Original Article

Encontros Bibli

ALTMETRIC COVERAGE AND DIGITAL VISIBILITY OF LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE JOURNALS

Cobertura altmétrica e visibilidade digital de periódicos latino-americanos de Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação

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RESUMO

Objetivo: Este estudo analisa as tendências da visibilidade digital de revistas latino-americanas da área de Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação indexadas na Web of Science e na Scopus, utilizando indicadores altmétricos. O objetivo é identificar padrões de atenção online e examinar os fatores estruturais, linguísticos e editoriais associados ao maior impacto altmétrico.
Método: Foi realizado um estudo quantitativo exploratório com base em um corpus de 3.388 artigos publicados entre 2019 e 2023 em 19 revistas latino-americanas. Os dados bibliométricos foram extraídos da Web of Science e da Scopus e integrados a indicadores altmétricos recuperados do Altmetric.com.
Resultado: Apenas 31% das publicações foram cobertas pelo Altmetric.com, evidenciando uma visibilidade altmétrica limitada. As menções concentraram-se fortemente em plataformas de redes sociais, especialmente no X (antigo Twitter), enquanto documentos de políticas públicas e meios de comunicação apresentaram participação marginal. Revistas com uso sistemático de DOI, perfis ativos em redes sociais, publicações em inglês e melhor posicionamento em quartis — especialmente Q2 — apresentaram níveis mais elevados de atenção online.
Conclusões: A atenção altmétrica é influenciada por práticas editoriais, idioma e estratégias de comunicação científica. O fortalecimento da disseminação digital e das infraestruturas editoriais pode ampliar a circulação e a visibilidade das revistas científicas latino-americanas para além das métricas tradicionais.
PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Altmetria. América Latina. Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação. Avaliação de revistas. Visibilidade digital.

ABSTRACT

Objective: This study analyzes trends in the digital visibility of Latin American journals in Library and Information Science indexed in Web of Science and Scopus using altmetric indicators. Its objective is to identify patterns of online attention and examine the structural, linguistic, and editorial factors associated with greater altmetric attention.
Methods: An exploratory quantitative study was conducted on a corpus of 3,388 articles published between 2019 and 2023 in 19 Latin American journals. Bibliometric data were extracted from Web of Science and Scopus and integrated with altmetric indicators retrieved from Altmetric.com.

Results: Only 31% of the publications were covered by Altmetric.com, revealing limited altmetric visibility. Mentions were highly concentrated on social media platforms, particularly X (formerly Twitter), while policy documents and news media played a marginal role. Journals with systematic DOI use, social media profiles, publications in English, and higher quartile positioning—especially Q2—showed higher levels of online attention.
Conclusions: Altmetric attention is influenced by editorial practices, language, and communication strategies. Strengthening digital dissemination and editorial infrastructures could enhance the circulation and visibility of Latin American scientific journals beyond traditional metrics.
KEYWORDS: Altmetrics. Latin America. Library and Information Science. Journal evaluation. Digital visibility.

1 INTRODUCTION

The evaluation of scientific journals has historically been dominated by citation-based indicators. Among the most prominent is the Impact Factor proposed by Eugene Garfield (Beltrán Galvis, 2006), which, together with similar indicators, is used to calculate journal quartiles, thereby becoming a standard measure of the influence of academic publications. However, this model has been widely questioned due to its limited suitability for emerging or peripheral fields (Brembs; Button; Munafò, 2013) as well as its tendency to privilege certain languages, disciplines, and geographic regions (Jazeel, 2015; Gómez; Herman; Parigi, 2022).

In Latin America, these limitations are particularly relevant. Scientific journals in the region have experienced sustained development since the 1990s, driven by regional open access policies and the creation of databases such as Latindex, SciELO, and Redalyc. Nevertheless, their representation in international indexes such as Web of Science and Scopus remains marginal, which restricts both their visibility and their participation in global circuits of academic circulation (Cogollo-Ospina, 2015; Capurro, 2015). In this context, there is a clear need to expand traditional evaluation models by incorporating indicators that capture emerging forms of scholarly attention beyond citations.

Altmetrics, known as alternative metrics, emerged in response to this need. Initially proposed by Priem *et al*. (2010), altmetrics make it possible to trace the attention generated by scientific articles in digital environments, including sources such as social media platforms (X/Twitter, Facebook), reference managers, news media, blogs, Wikipedia, and policy documents. These metrics offer a more dynamic and multidimensional view of scientific impact by capturing interactions that extend beyond the strictly academic sphere (Oliveira; Barata; Uribe-Tirado, 2021). Moreover, they enable the visibility of social and cultural dimensions of knowledge production, which is particularly relevant for disciplines

such as the one examined in this study—Library and Information Science (LIS)—where engagement with diverse audiences is constitutive of the field.

The choice of LIS as the object of study is justified by its growing output and its interdisciplinary nature (Chang, 2018). According to Järvelin and Vakkari (2022), who conducted a bibliometric study on the evolution of LIS as a field from 1965 to 2015, “LIS has matured as a scholarly discipline”. Positioned at the intersection of the social sciences, humanities, and information technologies, the field offers fertile ground for examining how traditional and alternative metrics interact in the assessment of academic and social impact. “Scholarly Communication and Scientometrics” is, for instance, one of the six major research trends in LIS found by Hsiao and Chen (2020). Given its emphasis on the circulation, preservation, and use of information, LIS journals could be particularly affected by transformations in digital knowledge dissemination ecosystems, making their analysis a relevant avenue for understanding contemporary challenges in scientific evaluation in Latin America.

From an epistemological perspective, the study of altmetrics is situated within broader efforts to complement established forms of circulation and assessment of scientific knowledge. This turn does not deny the usefulness of traditional indicators, but rather emphasizes their insufficiency in capturing the plurality of impact forms (Bornmann, 2014), especially in emerging contexts. Consequently, assessing the altmetric behavior of Latin American LIS journals can provide valuable insights for the design of editorial policies, the strengthening of scientific communication strategies, and the promotion of more diverse and context-sensitive evaluation models in the region.

Accordingly, this article proposes a comprehensive analysis of the digital visibility of Latin American journals in LIS indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, based on altmetric indicators collected from Altmetric.com. The study is structured around the following research questions:

a) What trends do altmetric indicators reveal regarding the digital visibility of Latin American LIS journals?
b) Which platforms and altmetric dimensions contribute most significantly to the visibility of these publications?
c) Which editorial, linguistic, or scientific communication factors are associated with higher Altmetric Attention Scores (AAS)?

