

Research Note**Analysis of the Quality of International Accounting Journals: A Brazilian Study**

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Abstract

The objective of the article is to analyse the quality of international accounting journals using two of the four dimensions proposed by Trzesniak (2006), one traditional (Product Purpose) and the other new (Market). This is exploratory research, undertaken by means of a document analysis of international accounting journals, using a quantitative data approach. Data was gathered from the Periodical Portal of CAPES and from the SCOPUS and ISI data bases.

In relation to the first dimension, various differences were investigated, in terms of geographical and institutional origin in the make up of the editorial staff for journals indexed in the SCOPUS and ISI data bases. In the second dimension, even by using criteria for calculating that were identical to that of the ISI, higher impact levels were observed in SCOPUS, a result of its having a larger data base. The study is intended to contribute to a greater knowledge of international Accounting journals that meet the minimum requirements of quality for the scientific community and that can be seen to have published scientific communications.

Keywords

**Publication Quality Dimensions
Journal Product purpose
Journal Market
International Accounting Journals**

Introduction

In Brazil, *stricto sensu* post-graduate courses (academic Master's, professional Master's and Doctoral) have grown exponentially in a over the past few years, including Masters' degree programs in Accounting. In the last tri-annual evaluation (2002 to 2003), CAPES - the Coordination of Continuing Education of Personnel in Higher Education, the guiding, regulating and inspecting agency for *stricto sensu* post-graduate courses in Brazil - 58 courses were evaluated by the Committee for the Areas of Administration, Accounting and Tourism - 10 of which were in Accounting. In the tri-annual period from 2004 to 2006, this number rose significantly, totalling 17 Post-Graduate Programs in Accounting recommended by CAPES (www.capes.gov.br).

Accompanying this increase in quantity, Post-Graduate Programs in Accounting have also been seeking greater quality in their *stricto sensu* courses, which necessarily implies widening the scope of scientific communications. This can occur by means of presenting articles at national and international events and by publishing articles in national and international journals, among other forms of communication of scientific information.

The tri-annual evaluation of Brazilian *stricto sensu* post-graduate courses made by CAPES, itself a Foundation within the Ministry of Education (MEC), has contributed substantially to propelling the search for the most varied types of publications of scientific communication. Scientific production is defined in accordance with the CAPES Qualis (the list used by CAPES to classify events and journals used by post-graduate programs to disclose their intellectual production). Though this list for attributing conceptions of quality exists in Brazil (International A, B and C; National A, B and C; Local A, B and C) to forms of scientific communication, there does not exist detailed knowledge of them in a way that might contribute to increased publication of articles that appear in them. In relation, mainly, to international accounting journals,

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commonly asked questions include: What are the international accounting journals? Who publishes these journals? What journals cite them? What is the probability of Brazilians publishing their scientific communications in these journals?

A great deal of doubts has been noted in relation to the quality of these journals. Analysis of the quality of scientific journals can be made using different focuses, depending on the intended objective. Trzesniak (2006) proposed four dimensions for analysing the quality of scientific journals: Technical-Normative, Product Purpose, Productive Process and Market. The objective of the present study is to broaden knowledge about the quality of international accounting journals in two dimensions. Therefore, the following research question was formulated:

How can the quality of international accounting journals be characterized, using the Product Purpose and Market dimensions proposed by Trzesniak (2006)?

The objective of the article is to analyse the quality of international accounting journals using two of the four dimensions proposed by Trzesniak (2006), one traditionally considered (Product Purpose) and the other new (Market). The relevance of this study is in its contribution to developing greater knowledge of international Accounting journals that meet the minimum quality standards of the scientific community and that can be seen to have published scientific communications.

The article is structured in six parts, starting with this introduction. Next, it deals with the dimensions of quality in scientific journals and bibliometric principles and laws. It then addresses the research methods and procedures. This is followed by a description and analysis of data, with an emphasis on international accounting journals available on the CAPES Portal (especially with regards to the quality

aspects of the journals in the Market dimension). The last section is a presentation of conclusions drawn from the research study.

Quality Dimensions in Scientific Journals

According to Trzesniak (2006), the evaluation process for scientific journals can vary depending on the objectives of the journal. On the other hand, authors, looking for the information format most suitable for making their research known, make their own evaluation about the journals available in their area of knowledge.

Studies by Oliveira (1989), Valério (1994) and Krzyzanowski, Krieger and Duarte (1991) deal with initiatives made by Brazilian agencies connected to scientific research with regard to the evaluation of scientific journals. Despite there being previous initiatives, the authors highlight the actions of FINEP (Financing Agency for Studies and Projects) made in 1980, CNPq (Council for Scientific Development and Technology) made in 1982 and FAPESP (Foundation for Assisting Research in the State of São Paulo) made in 1985.

In Trzesniak's (2006) view, these evaluations were realized mainly in order to evaluate publications requested by the researchers financed by these agencies. On the other hand, the creation of CAPES Qualis by the Coordination of Continuing Education of Personnel in Higher Education contributed towards a tendency of adopting certain standards for classifying scientific journals, but its objective was mainly to evaluate Brazilian *stricto sensu* post-graduate programs.

