

Archivos says goodbye to paper

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Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría has a long-standing track record. First born as *Archivos Latinoamericanos de Pediatría* in 1905, this journal has been published uninterruptedly under its current name since 1930.¹ In the beginning, it accompanied the development of local pediatrics, but the globalization of scientific knowledge and the scale and scope of Internet-based communications have increasingly made it become part of the “global scientific village.”

In order to continue disseminating scientific news, the journal must adapt day by day, both in its format and content as well as in terms of management. Many of these are small changes, most likely unnoticed to readers.

In this regard, since 1996, we have been publishing our contents in digital format, along with the traditional paper version. Progress does not mean forgetting the past, that is why for the past 10 years free on-line access to our entire collection of articles, in full text, has been provided to all of our readers. These are 93 years of history of pediatrics, told by its main characters.

Today we are announcing a transcendental change. *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* is transitioning to a digital-only journal. And this change is important for two major reasons.

One has to do with the ability that *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* will have, from now onwards, to respond more quickly to scientific advances. Although the publishing process has become increasingly faster with the possibility of “online first” publishing, the need to eventually

print the publications always imposes some sort of constraint in this regard. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us, like no other event, the significance of disseminating the advances of science and its ever-changing facets as quickly as possible, and how scientific journals have been up to the challenge thanks to digital publishing.²

The other reason for us to go paperless is our commitment to the environment. It is true that, at least for some of us, the reviled baby boomers, reading from paper still brings about a breath of charm and even romanticism. Even in the narrow world of our professional lives, we remember the delight of opening a textbook for the first time, its smell, the glow of its pages. And even with scientific journals, it seems that the text on paper allows for a deeper and slower reading experience.

However, in line with other scientific publications, a year ago we published an editorial highlighting the problem of global climate change,³ stating not only the stance of our journal, but also that which the *Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría* has been supporting for years.

We should acknowledge that even a digital publication affects the environment if we take into account the production of devices needed to access it and the energy required by servers hosting its contents. But the printed version has a broader impact, ranging from the necessary change in the use of the soil that will provide the raw material, to the emissions and waste generated during paper milling, transportation,

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distribution, and management, and even, in the best case scenario, the processing of used paper. Although no technology is environmentally friendly, "...whichever way it is viewed, the ecological footprint and impact of print media still outweigh that of online news and information phenomenon."⁴

It is high time to take this step. Leaving aside the feelings of nostalgia for paper, we hope that this change will reinforce our readers' commitment to the environment. ■

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