2 BACKGROUND

The evaluation of scientific journals using bibliometric indicators has been widely studied and developed at the international level. In recent years, however, there has been growing interest in incorporating alternative metrics, or altmetrics, into bibliometric analyses. This trend has given rise to a diverse body of research that, first, explores the relationship between altmetrics and traditional indicators, yielding mixed results depending on the field of knowledge and the platforms analyzed.

In the biomedical and natural sciences, several studies have examined the correlation between traditional citations and altmetric attention. Barbic *et al*. (2016), Rosenkrantz *et al*. (2017) and Salajeghe, Pisheh and Nejad (2019) identified a positive association between mentions on platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, or news media and the number of citations received, although with considerable variability depending on the type of source. In contrast, other authors argue that such correlations are not robust. Chang, Desai and Gosain (2019) and Fassoulaki *et al.* (2018) suggest that the AAS — the indicator calculated by Altmetric.com — does not necessarily reflect academic quality nor reliably predict citation behavior. This divergence underscores the need to interpret altmetrics as complementary indicators rather than as substitutes for traditional evaluative methods.

In the social sciences and humanities, where publication and citation patterns differ substantially, the incorporation of altmetrics has been even more exploratory. Nuredini and Peters (2016), as well as Repiso, Castillo-Esparcia and Torres-Salinas (2019) emphasize the potential of altmetrics to enhance the visibility of research in disciplines with lower representation in dominant databases. In this regard, Hammarfelt (2014) stresses that platforms such as Mendeley or Twitter may better capture social impact than academic impact.

At the Latin American level, scholarly production on altmetrics is more recent but steadily expanding. Authors such as Chávez-Martínez (2023) and Silva Angelo and Oliveira (2021) have examined the use of these metrics in Mexican and Brazilian scientific journals, respectively, revealing low levels of institutional adoption but a growing presence on platforms such as Mendeley, Twitter, and Facebook. Wilches-Visbal and Castillo-Pedraza (2022) advocate for the inclusion of altmetric indicators in national evaluation systems—such as Publindex in Colombia—proposing integrative models that combine tools such as Altmetric.com, PlumX. These studies converge in highlighting the need to normalize and

standardize the use of altmetrics in regional contexts, overcoming the geographic and linguistic biases that prevail in current evaluation systems.

Within the specific field of LIS, the literature reveals an emerging interest in the potential of altmetrics to assess both the social and academic impact of publications. Chen and Wang (2022) analyzed the altmetric visibility of predatory and non-predatory journals in this field, identifying a clear differentiation in digital presence in which non-predatory journals constitute their own social media profiles. Rocha and Silva (2020) studied the altmetric indicators of the Information Science journals with Qualis A1 (Capes) and found significant altmetric attention in the form of social media and news media mentions. According to the authors, most journals in the area own social media profiles and would benefit from diversifying their communication strategies. Unfortunately, due to the selection criteria, no Latin American journals were analyzed.

Borba, Alvarez and Caregnato (2019) examine the use of Mendeley as an indicator of attention in Brazilian journals classified as Qualis A1, highlighting the high participation of Brazilian users on the platform. Likewise, Uribe-Tirado, Vallejo Echavarría and Betancur Marín (2016) propose a mixed evaluative approach that combines bibliometric data, altmetric indicators, and web analytics to assess the visibility of the *Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecología*. Finally, Manhique *et al*. (2019) studied Brazilian journals and found

> that the altmetric data still have a low level of adherence in the Brazilian journals context related to Information Science. Among the factors involved, stand out the lack of identifiers in approximately eighty percent of the journals indexed by BRAPCI and the low level of mentions on publications into the Online Social Networks services.

Although there are some studies on the use of altmetrics in Latin America and also within Library and Information Science, there remains a scarcity of regional-level research focused on journals in the area as units of analysis. This gap underscores the relevance of the present study, which offers a comprehensive and critical approach to the digital visibility of Latin American journals in LIS indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, which may contribute to the development of a more contextualized and diversified evaluative framework for the region.

3 METHODOLOGY

This study was designed as an exploratory altmetric analysis focused on Latin American journals in Library and Information Science indexed in the Web of Science and

Scopus databases. As noted in the Introduction, these databases represent only a small proportion of Latin American journals, many of which publish relevant local research but face challenges in meeting the requirements for inclusion in international indexing systems. Still, these databases were selected due to their relevance in scientific evaluation processes in the region, and also because of their standardized metadata structures (which are necessary for tracking altmetric attention). The source selection also took into account the need to examine the altmetric behavior of regional publications that have achieved international indexation but may continue to face challenges in terms of digital visibility, and whose impact may therefore be underestimated when assessed solely through traditional indicators. This focus does not imply that Web of Science and Scopus provide a comprehensive representation of Latin American scholarly communication. Rather, the study deliberately concentrates on journals that have entered international indexing systems in order to examine whether their participation in these global circuits is associated with broader digital visibility as reflected by altmetric indicators.

The corpus consisted of all the Latin American LIS journals indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus. Journal selection was based on the updated listings of the Scimago Journal Rank (SJR) and Journal Citation Reports (JCR) for the 2024 rankings (Table 1). Each journal was verified to meet the following criteria: (a) inclusion in at least one of the aforementioned databases, (b) institutional affiliation with a Latin American country, and (c) classification within the thematic category “Library and Information Science” or its equivalent in the consulted databases.

Table 1 – Latin American LIS journals indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus included in the study (based on SJR and/or JCR 2024)

Journal	Indexed in	ISSN	Affiliation Country	Language	Best Quartile (2024)*
Anuario Electronico de Estudios en Comunicacion Social Disertaciones	Scopus	1856-9536	Colombia	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q4 (SJR)
AtoZ-Novas Praticas em Informação e Conhecimento	Scopus and WoS	2237-826X	Brazil	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q4 (SJR and JCR)
Bibliotecas, Anales de Investigación	Scopus and WoS	1683-8947, 0006-176X	Cuba	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q4 (SJR and JCR)
Bibliotecas-Revista de la Escuela de Bibliotecología Documentación e Información	Scopus and WoS	1409-3049, 1659-3286	Costa Rica	Spanish	Q4 (SJR and JCR)

