launch of Licere Journal in September 1998.



Source: Personal Collection Christianne Luce Gomes.

A Look at the Present, the Future and Licere

If in 1998, Hélder and Christianne discussed the possibility of creating a scientific journal that could publish the productions being carried out by students and specialists in the area, in subsequent years, issues related to academic “productivism”, classification and compliance with the standards of the Brazilian journal evaluation system Qualis were a great challenge for the journal. As a journal aligned with the postgraduate level, Isayama (2023) claims to be attentive to the process of qualifying writings, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of Leisure Studies. For the professor, assuming this interdisciplinarity of Leisure and seeking the production of knowledge in other fields, such as Tourism (which according to him has inter-2 of the journal) opened up a range of possibilities that they were unaware of.

Distributing the printed Licere Journal was very difficult. It was also very

expensive. Sometimes people from outside were interested in buying it, so there was the cost of postage. Sometimes our classrooms were filled with boxes of journals because we couldn't distribute them as quickly as we would have liked. So the process was very slow, and the Journal having become an online journal, of course, began to face other challenges, but it also overcame several difficulties (Gomes, 2024).

“These changes also changed the entire course of the Journal’s history, because moving online was difficult for us,” said Hélder, explaining that, as they had no knowledge of the digitalization process, they needed to rely on the support of Mônica Silva, an administrative technician who worked with Victor Melo at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), who had a great command of computers. Mônica not only created the first online editions, but continued working at Licere until she retired: “So Mônica Silva was a very important person in this story [...] I wanted to say that she did an excellent job, at that first moment, when we had no idea about anything on the internet” (Isayama, 2023).

Furthermore, the quality of the content was also improved with the contribution of professionals such as Márcia Cristina de Andrade, responsible for supervising the review of the articles, so that her expertise in bibliographic review raised the standard of the published works, ensuring greater accuracy in citations and a better insertion of the Journal in the academic scenario. The current editor indicates that these transformations not only accompanied technological change, but also reflected the dedication and commitment of an entire team to keep Licere relevant and accessible to the public interested in studies on Leisure and related topics. The transition to the digital environment was not just a change in format, but rather a necessary adaptation to keep up with the demands and possibilities of the contemporary world, according to the interviewee. Furthermore, technical-editorial management, which was carried out by Editora UFMG, is now carried out by Licere's own editorial team (Isayama, 2023).

By the way, another name mentioned for providing assistance to this new stage of Licere is that of Victor Melo, as commented by Gomes (2024):

Victor always criticized the covers. So, at first Victor was invited by us, because he is also a very busy person, involved in many things, to contribute and further qualify the covers. So he paid special attention to this, always writing a short text to contextualize the meaning of that cover. And that change was very interesting too. It was a win.

Regarding this criticism made by Victor Melo, Hélder comments on some judgments he heard regarding Licere's covers, particularly the first editions in which the art featured drawings of animals, as something that could detract from the production in the field. However, Chris and Hélder countered such criticism, based on the argument that the idea was precisely to enable a notion of knowledge production that could be playful and light, without giving up seriousness and depth (Isayama, 2023). Later, the covers began to be designed in other ways, such as with collages, old photographs, historical records, drawings and general art suggested by Victor Melo and other members of the Licere editorial team.

In December 2021, for example, in the dossier “Leisure and ethnic-racial relations”, graphic designer Rafael Santos, a PPGIEL student, offered to participate in the construction of the edition, suggesting the cover (Figure 3) of v. 24, n. 4 (2021), December. According to the designer, the use of purposefully vibrant colors and Afro-Brazilian references aimed to create an image that was deeply evocative and that stimulated reflection on ethnic, religious, identity and leisure issues. Seeking to arouse curiosity in the viewer, the proposal was to create a graphic composition that would convey an iconic message and a varied interpretation of meanings. In this case, the cover design included real and subliminal elements with visual cues as striking as the symbols that make up the journal cover.