Independent of their intended objective, according to Trzesniak (2006) there exist four dimensions that define the quality of scientific journals. These dimensions are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Quality Dimensions of Scientific Journals

Dimension	Basis	How is it evaluated?
Technical-normative	Presupposes the existence of one or more standards that compliment each other and which must be met by the publication.	By examining published sections, referring to the three most recent regular editions (special editions cannot reveal the publication routine adequately enough). May be standardized and automated in a way that can be applied uniformly to journals of all specialties, and be carried out by trained technicians (who do not need to be researchers in the area).
Product Purpose	This dimension is connected to how and how well the periodical fulfils its purpose, as set forth in its editorial policy and synthesized in its mission. In general terms, it is met through the publication of recent scientific information, previously unpublished and relevant to the publication's target public.	This test must take into consideration: a) a highly qualified scientific editorial board that covers the thematic scope and range of the periodical well, that is institutionally and geographically diversified and that is involved in editing and review of texts; b) well qualified <i>ad hoc</i> consultants with institutional and geographical diversity; c) institutional scientific support; d) a regulation that explicitly considers and favours continued publication; e) a mechanism for succession of editors in which technical-scientific aspects significantly outweigh any others aspects.
Productive Process	The quality associated with carrying out editorial procedures in transparent, effective, efficient, complete and systematic way. Fulfilment of this dimension implies the existence of a quality procedures manual, which documents all the steps associated with production of the periodical and which is scrupulously observed by staff.	By requesting and analysing some basic documents about the periodical, such as general regulations, selection criteria of the editor and members of the scientific staff, evaluation form for ad hoc associates and timetables of the editorial process.
Market	The quality that the consumer, the user, attributes to the product, whether it exists or not. When such quality does exist, it is normal for the market to recognize it.	An attempt involves counting up citations, particularly an indicator called an "impact factor".

Source: adapted from Trzesniak (2006).

Trzesniak (2006) states that, "it is possible for one dimension to vary or to exist without the influence of, without simultaneous variation or existence of any other". He illustrates this non-dependence of dimensions by saying that "at the moment in which the product can take advantage of a positive market evaluation, even without having the qualities to justify it, the market and product dimensions are characterized as independent" (p. 348).

In this article, the focus was only on two quality dimensions in scientific journals proposed by Trzesniak (2006), one traditionally considered (Product Purpose) in most rankings, and the other a new

dimension (Market). In order to approach both dimensions, it was necessary to make use of bibliometric laws and principles, which will now be discussed.

Bibliometric Laws and Principles

Guedes and Borschiver (2005) explain that the term 'statistical bibliography', currently called bibliometry, was first used in 1922 by E. Wyndham Hulme. It was used again by Gosnell in 1944, in an article on the obsolescence of literature. In 1962, the term 'statistical bibliography' was mentioned for the third time, by L.M. Raising, in a study on analysis of citations entitled *Statistical Bibliography in Health Sciences*. However,

it should be said that there exists a consensus among authors that the term 'statistical bibliography' is not altogether satisfactory, which can be verified by its scarce usage in the literature. Thus the term Bibliometrics was suggested as a substitute.

Pao (1989), in his book *Concepts of Information Retrieval*, refers to bibliometrics as a term introduced by Allan Pritchard, in his article "Statistical Bibliography or Bibliometrics", published in 1969. According to Vanti (2002), Pritchard suggested the use of the word 'bibliometry' as a substitute for the term 'statistical bibliography', which had been used since 1922 and which from his point of view was no longer adequate.

Bibliometry is made up of a set of empirical laws and principles that contributed to establishing the fundamental theories of Information Science. According to Macias-Chapula (1998), it is the study of the quantitative aspects of the production, dissemination and use of registered information. These studies quantify, describe and provide prognostications related to the process of written communication. Pritchard (1969) affirms that bibliometry encompasses "all the studies that try to quantify the processes of written communication".

In the accounting and business area, a number of bibliometric studies have been undertaken by international authors stand out (Bricker, 1989; Chung et al., 1992; Romano and Ratnatunga, 1997; Rodgers and Williams, 1996; Zeff, 1996; Shields, 1997; Ratnatunga and Romano, 1997; Fogarty, 2004), and by four national authors (Frezatti and Borba, 2000; Oliveira, 2001; Theophilo, 2004; Cardoso, et al., 2005; Martins and Silva, 2005; Silva, et al., 2005; Borba and Murcia, 2006).

For the purposes of the current research, what is of particular interest is the factor of immediacy or "impact", which consists of estimating the degree of relevance of articles, scientists and scientific journals in a pre-determined area of knowledge (Guedes and Borchiver, 2005). The impact factor demonstrated the number of times the

articles of a periodical are cited. The citations general imply that the most cited work must have greater relevance or greater impact in the area which it addresses.

According to Castro (as cited in Brambilla, Vanz and Stimpf, 2006):

"The impact factor is a measurement of the importance or influence of a journal or group of documents, starting with the citations of articles that his journal receive over a period of time" (p. 23).

This indicator of quality was created by Eugene Garfield at the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and, in principle, was created only to aid librarians and other professionals in putting together collections of quality journals. Today, it is also used in academic evaluation and in the evaluation of scientific production.

The calculation of the Impact Factor with reference to a year is based on the two preceding years. The impact factor for the year 2009, for example, is calculated in the following way: the number of citations that the journal received for articles published in 2007 and 2008 is divided by the number of articles that the journal published in those two years. The impact factor is published annually by the Journal Citation Report (JCR) of the ISI.