Ciência da Informação	Scopus	0100-1965	Brazil	Portuguese	Q4 (SJR)
Cuadernos.info	Scopus	0719-367X, 0719-3661	Chile	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q2 (SJR)
E-Ciencias de la Información	WoS	1659-4142	Costa Rica	Spanish and English	Q4 (JCR)
Em Questão	WoS	1807-8893	Brazil	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q4 (JCR)
Encontros Bibli-Revista Eletrônica de Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação	Scopus and WoS	1518-2924	Brazil	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q3 (SJR and JCR)
Informação & Sociedade-Estudos	Scopus and WoS	0104-0146	Brazil	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q4 (SJR and JCR)
Información, Cultura y Sociedad	Scopus	1514-8327, 1851-1740	Argentina	Spanish and English	Q3 (SJR)
Investigación Bibliotecológica	Scopus and WoS	0187-358X	Mexico	Spanish and English	Q3 (SJR) and Q4 (JCR)
Palabra Clave (La Plata)	Scopus	1853-9912, 1666-2938	Argentina	Spanish and Portuguese	Q4 (SJR and JCR)
Perspectivas em Ciência da Informação	Scopus and WoS	1981-5344, 1413-9936	Brazil	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q2 (SJR) and Q4 (JCR)
RDBCI-Revista Digital de Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação	Scopus and WoS	1678-765X	Brazil	English and Portuguese	Q3 (SJR and JCR)
Revista Cubana de Información en Ciencias de la Salud	Scopus	2307-2113	Cuba	Spanish	Q4 (SJR)
Revista Ibero-Americana de Ciência da Informação	Scopus and WoS	1983-5213	Brazil	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q3 (SJR) and Q4 (JCR)
Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecología	Scopus	2538-9866, 0120-0976	Colombia	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q3 (SJR)
Transinformação	Scopus and WoS	2318-0889	Brazil	Spanish, English and Portuguese	Q2 (SJR) and Q3 (JCR)

Source: Authors' elaboration based on the SJR and JCR 2024 data extracted in February 2025. The highest quartile corresponds to the best quartile achieved by each journal in any of its subject categories in the 2024 Journal Citation Reports (Web of Science) and/or in the 2024 Scimago Journal Ranking (Scopus).

The analyzed corpus comprises 19 unique Latin American journals in Library and Information Science indexed in one or both databases. Of these, ten are indexed in both Web of Science and Scopus, seven exclusively in Scopus, and two solely in Web of Science. The journals originate from eight countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Chile, Argentina (with two titles), and Brazil, which accounts for the largest number of journals. Regarding language, multilingual editions in Spanish, Portuguese, and English predominate. All journals provide open access, reflecting an institutional commitment to the democratization of knowledge and alignment with open science policies. In terms of journal rankings for 2024, ten journals are classified in Q4, six in Q3, and only three in Q2, with none in Q1, highlighting persistent asymmetries in the international circulation of Latin American scientific publications.

Following journal identification, bibliographic records were extracted for 2,490 articles published by these journals between 2019 and 2023 in Scopus and 1,877 in Web of Science. The extracted variables included article title, citations received in both databases, publication year, language, DOI, open access status, and journal quartile. 3,388 unique publications were identified through article metadata to eliminate duplicates across databases. During this process, a small number of inconsistent records lacking article titles were detected and excluded, as they corresponded to publications from journals outside the defined corpus. Data were downloaded in February 2025 and do not include information for 2024, as editorial data loading in these platforms typically requires several months after the end of each year, and because the time elapsed was insufficient for the accumulation of altmetric mentions. The downloaded data was systematized into a structured database that served as the basis for altmetric tracking.

Altmetric.com was selected as the source for obtaining altmetric indicators. Only publications with a digital object identifier (DOI) were included in the analysis, as this is a technical requirement for data ingestion into the platform. After this filtering process, a total of 2,488 articles were retained for the altmetric analysis, representing 73% of the initial sample. Altmetric.com was chosen because it “is currently one of the most important altmetric data providers” (Robinson-García *et al.,* 2014). Altmetric.com aims to measure the visibility of scientific output in digital environments, offering a broader and more nuanced view of the social reach of research by complementing traditional citation-based metrics.

Among its most representative indicators is the Altmetric Attention Score, defined as “an automatically calculated, weighted count of all of the attention a research output has received” (Altmetric.com, 2025). This score is determined based on three core components:

a) volume, whereby the value of an article increases as the number of individuals mentioning it grows;
b) sources, since each type of medium or platform contributes a different weight to the overall score;
c) authors, through the examination of how frequently those who mention the content engage with scientific publications, as well as potential biases toward specific journals or publishers and the type of audience reached.

The analyzed sources include public policy documents, online reference managers, social media platforms (Facebook, X, Google+, among others), Wikipedia, citations, news media, post-publication peer review platforms, patents, academic and non-academic blogs, highlighted research summaries, as well as multimedia resources and online platforms such as YouTube and Reddit.

The 2,488 publications with DOI were imported into Altmetric.com, which yielded matches for 764 records that collectively accumulated 2,682 mentions. This represents a coverage rate of 31% relative to the total number of articles published by the analyzed journals, indicating a limited presence within the platform. For each publication with a DOI, the following indicators were collected: AAS and the number and type of mentions (X/Twitter, Facebook, blogs, news media, Wikipedia, policy documents, among others). Of the retrieved records in Altmetric.com, 98% exhibit some level of digital attention and have an assigned AAS. The resulting data were systematized into a matrix consolidating altmetric information by journal and by individual article for subsequent analysis.

The generative artificial intelligence tool ChatGPT (model 5.2) was used exclusively to assist with the translation of the manuscript into English; it played no role in the study design, data analysis, interpretation of results, or the development of conclusions.

4 RESULTS

Table 2 describes the basic indicators for each of the journals included in the analysis, with the aim of characterizing their publication volume and, more specifically, assessing the coverage of Altmetric.com and its capacity to track Latin American LIS publications using unique identifiers. The table shows that most journals assign DOIs to a large share of their publications, underscoring the widespread use of persistent identifiers for the visibility and

tracking of scholarly articles. Nevertheless, Altmetric.com coverage displays notable differences across journals.

Overall, journals with a high proportion of documents assigned a DOI — such as *Cuadernos.info*, *Em Questão*, *Encontros Bibli*, and *Transinformação* — tend to exhibit higher levels of coverage in Altmetric.com, both in terms of the number and proportion of documents captured. Among these journals, *Transinformação* records the highest average Altmetric Attention Score (7.78), while *Cuadernos.info* and *Encontros Bibli* stand out for the volume of mentions and relatively high average AAS values. By contrast, journals with very limited or no use of persistent identifiers — such as *Bibliotecas, Anales de Investigación* and *Informação & Sociedade: Estudos* — show little to no presence in Altmetric.com, which substantially constrains their visibility within the platform.