Figure 3: *Licere* Cover, v. 24, n. 4 (2021): dezembro



Source: *Licere* Journal

And so, we can characterize *Licere* as a pioneering, bold and necessary journal, a collaborative and interdisciplinary project, which after several phases and changes, is still alive, without losing its subtlety and commitment to quality. Based on their experience as creators, authors, producers and editors of the Journal and their expectations of progress for an area that, 25 years ago, was criticized and not always well-received in academic debate, Hélder and Chris reflect on the transformation of time within a possible future for *Licere*.

In a joking tone, Hélder expresses his desire to retire, so that the other members of the *Licere* Journal team can take over these spaces in the future. But he continues to hope to continue with the project and expand dialogues with different areas and backgrounds, in order to consolidate interdisciplinarity in the journal. For Christianne, the expectation is that *Licere* will always remain committed to free science, remaining an open and unrestricted access journal, involving the contribution of several people working towards a greater common good.

Thinking of *Licere* as a means of dissemination and/or as an object of study, we verified its relevance as a digital repository of the interdisciplinary field. Thus, it has

attracted the interest of researchers from other fields, eager to publish their work and its relationships with leisure. In the article “Licere: a Brazilian leisure magazine”, Isayama and Melo (2014) reflect on the paths taken by the magazine in its 15 years of production and dissemination, and in them they affirm that the trajectory and scientific production of the periodical have a direct relationship with the very configuration of the field in Brazil. The authors begin their argument based on their experience as editors and their observation as authors and reviewers, in which they present the idea, structure and content of the electronic journal. They also clarify that the purpose of the text is not to expose the number of editions that mark the trajectory of the Journal, whether in terms of access, articles received, articles rejected, metrics and research themes. But yes, highlight the importance of content produced by researchers in the academic environment. Ten years later, we present some of these elements that structure Licere and prove its relevance on the national scene.

The purpose of the following section is to illustrate Licere's 25 years with data on its production and its prominence in the field of Leisure studies. Its trajectory highlights not only the history of the personal journey of two friends, but also a diversity of themes, authors and publications that, over the years, contributed to the consolidation and expansion of the periodical.

Licere: An Interweaving of Data and Themes in These 25 Years of Production

The data analyzed were extracted from the Licere Journal platform, which covers all publications made throughout its 25 years of existence. Data collection covered editions published up to December 2023. In total, 1,150 articles published in different editions of the Journal were selected. Through this platform, it was possible to

access all articles in a digital format, as well as obtain information regarding the total number of accesses per article, in PDF and by summary. For the purposes of this work, only data relating to the total number of accesses to each publication were considered.

Subsequently, in an Excel spreadsheet, the articles were categorized according to the genre and the institution of origin of the main author, in addition to the thematic axes encompassed by each production. For the latter, we used the categories defined in the Thematic Working Groups (GTTs) of the last Brazilian Congress of Leisure Studies (CBEL), held in 2023, being one of the main academic events in the area.

GTTs are organizational bodies responsible for bringing together researchers with common interests aiming at reflection, production and dissemination of knowledge about the aforementioned topic. Thus, in the 2023 CBEL, 11 (eleven) GTTs were identified, namely: 1) leisure, work and social groups; 2) cities, tourism and leisure spaces; 3) leisure and history; 4) leisure and public policies; 5) training and professional performance in leisure; 6) leisure, environment and sustainability; 7) leisure, educational processes and cultural entertainment; 8) leisure and knowledge production; 9) leisure, culture and society; 10) leisure, playfulness and school context; and 11) leisure and health. Based on this structuring, we analyzed the abstract of each publication and its keywords to determine which GTT each work aligned with.

A similar research was carried out by Reis (2023) who sought to analyze data relating to articles, authorship and keywords of 73 issues published by Revista Licere between 1998 and July 2022. In this work, the author undertook analyses regarding the volume of articles published annually by the journal, the average number of authors per article, the distribution by gender, the area of specialization of the authors who contributed to the journal and the most recurrent keywords. On the other hand, Menezes et al. (2018), sought to analyze the original articles published in the Journal between 1998 and 2017. The authors selected 361 studies and the categories analyzed were the central theme and the methodology used and the most and least frequent themes in the publications.