The area of Administration, Accounting and Tourism for CAPES Qualis uses the JCR of the ISI in the classification of journals available at the CAPES Periodical Portal. Currently, journals with an impact factor equal or superior to 0.5 are classified as "A". To be classified as "B" or "C", an impact factor of less than 0.5 is used. However, sometimes other criteria from the academic area are also used (see www.capes.gov.br).

Research Methods and Procedures

This research study was of an exploratory nature, with the objective of verifying some bibliometric characteristics and aspects of international scientific journals from the accounting area that are available at the

CAPES Journals Portal and in the databases of SCOPUS and the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). The principal objective of the exploratory study, according to Gil (1999), is to clarify and modify concepts and ideas, with a view towards formulating more precise problems. The idea of the exploratory study is to facilitate a general outlook, of an approximate type, of facts being discussed.

Seeking to present a text relevant from the scientific point of view, the current study starts with a definition of which journals are to be analyzed. It was necessary to identify a list of journals that are recognized by the world scientific community regarding the quality of the articles published in them. Due to the great number of publications in various countries, it sought to select databases that enjoy prestige within the scientific community.

In order to select the international scientific journals at the CAPES Journals Portal and from the databases cited, research was made at their respective sites for the purpose of identifying journals whose titles contained the words 'accounting' or 'auditing'. In this way, 59 international accounting journals were found in CAPES Journals Portal and in the SCOPUS and ISI databases.

A quantitative approach was used in analyzing data. Use of the quantitative method "represents, in principle, the intention to guarantee precision in the results, to avoid distortions of analysis and interpretation, consequently enabling a safety margin in regard to inferences (Richardson, 1999, p.70). The quantitative approach is restricted in the study to absolute values and frequencies.

Given the methodological options realized it is worth pointing out the limitations of the research. The research results do not embrace other databases with indexes of international accounting journals. It is further necessary to remember that this set of analyses does not allow one to identify whether or not there was an expansion in

the number of accounting journals that might later integrate into some database, qualifying them for use by the scientific community.

Description of the Data Analysis

In this section, a description and analysis of the data is made, with the aim of meeting the statements of the research objective.

International Accounting Journals available at the CAPES Portal

Three divisions were considered in the selection of journals from the CAPES Journals Portal that had the words 'accounting' or 'auditing' in the title: indexing at SCOPUS, indexing at Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and the respective degree of impact in the Journal Citation Report (JCR), as demonstrated in Table 2.

According to Table 2, 59 journals were found based on the selection criteria. Of these, 50 are available at the CAPES Journals Portal, 33 journals are indexed at SCOPUS, 10 at the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and 7 present the respective degree of impact in the Journal Citation Report (JCR). All those with JCR are indexed in the ISI with the exception of the Journal of Business Finance and Accounting: JBFA. Of the 9 journals indexed in all 3 databases, only JBFA and Abacus did not have a JCR score in 2005.

Quality dimension of Journals in the "Product Purpose" Dimension

This section deals with the "Product Purpose" dimension of quality of the periodical proposed by Trzesniak (2006). The research concentrated on the composition of the editorial staff of the international accounting journals, with emphasis on: number of editors, number of members of the editorial staff and distribution of the editorial staff, subdivided into institutions of origin of its members (institution where they developed their activities) and their respective countries.

Table 2: International accounting journals available at the CAPES Journals Portal, SCOPUS and ISI

Order	Name of Journal	Available in Databases			JCR 2005
		CAPES	SCOPUS	ISI	
1	Abacus: A Journal of Accounting, Finance and Business Studies	Yes	Yes	Yes	
2	Accounting and Business Research	No	Yes	No	
3	Accounting and Finance	Yes	Yes	No	
4	Accounting Business and Financial History	No	Yes	No	
5	Accounting Department Management and Administration Report	Yes	No	No	
6	Accounting Department Management Report	Yes	No	No	
7	Accounting Fórum	Yes	Yes	No	
8	Accounting Historians Journal	Yes	No	No	
9	Accounting History	Yes	No	No	
10	Accounting Horizons	Yes	Yes	No	
11	Accounting Review	Yes	Yes	Yes	1.690
12	Accounting Technology	Yes	No	No	
13	Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal	Yes	Yes	No	
14	Accounting, Management and Information Technologies	Yes	No	No	
15	Accounting, Organizations and Society	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.871
16	Advances in Accounting	No	Yes	No	
17	Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research	No	Yes	No	
18	Advances in International Accounting	No	Yes	No	
19	Advances in Management Accounting	No	Yes	No	
20	Advances in Public Interest Accounting	No	Yes	No	
21	Auditing-A Journal of Practice & Theory	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.562
22	Bank Accounting and Finance	Yes	No	No	
23	Behavioral Research in Accounting	Yes	No	No	
24	British Accounting Review	Yes	Yes	No	
25	Canadian Accounting Perspectives	Yes	Yes	No	
26	Construction Accounting and Taxation	Yes	No	No	
27	Contemporary Accounting Research	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.759
28	Critical Perspectives on Accounting	Yes	Yes	No	
29	European Accounting Review	No	No	Yes	
30	International Journal of Accounting	Yes	Yes	No	
31	International Journal of Accounting Auditing and Performance Evaluation	No	Yes	No	
32	International Journal of Accounting Information Systems	Yes	Yes	No	
33	International Journal of Digital Accounting Research	Yes	No	No	
34	International Journal of Intelligent Systems in Accounting, Finance & Management	Yes	No	No	
35	Issues in Accounting Education	Yes	No	No	
36	Journal of Accounting and Economics	Yes	Yes	Yes	1.877
37	Journal of Accounting and Organizational Change	Yes	No	No	
38	Journal of Accounting and Public Policy	Yes	Yes	No	
39	Journal of Accounting Education	Yes	Yes	No	
40	Journal of Accounting Literature	Yes	No	No	
41	Journal of Accounting Research	Yes	Yes	Yes	1.635
42	Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance	Yes	Yes	No	

