

## **Transcript of video contribution by**

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Thank you very much for this opportunity to briefly contextualize the main inequities affecting the development of the SciELO network collections. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the start of the SciELO network and the national collections. We are carrying out our five-year self-assessment which we will share at the SciELO 25 Years week at the end of next September. The main inequities that I'm going to highlight here are only related to SciELO's *raison d'être* and objectives and principles.

To do this, I'm going to start from a consensual assumption that access is equitable. Scientific knowledge is a social determinant of development that is essential for achieving the sustainable development agenda and its objectives. On the other hand, inequitable access highlights inequalities, poverty and social conditions, and slows down the progress of the 2030 Agenda.

Open access to research results and, more broadly, the execution and communication of research in the open science *modus operandi* are the most important forces in favor of equitable access to scientific knowledge. Additionally, it is an important issue for SciELO, we consider that open science and open access point to processes in contexts where equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility predominate. Started 25 years ago, SciELO has evolved as an open science program and the *raison d'être* of the problem remains the same, which is to understand the recognition and valuation of the relevance of research communicated by journals published nationally by universities, societies and scientific associations that complement the research published in reference journals of the different disciplines, mostly edited by commercial publishers.

In other words, SciELO contributes to the development of infrastructure and the capacity of countries to carry out a complete cycle of research, and its specific objective is to maximize the visibility of journals and the research they communicate. The SciELO program is implemented through an open access methodological and technological platform, which we call the SciELO model for publishing open access journal collections, which operates in a decentralized manner in 16 countries and also has the associated SciELO preprints collections, the SciELO Data research data repository, and SciELO Books.

These collections together form what we call the SciELO network for promoting equitable access to scientific knowledge. The SciELO network is a model that we could say with much evidence is a unique model of open science, it is sustainable and its decentralization and networking promote equity. It operates nationally as a public policy and internationally as a technical cooperation program.

As a result of the SciELO network and other programs, Latin America is a world leader in gold open access. It publishes around 50% of documents in open access journals, compared to 36% globally in the world, and more than 90% of documents published in journals in the region are

open access, compared to 30% worldwide. The operating fundamentals of the SciELO network are highly equitable, are inherently equitable by privileging national priority conditions in terms of research object, plurilingualism, and contribute in a successful way to global open access, but require overcoming inequities that limit its full development. The main step forward in overcoming inequities is the explicit recognition by national research systems of the relevance of quality journals published nationally and the research they publish, much of which addresses critical issues related to the 2030 Agenda.

As a result of this recognition, firstly, the funding inequalities for the sustainability of gold open access journals, especially in the diamond model, should be progressively overcome. And secondly, the inequities in the evaluation of research reported in nationally published journals in relation to the metrics that favor reference journals, mostly published by commercial publishers. Internationally, the main advance for the development of the SciELO network is to critically share the SciELO model and its achievements, and to minimize the erratic behavior of open access policies and initiatives that unnecessarily promote the division of open access, particularly in Latin America. Secondly, the advancement - and I'm finishing here - of open access requires the availability of advanced software and technological solutions for decentralized research communication infrastructures.

As we stand today, inequities prevail when comparing the capabilities of available open source technologies with commercial ones.

Thank you very much.