Of the 1,150 publications analyzed in this work, six were not accessible. Furthermore, 39 (thirty-nine) publications were not classified in the Thematic Working Groups (GTTs) categories, as they were prepared by the Journal's Editors. Such publications are predominantly related to the covers of each edition of the journal, editorials and summaries of events in the area in question. Given these considerations, a total of 1,105 publications were evaluated for classification. The study by Reis (2023) stands out, in which it points out that there was a significant growth in the number of publications published, jumping from 8 to 92 annual productions.

Chart 1: Thematic Axes



Source: Prepared by the authors.

GTT 09 – “Leisure, culture and society”, was the theme with the largest number of linked publications, with 284 articles (25.7%). The GTT is defined as aiming to encompass “studies that address manifestations, practices and experiences in leisure, in their relations with different social and/or racial groups, such as ethnic groups, quilombolas, indigenous peoples, among others” (CBEL, 2024, p.4). In general, the articles cover youth, popular cultures, ethnic groups, indigenous peoples and specific communities. Thus, within GTT 09, the five most accessed studies are, respectively: 1) “Body Practices and Christianity: Relations and Precepts” (Camilo; Schwartz, 2016), with 7,249 hits; 2) “Heteronomy of the Boi-Bumbá of Parintins: Control Mechanisms from Street Fun to Shows” (Maurício; Debortoli; Matos, 2021), with 7,226 hits; 3) “Black People in Brazilian Football: A Systematic Review of National PE Journals” (Mackedanz et al., 2021), with 4,497 hits; 4) “Leisure, the Periphery of the Metropolis and Young People: Some Relationships” (Andrade; Marcellino, 2011), with 3,598 hits; and 5) “Forró “Pé de Serra and the Motivation of Young Forró Dancers from Belo Horizonte” (Cardilo, 2012), with 3,567 hits.

Next, the GTTs with the most linked publications were GTT 04 – “Leisure and public policies”, with 159 related articles (14.38%), and GTT 02 – “Cities, tourism and leisure space”, with 129 articles (11.67%). The first encompasses “studies on leisure, as a social right, and public policies, in their different elements, such as the processes of professional training and performance, financing, development, evaluation and the theoretical and methodological perspectives that encourage debate within the scope of policies” (CBEL, 2024, p.01). And the second, GTT 02, comprises “studies dedicated to analyses of leisure and the dynamics of cities, spaces and their leisure facilities and issues linked to tourism” (CBEL, 2024, p.01).

While the GTTs with the least publications were GTT 06 – “Leisure, environment and sustainability”, with 48 articles (4.34%) related to sustainability, practices in nature, meanings, appropriations and conservation of places and environmental resources. And GTT 05 – “Training and professional performance in leisure”.

The work of Silva, Silva and Longo (2023) aimed to develop exploratory studies in copies of *Revista Licere* on the theme of leisure and professional performance. The data collected allow us to state that the Journal, based on its editorial policy, has great relevance in the leisure area, recording, disseminating, and collaborating in the qualification of production in the area of professional activity, an element in a constant process of reflection and change, due to the demands and needs placed by it, thus contributing to the qualitative advancement of studies and experiences developed in the leisure area.