43	Journal of Bank Accounting and Auditing	Yes	No	No	
44	Journal of Business Finance and Accounting : JBFA	Yes	Yes	Yes	
45	Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance	Yes	No	No	
46	Journal of Human Resource Costing and Accounting	Yes	No	No	
47	Journal of International Accounting Research	Yes	No	No	
48	Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation	Yes	Yes	No	
49	Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting	Yes	Yes	No	
50	Journal of Management Accounting Research	Yes	No	No	
51	Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management	Yes	No	No	
52	Management Accounting	Yes	No	No	
53	Management Accounting Quarterly	Yes	No	No	
54	Management Accounting Research	Yes	Yes	No	
55	NAA Management Accounting	Yes	No	No	
56	Qualitative Research in Accounting and Management	Yes	No	No	
57	Review of Accounting and Finance	Yes	No	No	
58	Review of Accounting Studies	Yes	Yes	Yes	1.514
59	Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting	Yes	Yes	No	

Primarily, it sought to identify data referent to the composition of editorial staff of those journals analysed in this research. By means of exploratory research made in the site of each periodical, the number of responsible editors were identified, the

number of editorial staff members and the institutions that each member represents, as well as the country where the institution is located. The result of this research is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Composition of Editorial Board

Order	Name of Periodical	Number of Editors	Number of members of editorial board	Distribution of Editorial Board	
				Institutions	Countries
1	Abacus: A Journal of Accounting, Finance and Business Studies	2	39	27	8
2	Accounting and Business Research	2	34	28	6
3	Accounting and Finance	1	47	27	5
4	Accounting, Business and Financial History	1	32	24	6
5	Accounting Department Management and Administration Report	3	28	20	4
6	Accounting Department Management Report	3	25	18	5
7	Accounting Forum	2	38	30	5
8	Accounting Historians Journal	3	36	25	8
9	Accounting History	4	34	20	7
10	Accounting Horizons	2	36	28	6
11	Accounting Review	2	41	34	8
12	Accounting Technology	2	8	2	2
13	Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal	2	59	51	11
14	Accounting, Management and Information Technologies	2	26	14	4
15	Accounting, Organizations and Society	2	42	32	9
16	Advances in Accounting	2	38	30	6
17	Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research	2	33	22	5
18	Advances in International Accounting	1	36	26	7

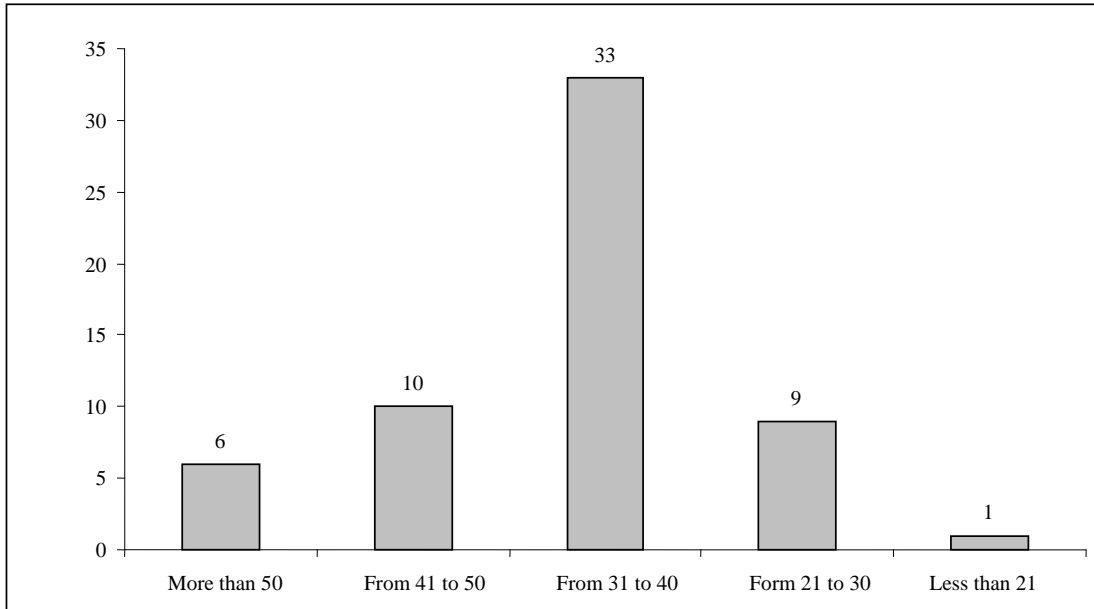
19	Advances in Management Accounting	3	42	31	8
20	Advances in Public Interest Accounting	2	38	29	6
21	Auditing-A Journal of Practice & Theory	4	32	24	7
22	Bank Accounting and Finance	3	29	23	7
23	Behavioral Research in Accounting	4	34	28	5
24	British Accounting Review	2	37	28	5
25	Canadian Accounting Perspectives	1	28	18	4
26	Construction Accounting and Taxation	2	24	20	6
27	Contemporary Accounting Research	5	75	48	11
28	Critical Perspectives on Accounting	2	38	34	7
29	European Accounting Review	2	37	31	15
30	International Journal of Accounting	2	38	30	6
31	International Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Performance Evaluation	1	36	28	8
32	International Journal of Accounting Information Systems	2	32	22	7
33	International Journal of Digital Accounting Research	2	31	12	6
34	International Journal of Intelligent Systems in Accounting, Finance & Management	1	25	16	7
35	Issues in Accounting Education	2	30	24	9
36	Journal of Accounting and Economics	2	34	24	6
37	Journal of Accounting and Organizational Change	1	76	46	20
38	Journal of Accounting and Public Policy	2	42	32	9
39	Journal of Accounting Education	1	48	44	11
40	Journal of Accounting Literature	2	38	32	8
41	Journal of Accounting Research	5	43	23	5
42	Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance	1	39	30	7
43	Journal of Bank Accounting and Auditing	2	37	29	8
44	Journal of Business Finance and Accounting : JBFA	3	61	39	11
45	Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance	2	42	33	12
46	Journal of Human Resource Costing and Accounting	1	51	41	15
47	Journal of International Accounting Research	1	60	52	13
48	Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation	3	35	26	6
49	Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting	1	33	23	6
50	Journal of Management Accounting Research	1	38	31	14
51	Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management	1	35	29	12
52	Management Accounting	2	41	34	15
53	Management Accounting Quarterly	1	45	36	9
54	Management Accounting Research	2	41	28	9
55	NAA Management Accounting	2	39	30	11
56	Qualitative Research in Accounting and Management	1	44	39	15
57	Review of Accounting and Finance	2	38	29	9
58	Review of Accounting Studies	1	43	24	7
59	Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting	2	39	27	12