It is important to note that inclusion in Web of Science or Scopus does not necessarily imply homogeneous adoption of persistent identifiers across all journals or publication years. In some cases, such as *Bibliotecas, Anales de Investigación, Revista Cubana de Información en Ciencias de la Salud*, and *Informação & Sociedade: Estudos*, DOI assignment was implemented only partially, resulting in lower DOI coverage within the study window. These differences reflect heterogeneous editorial trajectories and infrastructure capacities across the region and have direct implications for altmetric tracking, since Altmetric.com relies heavily on persistent identifiers for record matching. For some Cuban journals, limited DOI adoption may also be associated with broader infrastructural and geopolitical constraints affecting access to international publishing services, which should be considered when interpreting differences in altmetric coverage.

Nevertheless, the data also reveal notable exceptions to this pattern. Several journals with near-complete DOI coverage — such as *Información, Cultura y Sociedad*, *E-Ciencias de la Información*, *Investigación Bibliotecológica*, and *Revista Digital de Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação* — display comparatively low levels of representation in Altmetric.com. This finding indicates that while the systematic use of DOIs constitutes a necessary condition for altmetric visibility, it is not sufficient to ensure broad coverage within the source. Although the underlying causes of this variation cannot be fully explained with the available data, the results suggest that additional factors — such as dissemination practices, thematic focus, language, or platform-specific dynamics — may play a role. Despite these differences, it is noteworthy that almost all documents indexed in Altmetric.com register some degree of attention from alternative sources, as reflected in the presence of an assigned Altmetric Attention Score.

Table 1 – Documents, DOI availability, Altmetric.com coverage, and Altmetric Attention Scores across Latin American Library and Information Science journals (2019–2023)

Journal	Documents	Documents with DOI	% Documents with DOI	Documents in Altmetric.com	% Documents in Altmetric.com	Documents with AAS	% Documents with AAS	Average Altmetric Attention Score	Mentions	% of Mentions
Anuario Electrónico de Estudios en Comunicación Social Disertaciones	119	107	90%	62	58%	62	100%	1.81	145	5%
AtoZ-Novas Praticas em Informação e Conhecimento	205	204	100%	74	36%	74	100%	1.95	163	6%
Bibliotecas-Revista de la Escuela de Bibliotecología Documentación e Información	33	33	100%	15	45%	15	100%	1.67	30	1%
Bibliotecas, Anales de Investigación	246	5	2%		0%	0	0%	-	0	0%
Ciência da Informação	278	58	21%	1	2%	1	100%	1.00	1	0%
Cuadernos.info	192	190	99%	97	51%	95	98%	5.26	606	22%
E-Ciencias de la Información	77	77	100%	14	18%	14	100%	2.79	39	1%
Em Questão	276	273	99%	174	64%	173	99%	1.34	233	8%
Encontros Bibli-Revista Eletrônica de Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação	258	257	100%	83	32%	82	99%	4.78	559	20%
Informação & Sociedade-Estudos	150		0%			0	0%	-	0	0%
Información, Cultura y Sociedad	103	103	100%	17	17%	14	82%	2.82	62	2%
Investigación Bibliotecológica	205	203	99%	37	18%	35	95%	3.08	114	4%

Palabra Clave (La Plata)	63	62	98%	5	8%	5	100%	2.00	11	0%
Perspectivas em Ciência da Informação	223	208	93%	20	10%	20	100%	2.05	29	1%
Revista Cubana de Información en Ciencias de la Salud	295	54	18%	7	13%	7	100%	4.57	38	1%
Revista Digital de Biblioteconomia e Ciência da Informação	208	207	100%	31	15%	30	97%	2.26	70	3%
Revista Ibero-Americana de Ciência da Informação	211	209	99%	28	13%	26	93%	1.64	137	5%
Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecología	102	94	92%	39	41%	39	100%	1.62	65	2%
Transinformação	144	144	100%	60	42%	58	97%	7.78	380	14%

Source: Authors' own elaboration based on data from SJR 2024, JCR 2024, and Altmetric.com extracted in February 2025.

Regarding the most frequent types of mentions received by the scientific output of Latin American LIS journals and their evolution over time, Table 3 presents the mentions received by publications according to their year of publication, disaggregated by the typologies defined by Altmetric.com.

Table 2 – Mentions received by Latin American Library and Information Science journals, by source type and publication year (2019–2023)

Mention Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
News	5		4	2	2	13
Blogs	24	14	17	5	5	65
Policy documents	1	2				3
X Post	587	256	442	494	692	2471
Facebook Post	26	16	16	6	9	73
Wikipedia	5	8	11	9	6	39
Reddit Post		2		1	2	5
Video		4	1	1	2	8
Bluesky Post		4	1			5
Patents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peer Reviews	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weibo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Google+	0	0	0	0	0	0
LinkedIn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pinterest	0	0	0	0	0	0
F1000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q&A	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clinical guidelines	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syllabi	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Authors' own elaboration based on Altmetric.com data extracted in February 2025.

The data show that X (formerly Twitter) is the platform with the highest level of activity, in line with previous findings in the literature: Nuredini and Peters (2016) identify X as the predominant source in altmetric indicators; Alhoori and Furuta (2014) highlight its extensive use and coverage within academic communities; and Rocha and Silva (2020) found it was

the source of the majority of the mentions obtainted by journals in the area. Facebook and Wikipedia show a more stable but declining presence, reflecting lower levels of interaction with scientific publications. Overall, social media platforms concentrate the largest share of altmetric attention.

As for blogs, mentions fluctuate over time, with a marked decline in recent years. Emerging platforms such as Bluesky begin to register low levels of activity, while forums such as Reddit show limited use, their relevance more pronounced in Anglophone academic communities. The absence of interaction on platforms such as LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Weibo suggests that these channels may not be significant for scientific dissemination in this field. There are no mentions in patents, which may suggest that the content of these journals has a more theoretical scope. Also, beyond the net distribution of mentions, it is important to highlight that the scientific output of Latin American LIS journals shows limited participation in sources that carry greater weight in the AAS, such as news and policy documents.