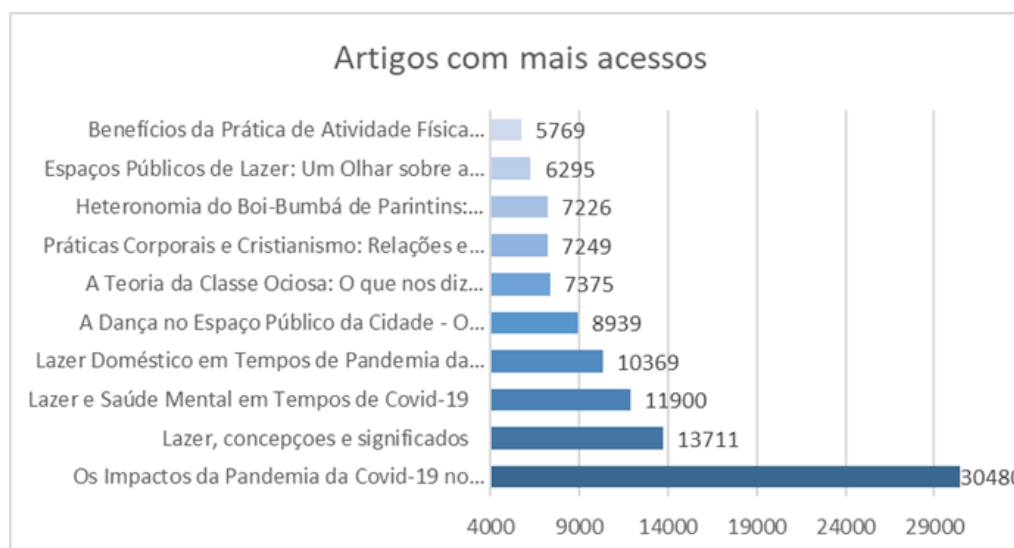
These data corroborate the findings of Menezes et al. (2018), in which there is a high occurrence of articles on public policies; culture; city and leisure spaces; youth,

children and leisure in the original articles analyzed from 1998 to 2017, in addition to a high prevalence of qualitative studies, mainly those with a descriptive design, followed by studies of an ethnographic nature. In the work of Reis (2023), regarding the keywords, classified from 2007 to 2022 in the 811 articles analyzed, there was an emphasis on the theme of leisure activities, sports and public policies.

In a final course work carried out by Silva (2023), the objective was to analyze articles on public policies for Sport and Leisure in Minas Gerais, published in *Revista Licere*. 19 publications on the subject were selected and it was found that studies on Public Policies for Sport and Leisure in Minas Gerais are relatively recent and that Polis-UFMG is the main research group that publishes on the subject. Furthermore, the work of Campos, Couto and Rodrigues (2021) aimed to analyze the theme “leisure and youth” conveyed in articles published by *Revista Licere* between 1998 and 2020. The studies reveal different roles assumed by youth in the development of leisure; a privileged consumer standardized by an idealized conception of youth; limitations in access to leisure experiences; tensions between control, morality and autonomy.

Among the 1,105 articles made available, the following are the ten most consulted up until the year 2020. As shown in Chart 2, the study conducted by Ribeiro et al. (2020) recorded the highest number of hits, totaling 30,480. This article aimed to investigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the leisure activities of adults and the elderly, and was prepared by five researchers linked to the State University of Campinas (Unicamp). This work was included in the GTT – “Leisure and Health”.

Chart 2: Most viewed articles

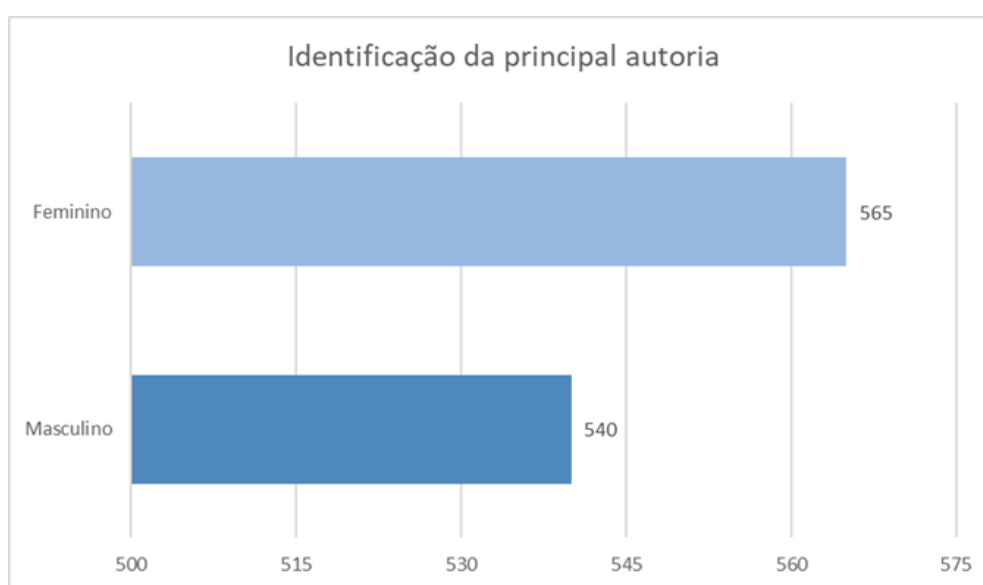


Source: Prepared by the authors.