We can see from Table 3 that the number of editors responsible at journals varies from 1 to 5. The total number of members of editorial boards varies from 8 to 76. The number of institutions represented in each editorial board varies from 2 to 52, while

the variation in the number of countries represented is from 2 to 20.

Figure 1 presents a summary of the number of editorial staff members of the journals.

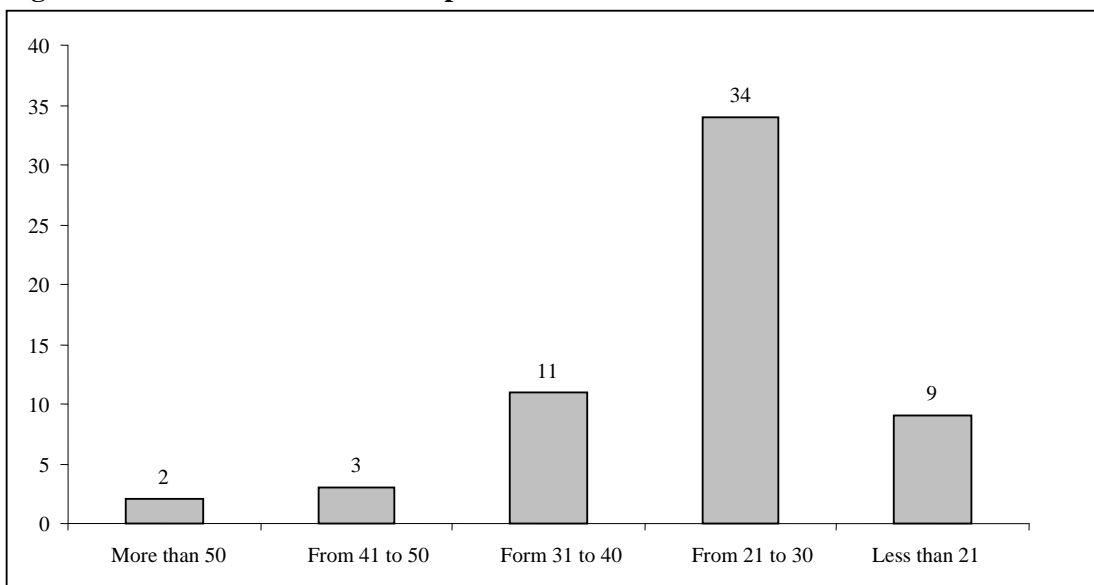
Figure 1: Number of Editorial Staff Members



From analysing Figure 1, it can be stated that the editorial staff of the majority of journals (49) are composed of a minimum of 31 members. It is also worth pointing out

that 10 journals indexed in the ISI have editorial boards composed of more than 31 members. Of the 33 journals available in SCOPUS, only 1 has an editorial board made up of less than 31 members.