Within the media dimension, mentions were identified from digital news outlets, traditional press, science communication platforms, and academic institutions, including Estadao.com.br, Radio Nacional de Colombia, The Conversation, and Medium US. These mentions show a geographic distribution encompassing both Latin American and English-speaking countries. This diversity suggests that, although media attention remains limited, some articles manage to cross linguistic and thematic boundaries, reaching broader audiences when they address issues of public interest such as open science, disinformation, or citizen participation.

In regard to policy documents, only three mentions were identified, originating from Brazil's Ministério da Saúde, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). These references correspond to three articles focused on topics such as disinformation and social media, which are particularly relevant for addressing health-related and political challenges in the region. This pattern may be influenced by the limited indexing capacity of Altmetric.com for Latin American sources, as well as by potential linguistic barriers, given that the journals publish predominantly in Spanish and Portuguese. In this regard, Szomszor and Adie (2022) analysed Overton's global coverage (the main source for policy document citations used by Altmetric.com) and concluded: "clearly, Overton is dominated by policy documents published by sources in the United States, but it also includes significant coverage for Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, France, and Australia, with the majority of

content originating from governmental sources". This geographic concentration may affect the visibility of research produced in regions where policy documents are less systematically indexed or where governmental and institutional outputs are published predominantly in languages other than English. Consequently, the low number of policy document mentions identified in this study should be interpreted with caution, as it may reflect limitations in source coverage in addition to the actual uptake of research by policy actors.

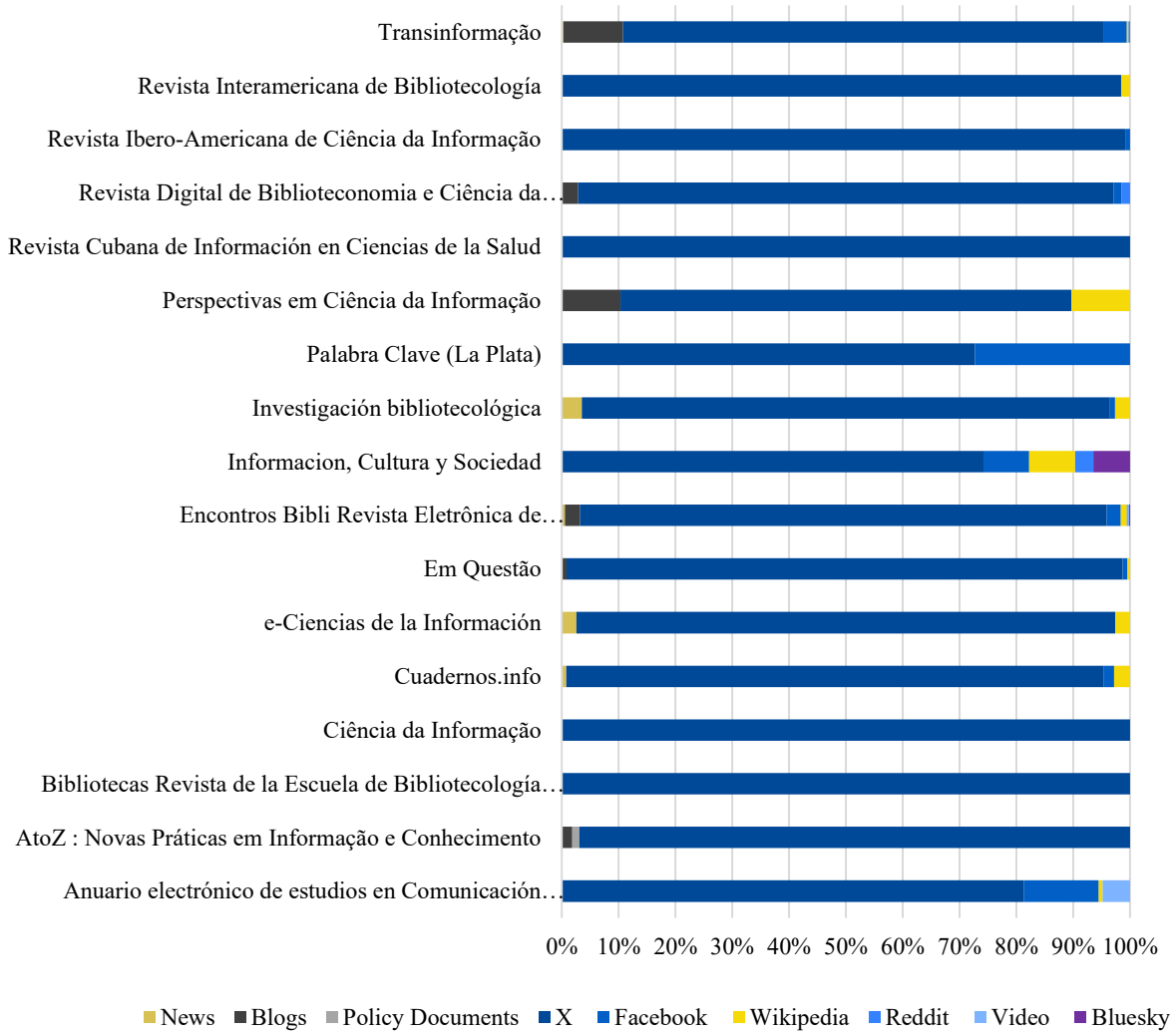
A complementary component of the analysis found in the Appendix (table 6) examined the presence of journals on social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook, with the aim of exploring the relationship between scientific communication strategies and digital visibility. The underlying hypothesis was that journals that actively manage their own dissemination channels may facilitate the direct circulation of their content, thereby increasing the likelihood of receiving altmetric mentions, at least on social media platforms, as proposed by Souza *et al* (2015). This was further studied by Rocha and Silva (2020), who found that at the time 83% of Information Science journals with Qualis A1 (Capes) own social media profiles.

We found that 14 of our Latin American journals (74%) maintain profiles on social media platforms, primarily Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and Google Scholar. Facebook is the most frequently used platform, with at least ten active journals, followed by Instagram with seven, while presence on X and YouTube is comparatively limited. In this context, *Em Questão*, *Encontros Bibli*, *RDBCI*, and *Transinformação* display more consolidated dissemination strategies and, when considered alongside the results presented in the Appendix, also show better coverage in Altmetric.com. Other journals are limited to a single profile, usually on Facebook, or lack institutional presence altogether.