Secondly, Bramante's article (1998) reached 13,711 hits, published in the inaugural edition of the Journal with the aim of debating the definition of leisure. This contribution, from a single author also from the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), was allocated to the GTT – “Leisure and Knowledge Production”. The third most accessed study, authored by Menezes (2021), registered 11,900 hits and proposed an analysis of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental health and leisure, being an individual production of the Federal University of Alagoas (UFAL) and classified in the GTT – “Leisure and Health”. Below is a graph that illustrates the ten articles with the highest volume of queries. The topics covered in these works encompass a diverse range of themes, including pandemics, dance, nature, human behavior, religion, cultural manifestations, use of public space and the benefits associated with regular physical activity. Among the ten most consulted articles, there is a predominance of female authors, representing seven of the female gender, in contrast to three articles whose main authors are male.

In all publications, this predominance of female authors was also evident. Of the 1,105 articles analyzed, 565 (51.13%) were primarily authored by a female researcher and 540 articles (48.86%) were authored by a male researcher. As shown in Chart 3. These data also corroborate the findings of Reis (2023) in which he found a small difference between the sexes in terms of authorship, with 50.71% (714) classified as female and 45.31% (638) male.

Chart 3: Sex of the main authors



Source: Prepared by the authors.

If we cross-reference the gender data of the main authors with the thematic axes of the GTTs, we have a predominance of female researchers in the majority, except for GTT 01 – “Leisure, work and social groups” (51 men and 30 women), GTT 02 – “Cities, tourism and leisure space” (65 men and 64 women), GTT 03 – “Leisure and History” (54 men and 45 women), GTT 05 – “Training and professional performance in leisure” (28 men and 26 women) and GTT 07 – “Leisure, educational processes and cultural animation” (34 men and 28 women). GTT 09 – “Leisure, culture and society”, which has the largest number of linked articles (284), is also the one with the greatest

discrepancy between male and female researchers, with 156 articles having a woman as the main author and 128 men.

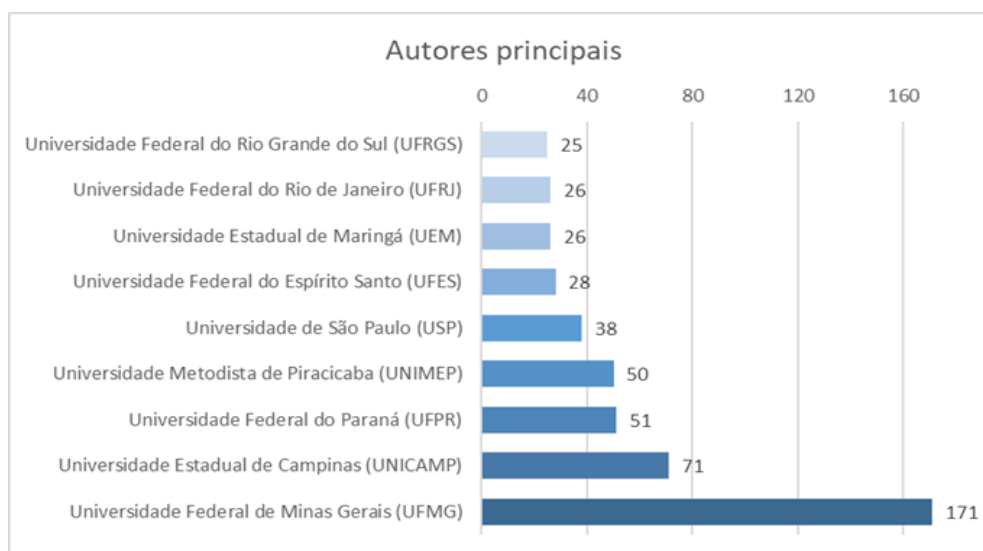
Publications in the field of leisure, considering more specifically the 25 years of existence of *Licere*, show that despite the gender differences notably present in our society, which result (among others) in the accumulation of tasks and the conciliation between family and work responsibilities, women have been systematizing and publishing more studies, which contributes to the dissemination of knowledge on the subject. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, the publication with the greatest reach was also by a researcher. In the work of Cunha and Carvalho (2021), research was carried out in relation to studies on women in leisure in the journals *Licere* and *Revista Brasileira de Estudos do Lazer (RBEL)*. The words “Women”, “Woman” and “Gender” were searched separately in each of these periodicals. The authors concluded that each year there are more researchers interested in discussing and understanding women's leisure, but there are still gaps to be filled.