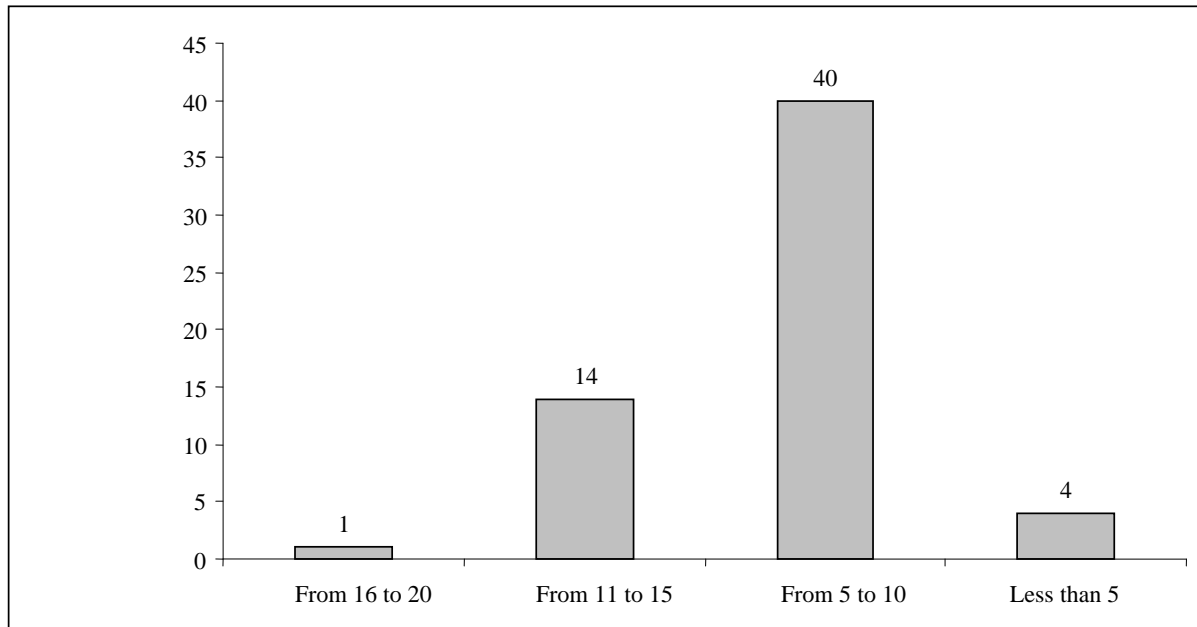
Figure 2: Number of institutions represented on the editorial board



With regards to Figure 2, it is worth noting that only 9 journals have less than 21 institutions represented. All the journals indexed in the ISI have at least 21 institutions represented on their editorial

boards. Of the 33 journals available in SCOPUS, just one has less than 21 institutions represented on its editorial board.

Figure 3: Number of Countries Represented on Editorial Boards



Observe in Figure 3 that most journals analysed have between 5 to 10 countries represented on their editorial boards. Those journals indexed at the ISI have, for the most part, from 5 to 10 countries represented on their editorial board, with the exception of two journals that surpass this number. There is dispersion among the 33 journals available in SCOPUS, but it is possible to verify some journals with higher numbers of up to 11 countries represented on their editorial boards.

It can be concluded from the research results that in relation to the periodical quality dimension of “Product Purpose” proposed by Trzesniak (2006) there are dispersal differences in terms of institutional and geographical origin in the composition of editorial boards for those journals indexed in the SCOPUS and ISI databases. While the criteria used by the ISI in the selection of journals to be indexed in its database are considered to be stricter, this aspect was not verified in the elements researched, but it is emphasised that there

are other criteria for indexing not considered in the present study.

Quality Issues of Journals in the “Market” Dimension

This section deals with the “Market” quality dimension of journals proposed by Trzesniak (2006). The research focused on journals from the accounting area cited by journals from the accounting area indexed in SCOPUS and not available in CAPES journals portal, and on the 2006 impact factor of those journals from the accounting area cited by journals from the accounting area indexed in SCOPUS.

Journals from the accounting area cited by journals from the accounting area indexed in SCOPUS

In the second stage of the research, the number of times that international accounting journals cited other accounting journals was verified. As a starting point, the journals indexed in SCOPUS and published from 2004 to 2006 were used. The choice of time frame was due to the

fact that in order to calculate the impact factor of a periodical, it is necessary to verify the articles published in the two years prior to the period that one wishes to calculate for.

The choice of the SCOPUS database resulted as a function of wishing to verify journals recognized in the international scientific community. As the present study wished to verify the relevance and impact of journals from the accounting area, it was necessary that the mass of data to be researched be the greatest amount possible. With this in mind, the SCOPUS database had 33 international accounting journals indexed, while the ISI had just 10 such journals indexed.

In this procedure, Bradford's Law, or the Law of Dispersion, was applied. This Law

allows us to estimate the degree of relevance of journals in a given area of knowledge, i.e. the journals that produce the greatest number of articles on a given subject form a nucleus of journals, supposedly of greater quality or relevance in that area (Guedes and Borchiver, 2005).

Starting with research made into the SCOPUS site, 1,977 articles were found that were written by 3,994 authors. These articles made reference to texts by 42,705 authors distributed in 83,159 works. The data collected was tabulated with the help of MS-Excel® and MS-Access®. The primary objective was to verify the number of times that each journal from the accounting area had been cited by journals from the same area indexed in the SCOPUS database, as demonstrated in Table 4.