The absence of persistent identifiers and limited institutional social media presence in several journals may reflect broader challenges previously identified in the Latin American scholarly communication ecosystem. As Oliveira *et al.* (2021) note, the development of altmetric practices in the region has been constrained by uneven adoption, methodological limitations, and dependence on infrastructures and data sources largely developed in the Global North. Within this context, differences in the implementation of identifiers, communication strategies, and digital dissemination practices may be associated with variations in editorial capacity and resource availability across journals. Future research could examine these dimensions in greater detail through analyses of editorial capacities and communication practices, thereby contributing to a better understanding of how institutional conditions shape altmetric visibility in Latin American journals.

The relationship between communication infrastructure and altmetric attention is also reflected in the type and distribution of mentions received by journals across digital platforms. Figure 1 illustrates the relative proportion of mentions by source (Facebook, X/Twitter, blogs, Wikipedia, news media, among others) for each of the 19 analyzed journals.

Figure 3 – Distribution of mentions by source type across Latin American Library and Information Science journals (2019–2023)



Source: Authors' own elaboration based on Altmetric.com data extracted in February 2025.

The figure shows that some journals — such as *Palabra Clave (La Plata)*, *Información, Cultura y Sociedad*, and *Anuario Electrónico de Estudios en Comunicación Social Disertaciones* — receive altmetric attention from a variety of channels, while others concentrate almost exclusively on X/Twitter or exhibit minimal coverage limited to a single source. A closer examination of individual cases reveals that diversified altmetric visibility

does not necessarily coincide with the presence of institutional social media profiles. Journals such as *Información, Cultura y Sociedad*, *Palabra Clave (La Plata)*, and *Anuario Electrónico de Estudios en Comunicación Social Disertaciones* display a wide range of mention sources — including X, blogs, Wikipedia, and media outlets—despite having limited or no formal presence on social media platforms. This suggests that a substantial share of altmetric attention may be driven by factors beyond institutional dissemination strategies, such as author-level activity and thematic relevance.

By contrast, a smaller group of journals—including *Cuadernos.info*, *Encontros Bibli*, and *Transinformação* — combines diversified altmetric attention with an institutional presence on social media platforms. These journals not only receive mentions from multiple sources, such as X, blogs, Wikipedia, and, in some cases, policy documents, but also maintain active profiles across more than one social network. Although this overlap should not be interpreted as evidence of causal effectiveness, it suggests that institutional communication practices could reinforce or stabilize the circulation of content that is already relevant.

In any case, X remains the most relevant channel for disseminating articles from all Latin American LIS journals. *Cuadernos.info* (573 mentions), *Encontros Bibli* (518), and *Em Questão* (228) stand out, reflecting their strong presence in academic discussions on this platform. Other platforms such as Facebook, Wikipedia, Reddit, and Bluesky exhibit very limited activity. A notable case is *Transinformação*, which registers 40 mentions in blogs, indicating a more sustained visibility within specialized communities. Some journals also begin to appear in video formats, such as *Anuario Electrónico de Estudios en Comunicación Social Disertaciones*, with seven mentions.

The accounts that most frequently mention the analyzed articles are mainly concentrated in Brazil. The institutional account @emquestao_ufrgs, associated with the journal *Em Questão*, stands out with a total of 205 mentions, far exceeding the rest, indicating an intensive dissemination dynamic based on the frequency of interaction. This pattern is replicated among other Brazilian accounts, both institutional and individual, such as @RevistaAtoZ (73 mentions), @EncontrosBibli (49 mentions), @pedroisandretta (68 mentions), and @FPirew (61 mentions), all of which show high levels of mention activity. Notably, a substantial share of these mentions corresponds to self-mentions generated by the journals' own institutional accounts, reflecting internal dissemination practices rather than external engagement. The presence of accounts from Chile (@CuadernosInfo), Colombia (@EditorialUR), Costa Rica (@BibliotecasUNA) are consistent with this trend. By

contrast, accounts with greater potential reach, such as @RedeSciELO, with 30 mentions, register fewer direct interactions with specific articles. Some individual users based in Europe (e.g. @luciadasilveira and @ronaldfar) highlight the coexistence of different types of actors in the generation of social media mentions.

To further examine the conditions influencing the digital visibility of journals, the distribution of mentions by publication language and average AAS was also analyzed (Table 4). Given that the analyzed journals primarily publish in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, each with different levels of international circulation, the aim was to assess whether language constitutes a factor affecting altmetric attention. This hypothesis is grounded in the English-oriented nature of platforms such as Altmetric.com and in the unequal structure of the global scientific ecosystem, where linguistic prevalence can influence the likelihood of an article being shared, cited, or mentioned in digital environments (CAO *et al.,* 2024). Since many of the sources monitored by altmetric aggregators operate primarily in English, publications written in Spanish and Portuguese may face additional barriers to circulation beyond their immediate linguistic communities, potentially affecting both the volume and diversity of the attention they receive.

Table 4 – Documents, mentions, citations, and Altmetric Attention Scores by publication language across Latin American Library and Information Science journals (2019–2023)

Language of Publication	Documents	% Documents	Citations	% Citations	Average Altmetric Attention Score	Mentions
English	169	22%	406	25%	3.67	3068
Spanish	250	33%	662	41%	3.47	5166
Portuguese	345	45%	545	34%	2.63	3808

Source: Author's own elaboration based on Altmetric.com data extracted in February 2025.

At an aggregate level, Portuguese accounts for the largest volume of documents, followed by Spanish and English. However, publications in Spanish receive more citations and achieve a higher average AAS, indicating greater social presence. Although Portuguese leads in the number of documents and total mentions, its average level of attention across platforms is lower. English, by contrast, exhibits a more balanced relationship between document volume, citations, and AAS, suggesting equilibrium between production and impact. When examining publication dynamics by language over the analyzed period,

English shows a steadily increasing share, while Spanish and Portuguese display a downward trend.

Finally, the relationship between journal quartiles in the Scimago Journal Rank and the level of attention received in digital environments was examined. Table 5 explores whether there is a correspondence between formal prestige, associated with indexation in Web of Science and Scopus, and altmetric attention.

Table 5 – Documents, mentions, citations, and Altmetric Attention Scores by Best Journal Quartile in SJR and JCR across Latin American Library and Information Science journals (2019–2023)

Best Journal Quartile	Documents	% Documents	Citations	% Citations	Average Altmetric Attention	Mentions	% Mentions
Q1	20	3%	50	3%	4.35	283	2%
Q2	158	21%	709	44%	5.91	3995	33%
Q3	168	22%	222	14%	3.21	2592	22%
Q4	156	20%	320	20%	2.42	2042	17%
No quartile available	262	34%	312	19%	1.74	3130	26%

Source: Author's own elaboration based on Altmetric.com data extracted in February 2025. Each article was assigned the quartile corresponding to the journal in the specific year of publication according to SJR. For journals indexed only in Web of Science, the best quartile the specific year of publication in JCR was used. When a journal was simultaneously classified in more than one subject category, the best available quartile was assigned. Some documents could not be assigned to a journal quartile, as they were published during the initial period following the journal's inclusion in the indexing database, when quartile indicators were not yet available. The full list of publications and their quartiles is available in the dataset: https://zenodo.org/records/22136832.