Regarding the institutional affiliation category of the main author, of the 1,105 publications evaluated, UFMG stands out as the most prominent institution, accounting for 171 works. Next comes the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), with a total of 71 publications, followed by the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), which presented 51 contributions. Overall, lead authors from 228 different institutions were identified. These include Federal Universities, Technological Education Centers, Federal Institutes, Private Colleges, City Halls, International Universities and Research Centers.

In the study by Reis (2023) there is no categorization of data in relation to the place of production of the Journal's authors. However, an important piece of information is presented, which highlights that the authors' main area of activity is

physical education, followed by education and tourism. Furthermore, a significant number of authors (75.85%) published only once in the journal.

Chart 4: Location of main publications



Source: Prepared by the authors.

When analyzing the distribution of the main authors' affiliation institutions and their respective geographic location, it is found that the Southeast region led in scientific productivity, with a total of 620 published articles. Subsequently, the South region contributed with 206 productions, the Northeast region with 130, the Central-West region with 57 and the North region with 51 articles. International contributions totaled 40 productions. Additionally, publications made by editors (39) were not included in the count, it was not possible to identify the institution of origin of 6 productions and one publication did not specify which institution it belongs to. The Southeast region stands out, as does the scientific production of our country.

Final Considerations: Challenges and Perspectives for Licere

Since its inception in September 1998, Revista Licere has carved out a remarkable path in the academic landscape. The digital transformation, marked by the digitization of its editions, has exponentially expanded access to scientific production in the field of Leisure Studies. However, the journey to establish Licere was not without challenges, particularly in securing the necessary resources for its sustainability and development.

The collective nature of the journal was a key aspect emphasized by its founders, Helder and Christianne, highlighting the mutual collaboration among researchers in the field. Over the years, Licere has evolved, adopting more professional practices and expanding its influence both in Brazil and internationally. The transition to a biannual publication schedule in 2003, followed by a shift to a quarterly and electronic format in 2007, and later to a triannual publication model since 2009, marks this trajectory of growth and adaptation.

Despite this growth, a significant challenge still lies ahead: the internationalization of the journal. Although Licere already features publications from international universities, the volume is not yet substantial. Achieving broader reach in other Latin American countries and investing in the translation of articles into English and Spanish are essential steps toward this goal.

An analysis of data available on the Revista Licere platform, covering a 25-year period—up until December 2023—reveals a productive and diverse landscape. The categorization of articles based on gender, institutional affiliation, and thematic focus reflects the breadth and depth of contributions to the field.

The GTT “Leisure, Culture, and Society” stood out with the highest number of publications. The predominance of female authors, the leadership of UFMG in academic contributions, and the significant concentration of studies from the Southeast region are particularly notable. These indicators not only affirm *Revista Licere* as a landmark in Leisure Studies but also underscore the academic community’s continued commitment to advancing and enriching knowledge in the field.

This article aimed to celebrate the 25-year journey of *Revista Licere*. What began as a dream shared by two friends—to expand studies in Leisure—has proven to be a successful endeavor over the years. Today, with a large editorial team, the journal has achieved remarkable numbers in terms of publications and readership. However, looking toward an even more promising future, challenges remain, such as expanding its national and international reach. We wish the journal a long and prosperous future!

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