Table 4: Journals from the Accounting Area Cited by Journals from the Accounting Area Indexed in SCOPUS

Order	Journal	Nº of Citations
1	Accounting Review	3,599
2	Journal of Accounting Research	2,865
3	Journal of Accounting and Economics	2,644
4	Accounting, Organizations and Society	1,997
5	Auditing – A Journal of Practice & Theory	1,416
6	Contemporary Accounting Research	888
7	Management Accounting	754
8	Accounting Horizons	743
9	Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal	719
10	Accounting and Business Research	514
11	Journal of Business Finance and Accounting: JBFA	475
12	Critical Perspectives on Accounting	387
13	Review of Accounting Studies	382
14	International Journal of Accounting	357
15	Journal of Accounting and Public Policy	321
16	Abacus : A Journal of Accounting, Finance and Business Studies	289
17	Journal of Management Accounting Research	252
18	Accounting and Finance	204
19	Journal of Accounting Literature	149
20	Issues in Accounting Education	139
21	Accounting History	129
22	Behavioral Research in Accounting	128
23	Accounting Forum	116
24	Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting	106
25	Journal of Accounting Education	84
26	Advances in Accounting	76
27	Accounting Historians Journal	74

28	Advances in Public Interest Accounting	55
29	Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting	46
30	Advances in International Accounting	46
31	Advances in Management Accounting	30
32	Canadian Accounting Perspectives	24
33	Journal of International Accounting Research	16
34	Accounting Business and Financial History	10
35	Journal of Human Resource Costing and Accounting	8
36	Accounting, Management and Information Technologies	4
37	Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management	4
38	Accounting Technology	2
39	International Journal of Intelligent Systems in Accounting, Finance & Management	2
40	Qualitative Research in Accounting and Management	2

In Table 4, we observe that 20,056 citations of journals from the accounting area were made. It is also possible to verify that 16,139 (80.47%) citations were concentrated in 10 (25.00%) of journals from the accounting area. These values approximate the 80/20 Law. This Law “consists of a phenomenon, initially observed in commerce and industry, according to which in information systems, 80% of the demand for information is satisfied by 20% of the set of information

sources” (Trueswell, 1969, cited in Guedes and Borschiver, 2005, p. 4).

Journals cited that do not appear in the CAPES Journals Portal or that are not indexed in the SCOPUS database were not considered in the research since they do not form part of the object of this study. Of the 50 journals available in the CAPES Journals Portal, 16 were not cited by journals indexed in the SCOPUS database (Table 5).

Table 5: Journals in the CAPES Portal not Cited by Journals Indexed in the SCOPUS Database

Order	Name of Journal	Indexed in		Portal CAPES
		SCOPUS	ISI	
1	Accounting Department Management and Administration Report	No	No	Yes
2	Accounting Department Management Report	No	No	Yes
3	Bank Accounting and Finance	No	No	Yes
4	British Accounting Review	Yes	No	Yes
5	Construction Accounting and Taxation	No	No	Yes
6	International Journal of Accounting Information Systems	Yes	No	Yes
7	International Journal of Digital Accounting Research	No	No	Yes
8	Journal of Accounting and Organizational Change	No	No	Yes
9	Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance	Yes	No	Yes
10	Journal of Bank Accounting and Auditing	No	No	Yes
11	Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance	No	No	Yes
12	Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation	Yes	No	Yes
13	Management Accounting Quarterly	No	No	Yes
14	Management Accounting Research	Yes	No	Yes
15	NAA Management Accounting	No	No	Yes
16	Review of Accounting and Finance	No	No	Yes

Table 5 shows that of the 16 journals that were not cited by journals indexed in the SCOPUS database, five are indexed in the SCOPUS database and are part of the CAPES Journals Portal; and eleven are not indexed in either of the two databases but are found in the CAPES Journals Portal.

On the other hand, of the eight journals indexed in the SCOPUS database that are not part of the CAPES Journals Portal, six

were cited by journals indexed in the SCOPUS database.

Journals from the Accounting Area cited by Journals from the Accounting Area indexed in SCOPUS and not available in the CAPES Journals Portal

The six journals cited that are indexed in the SCOPUS database but that are not available in the CAPES Journals Portal are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Journals from the Accounting Area Cited by Journals from the Accounting Area Indexed in SCOPUS and not available in the CAPES Journals Portal

Order	Journals	N° of Citations
1	Accounting and Business Research	514
2	Advances in Accounting	76
3	Advances in Public Interest Accounting	55
4	Advances in International Accounting	46
5	Advances in Management Accounting	30
6	Accounting Business and Financial History	10

There were 731 citations made from journals from Table 6, representing 3.64% of the total of identified citations.

Therefore, of the eight journals indexed in the SCOPUS database that are not part of the CAPES Journals Portal, the only ones not cited were the journals *Advances in Accounting Behavioural Research* and the *International Journal of Accounting Auditing and Performance Evaluation*.

2006 Impact Factor (IF) of Journals from the Accounting Area Cited by Journals from the Accounting Area Indexed in SCOPUS

Based on the data identified in the research, a calculation was made of the Impact Factor for the year 2006 (see Table 7, IF 2006). The intention was what was already presented in the theoretical foundation to the article, i.e. to verify the impact factor as

a measure of the importance or influence of accounting journals, starting with citations of articles that these journals received in the period of time mentioned (Brambilla, Vanz and Stimpf, 2006).

To calculate the 2006 Impact Factor, all the articles published in each periodical in the years 2004 and 2005 were identified. This was followed by verification of the number of times that these articles were cited in articles published in 2006.

With these data settled, the number of articles cited in 2006 was divided by the number of articles published by the periodical in 2004 and 2005.