Table 5 shows that only a small proportion of documents from Latin American LIS journals are published in Q1 journals, reflecting the limited visibility of these publications in international databases as well as possible linguistic barriers that constrain the global reach of research published in Spanish and Portuguese. Notably, however, although Q2 journals account for only 21% of the publications, they receive a disproportionately higher share of citations and mentions than other quartiles and register the highest average Altmetric Attention Score (5.91). This pattern reinforces the association between journal visibility and academic impact, whereby publications in higher quartiles tend to attract greater attention across both citation-based and alternative metrics, as found by Serati Shirazi, Khademi and Rostami (2023).

By contrast, Q3 and Q4 journals account for a substantial proportion of documents. Q3 journals show a higher volume of mentions, whereas Q4 journals, despite concentrating the largest number of documents, are the least visible in terms of citations and mentions. The findings indicate that journals with higher prestige tend to exhibit greater influence, expressed both through traditional citation-based indicators and through attention in alternative digital environments.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This study examined the altmetric performance of 19 Latin American journals in LIS indexed in international citation databases between 2019 and 2023, with the aim of providing a comprehensive assessment of their digital visibility beyond traditional citation-based indicators. Using data retrieved from Altmetric.com, the analysis addressed both the platform's coverage of regional scientific output and the distribution of attention across different altmetric dimensions, identifying the sources that concentrate the largest share of mentions. In addition, the study explored how editorial, linguistic, and infrastructural factors — such as the use of persistent identifiers, publication language, journal quartile, and institutional communication practices—may be associated with observed patterns of altmetric visibility.

Overall, the findings confirm that altmetric attention remains unevenly distributed and relatively limited across the corpus, despite the widespread adoption of DOIs and the predominance of open access publishing models. Although approximately 73% of the analyzed articles include a DOI, only about 31% are captured by Altmetric.com, highlighting the platform's partial coverage of regional scholarly output, as found by Manhique *et al*. (2019) in their analysis of Brazilian journals. This reinforces previous observations that the mere availability of technical infrastructure, such as persistent identifiers or open access platforms, does not automatically translate into broader visibility or impact in digital environments (Silva Angelo; Oliveira, 2021; Oliveira; Barata; Uribe-Tirado, 2021). The results show that several journals with near-complete DOI coverage and open access availability still exhibit relatively low levels of altmetric attention, suggesting that visibility is also shaped by dissemination practices, language, and the degree of engagement with digital communication channels that merit further studies. It also raises questions about the criteria and mechanisms through which documents are included within Altmetric.com. The distribution of mentions by source shows a clear concentration on social media platforms,

particularly X (formerly Twitter), which continues to be the main channel of digital circulation for the journals analyzed, in line with what has been reported by Nuredini and Peters (2016), Chang *et al.* (2019), and Rocha and Silva (2020). Platforms such as Facebook, Wikipedia, and blogs, although still present, have exhibited a downward trend, while other sources that carry greater weight in the AAS — such as news media — remain marginal. Rocha and Silva (2020) found the opposite in their analysis of international information science journals, which attract significant media attention. This suggests that Latin American visibility may be limited due to factors such as the publication language, the topics addressed or the predominance of academic and theoretical approaches that merit future study. Regarding the policy dimension, although few mentions were identified, institutions from the American continent stand out for referencing publications related to COVID-19, the pandemic, and presidential electoral processes linked to digital methodologies.

This pattern suggests a form of visibility mediated by the speed and temporality of social media, in which articles circulate more frequently as brief mentions than as stable references. A substantial share of the mentions appears to originate from accounts directly associated with journals, editorial teams, or researchers active in the field. The most frequently identified X accounts are primarily institutional journal profiles and individual academics, suggesting that part of the observed attention is linked to scholarly dissemination practices within the community itself. While these findings do not allow for a systematic assessment of the motivations behind each mention, they indicate that journal and author-driven communication play an important role in the circulation of research outputs across social media.

This pattern differs substantially from what is observed in other altmetric sources. Whereas activity on X is concentrated around a relatively small number of institutional and individual academic accounts, mentions in blogs, news media, policy documents, and Wikipedia originate from more heterogeneous actors and contexts. These sources are less directly controlled by journals and authors and therefore may reflect broader forms of circulation beyond the scholarly community itself. However, their overall volume remains considerably lower than that observed on X, suggesting that most of the digital attention received by Latin American LIS journals is generated within academic communication networks.

Likewise, the analysis by language confirms a trend reported in previous studies (Chávez-Martínez, 2023; Oliveira *et al.*, 2021), namely that publications in English — and to a lesser extent in Spanish — tend to generate higher levels of digital attention. This could

be partially explained by the linguistic bias of tools such as Altmetric.com, which privilege English-language sources and may restrict coverage of local sources, such as media channels. Still, it is noteworthy that, although Portuguese accounts for 45% of the documents, it exhibits the lowest average altmetric impact, reinforcing the idea that not only the volume of publications matters, but also how research outputs are communicated (Wilches-Visbal; Castillo-Pedraza, 2022).

In terms of editorial positioning, the analysis by quartiles reveals a correlation between prestige as measured by traditional indicators and levels of altmetric attention. This finding suggests that alternative indicators partially reproduce traditional hierarchies of visibility, as also observed by Repiso, Castillo-Esparcia and Torres-Salinas (2019) in their analysis of the field of communication. The absence of Latin American Library and Information Science journals in the Q1 quartile, together with the concentration of mentions in Q2 and Q3, also points to a structural limitation within the regional editorial ecosystem, associated with historical inequalities in the production and circulation of knowledge (Gómez; Herman; Parigi, 2022).

