



Editorial: message from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear colleagues, greetings from the Editorial Board.

In 2023, the Journal of the Geological Survey of Brazil - JGSB - enters its sixth year of activities. Growth is naturally slow, but with a good technical-scientific standard of published articles and with respect to editorial policies, periodicity and punctuality. The numbers from 2018 to 2022 also show good reputation and acceptance by researchers from outside the SGB who represent 42% of the first authors.

In 2022, two innovations were introduced in the JGSB's processing: (i) the publication of the accepted version of the manuscript, with DOI and fully citable, which reduces the online publication time and improves journal metrics and (ii) a spreadsheet with authorship credits, which becomes part of the article's pdf, with criteria similar to those of the already well-established CRediT author statement of other publications, but with an appropriate way of viewing individual contributions.

This first issue of 2023 mainly contains the Special Session on the Borborema Province from northeastern Brazil. Oliveira et al. (2023) integrate geology and geophysics to investigate the deep structure of the Sergipe Belt. In-depth reviews on lithostratigraphy are presented for the North (Pinéo et al. 2023) and Transversal Zone (Santos et al. 2023) domains and also for the Mesozoic basins that cover the province (Morais et al. 2023). Also introduced in this issue is a new type of publication, the Historical Review, which consists of texts that do not qualify as a scientific review, but contain in-depth reviews of reports and compilations of historical materials worthy of publication. This format is inaugurated by the historical analysis of geological mapping in Brazil up to 2022 (Rosa-Costa et al. 2023) and a discussion of an arsenic contamination event in the state of Amapá (Scarpelli 2023).

Finally, the new *Qualis Periódicos* (Qualis Periodicals), a journal classification system was launched in January of this year. The system is used by the Brazilian CAPES organization (<https://www.gov.br/capes/pt-br>) as one of the instruments for evaluating postgraduate programs. This is done by indirectly qualifying the intellectual production of researchers (professors and students) and graduates of master's and doctoral courses in Brazil in the form of scientific articles based on the analysis of the quality of journals. The launch took place together with the documentation with the history of the construction of the reference model and the details of the methodology adopted for the four-year period 2017-2020. The journals are placed in strata indicative of relative quality, in descending order, in A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4 and C, with the latter having zero weight in the evaluation. The bibliometric indicators used in the classification (Scopus/Citescore, Clarivate/Journal Citation Reports and Google Scholar) are strongly based on the number of citations received by the journal in a given period.

In this classification edition, the JGSB was placed in the B4 stratum, both in the parent area - Geosciences, and in the areas of History, Public and Business Administration, Accounting Sciences and Tourism. Although still modest, it was an achievement obtained in a short time (already noticed in its second year of activity, according to an unofficial preview released in August 2019), obtained due to the quality of its editorial policy and compliance with good practices in publication, since the periodical had little activity time.

We celebrate this achievement. However, the structure of graduate programs, strongly based on the Qualis Periódicos system, which requires publications only in highly ranked journals, contributes to the vicious circle of benefiting journals published by large international publishers (often these publications are paid with Brazilian public funding), and hinders the growth and rise of national and international journals based in Brazil, as is the case of the JGSB.



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