It is necessary to point out that only citations made by journals indexed in the SCOPUS database were considered. Results of these calculations are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: 2006 Impact Factor (IF) of Journals Cited by Journals from the Accounting Area Indexed in SCOPUS

Order	Journal	Citations in 2006 of articles published in 2004-2005	iF 2006 (SCOPUS)
1	Accounting Review	251	2.6989
2	Accounting Horizons	30	2.3077
3	Journal of Accounting Research	104	2.2128
4	Journal of Accounting and Economics	113	2.1321
5	Accounting, Organizations and Society	100	1.4706
6	Accounting and Business Research	25	1.4706
7	Abacus: A Journal of Accounting, Finance and Business Studies	23	1.2105
8	Auditing – A Journal of Practice & Theory	60	1.1765
9	Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal	52	1.1064
10	Review of Accounting Studies	46	1.0222
11	Journal of Business Finance and Accounting: JBFA	48	0.6957
12	Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting	5	0.5556
13	Journal of Accounting Literature	5	0.5556
14	Accounting and Finance	17	0.5313
15	International Journal of Accounting	19	0.5278
16	Contemporary Accounting Research	37	0.5139
17	Critical Perspectives on Accounting	45	0.4327
18	Advances in Management Accounting	6	0.4286
19	Accounting History	12	0.3529
20	Behavioral Research in Accounting	6	0.3158
21	Journal of Accounting and Public Policy	11	0.2821
22	Advances in Accounting	4	0.2667
23	Journal of International Accounting Research	6	0.2500
24	Accounting Historians Journal	6	0.2400
25	Canadian Accounting Perspectives	6	0.2222
26	Journal of Accounting Education	5	0.1563
27	Journal of Management Accounting Research	3	0.1364
28	Accounting Forum	5	0.1064
29	Advances in International Accounting	1	0.0833
30	Issues in Accounting Education	6	0.0526
31	Qualitative Research in Accounting and Management	1	0.0526
32	Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting	4	0.0519
33	International Journal of Intelligent Systems in Accounting, Finance & Management	1	0.0303
34	Management Accounting	14	0.0218
35	Advances in Public Interest Accounting	0	0.0000
36	Accounting Business and Financial History	0	0.0000
37	Journal of Human Resource Costing and Accounting	0	0.0000
38	Accounting, Management and Information Technologies	0	0.0000
39	Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management	0	0.0000
40	Accounting Technology	0	0.0000

$$IF_{2006} = \frac{\text{No. of citations made in 2006 to articles published in 2004 and 2005}}{\text{Amount of articles published in 2004 and 2005}} = \frac{251}{93} = 2.6989$$

An example is given above of how the impact factor was calculated in Table 7 for the periodical *The Accounting Review* for the year 2006. This calculation was made in order to estimate the degree of relevance of journals from the accounting area, conforming to the approach described in the theoretical foundation of the study (Guedes and Borschiver, 2005). It can be seen that some journals achieved an impact factor much greater than the numbers put out by the ISI in 2005. This resulted from the fact that the ISI undertakes its research using a much fewer number of journals.

Research results evidence that, in relation to the quality of international accounting periodical in the “Market” dimension proposed by Trzesniak (2006), even using calculation criteria identical to the ISI, impact factors are higher in SCOPUS, as a result of it using a larger database in its calculations. For example, the periodical *Accounting Review*, indexed in both the ISI and in SCOPUS, has an impact factor in the JCR of 1.690 (ISI) but is calculated in SCOPUS at 2.6989.

Conclusions

The objective of the article was to analyse the quality of international accounting journals in two of the four dimensions proposed by Trzesniak (2006), one traditional (Product Purpose) and the other new (Market). This is exploratory research, made by means of document research, using a quantitative data approach. Data was gathered in February 2006 from the CAPES Journals Portal and the SCOPUS and ISI databases.

In examining journals from the CAPES Portal that had the words ‘accounting’ or ‘auditing’ in the title, 50 journals were found. Journals that were part of this database with indexing in SCOPUS, indexing in the *Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)* and the respective degree of impact in the *Journal Citation Report (JCR)* were also identified. In SCOPUS, 24 indexed journals were found, 7 of which are

classified in the JCR. Furthermore, it was verified that 8 journals indexed in SCOPUS and 1 in the ISI were not found to be available in CAPES Portal.

With regards to the quality of international accounting journals in the “Product Purpose” dimension the results of the research show that there are dispersion differences in terms of institutional and geographic origin in the composition of the editorial boards of journals indexed in the SCOPUS and ISI databases. It should be noted that the greater strictness in the criteria used by the ISI in the selection of journals indexed in its database was not part of the elements researched. However, it is worth remembering that there are other criteria for indexing in the ISI that were not considered in the present study.

In terms of the “Market” quality dimension for journals proposed by Trzesniak (2006) and starting with research made on the SCOPUS site, 1, 977 articles were found, written by 3, 994 authors. These articles made reference to texts from 42, 705 authors distributed among 83, 159 works. From that point, cross referencing of data was made, for the purpose of identifying what journals were cited, as well as the number of times that this occurred. With this data, impact factors were calculated for each periodical. The results of the research denote that even when using calculation criteria identical to the ISI, the impact factors are higher in SCOPUS, due to having a larger database for use in its calculations.

Given the limitations of the present study, it is recommended that future studies research other databases that index international accounting journals. Furthermore, it is also recommended that future research verifies if expansion of the number of accounting journals is taking place, something that would also need to be integrated into databases used by the scientific community.

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