The results also draw attention to the role of digital communication practices, albeit in a more nuanced manner than is often assumed. 14 of the 19 journals analyzed own at least one social media profile, especially in X, Facebook or Instagram, which is consistent with international journals in the area (Rocha; Silva, 2020). Some journals with a greater diversity of institutional social media channels — such as *Cuadernos.info*, *Encontros Bibli*, and *Transinformação* — tend to display broader altmetric coverage and higher average AAS, this relationship is neither uniform nor deterministic. This observation is consistent with the conclusions reached by Pacher (2024), who finds no statistically significant causal effect of journals' presence on X/Twitter on citation-based indicators, and emphasizes that any potential influence of social media activity on visibility or impact may be limited, context-dependent, and difficult to generalize. However, whether institutional social media presence relates to altmetric attention remains a future avenue of research, since this study captured only the existence of journal-managed accounts and not their patterns of use.

Other journals with limited or no formal institutional presence on social media nonetheless achieve diversified altmetric attention, suggesting that a substantial share of attention is generated through author-level activity, third-party platforms, and thematic relevance rather than through journal-managed dissemination alone. In this context, according to Chen and Wang (2022), institutional digital infrastructure — including the systematic use of persistent identifiers, the maintenance of social media profiles, and more

professionalized communication practices — should be understood as an enabling condition that may reinforce or stabilize the circulation of high-prestige research within digital environments.

Taken together, these findings seem to show altmetric attention is not merely a spontaneous reflection of social interest in science, but may be related to editorial decisions, institutional capacities, and systemic inequalities. The observed differences associated with DOI adoption, publication language, journal quartile, social media presence, and the uneven coverage of sources monitored by Altmetric.com suggest that the visibility of research outputs is shaped by both journal-level practices and broader structural conditions. At the same time, they show that, despite these asymmetries, the scientific output of Latin American LIS journals that reaches Altmetric.com is indeed visible in digital channels beyond citations. Addressing these coverage biases and further investigating the factors that explain the absence of mentions in higher-value sources — such as news media, patents and policy documents—is essential for assessing the potential of altmetric indicators in the evaluation of regional scientific journals and for strengthening their visibility.

6 LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Several limitations of this study should be acknowledged. First, the analysis was restricted to Latin American journals in LIS indexed in international citation databases such as Web of Science and Scopus. This decision was intentional, as it allowed for an examination of journals that have already demonstrated sufficient editorial and scientific consolidation to enter global circuits of scholarly communication and may be more prone to DOI use, which is essential for capture in Altmetric.com. Incorporating additional regional and global information sources such as SciELO, Latindex and OpenAlex could provide a more comprehensive view of Latin American scholarly communication dynamics. Accordingly, the findings should be interpreted as representative of Latin American internationally indexed journals rather than of the broader Latin American LIS journal ecosystem. Second, future research would benefit from extending the analysis to other fields to assess whether similar altmetric patterns emerge. Third, the study relies exclusively on Altmetric.com as the source of alternative metrics. Replicating the analysis using other altmetric aggregators would allow for comparative assessments of coverage, strengths, and limitations, an area that remains underexplored for the Latin American context. Finally, in this study, the presence of institutional social media channels was included as an analytical

variable; however, the analysis was limited to identifying the existence of such profiles rather than examining their content, frequency, or modes of use. As a result, it was not possible to assess what types of materials are disseminated, how communication strategies are implemented in practice, or which specific forms of engagement are more likely to generate attention and circulation across digital platforms. Future research would benefit from a more fine-grained approach that combines altmetric data with qualitative or content-based analyses of social media activity, allowing for a deeper understanding of how editorial communication practices may shape patterns of digital visibility. It could also combine altmetric indicators with qualitative analyses of editorial management practices to better understand how organizational capacities shape the dissemination and circulation of scholarly content in Latin America.

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and we have impact: open access data analysis, altmetrics and others of the **Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecología**, Medellín, v. 39, n. 3, p. 243–275, 2016. Available at: https://doi.org/10.17533/udea.rib.v39n3a04. Accessed on: Dec. 5, 2025.

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APPENDIX

Table 6 – Social media presence of Latin American Library and Information Science journals in 2025

Journal	Indexed in	ISSN	Country	Social media presence
Anuario Electronico de Estudios en Comunicacion Social Disertaciones	Scopus	1856-9536	Colombia	No profiles found
AtoZ-Novas Praticas em Informacao e Conhecimento	Scopus and Web of Science	2237-826X	Brazil	Facebook
Bibliotecas-Revista de la Escuela de Bibliotecología Documentación e Informacion	Scopus and Web of Science	1409-3049, 1659-3286	Costa Rica	Facebook, Twitter Instagram
Bibliotecas, Anales de Investigación	Scopus and Web of Science	1683-8947, 0006-176X	Cuba	No profiles found
Ciencia da Informacao	Scopus	0100-1965	Brazil	Instagram and Youtube
Cuadernos.info	Scopus	0719-367X, 0719-3661	Chile	X
E-Ciencias de la Informacion	Web of Science	1659-4142	Costa Rica	No profiles found
Em Questao	Web of Science	1807-8893	Brazil	Google Scholar, Instagram, X Facebook.
Encontros Bibli-Revista Eletronica de Biblioteconomia e Ciencia da Informacao	Scopus and Web of Science	1518-2924	Brazil	Facebook, Instagram X Youtube
Informacao & Sociedade-Estudos	Web of Science	0104-0146	Brazil	No profiles found
Informacion, Cultura y Sociedad	Scopus	1514-8327, 1851-1740	Argentina	No profiles found
Investigación Bibliotecológica	Scopus and Web of Science	0187-358X	México	No profiles found
Palabra Clave (La Plata)	Scopus	1853-9912, 1666-2938	Argentina	No profiles found

Journal	Indexed in	ISSN	Country	Social media presence
Perspectivas em Ciencia da Informacao	Scopus and Web of Science	1981-5344, 1413-9936	Brazil	Instagram, Facebook
RDBCI-Revista Digital de Biblioteconomia e Ciencia da Informacao	Scopus and Web of Science	1678-765X	Brazil	Facebook , Instagram
Revista Cubana de Informacion en Ciencias de la Salud	Scopus	2307-2113	Cuba	Facebook, Instagram
Revista Ibero-Americana de Ciencia da Informacao	Web of Science	1983-5213	Brazil	Facebook
Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecologia	Scopus	2538-9866, 0120-0976	Colombia	Facebook
Transinformacao	Scopus and Web of Science	0103-3786	Brazil	Facebook, X

Source: Authors' own elaboration. Social media profiles were identified through the official websites of the journals and through direct searches on each platform. Only profiles explicitly managed by the journals were considered; institutional, publisher-level, or third-party accounts used solely to disseminate journal content were not taken into account.

NOTAS

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