

How BiD and Spanish information science journals have changed over the last 20 years

[[Versió catalana](#)] [[Versión castellana](#)]

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Abstract

This article describes the historical evolution of the journal *BiD* through an analysis of three key stages: foundation (1998–2003), consolidation (2004–2012) and growth (2013 to the present). It examines aspects related to the editorial structure, sections, layout and inclusion in databases during each of these stages. Secondly, it analyses the present status of the 19 information science journals currently active in Spain based on four general characteristics (longevity, editor profile, inclusion in databases and open-access publication), and then compares these aspects to the situation 20 years ago through an assessment of three studies carried out at that time. Finally, it examines the evolution of the journal *BiD* and outlines its future challenges.

Resum

Es presenta l'evolució històrica de la revista *BiD* establint tres grans etapes en el seu recorregut: creació (1998–2003), consolidació (2004–2012), creixement (2013–). En cada una d'elles es comenten aspectes relacionats amb l'estructura editorial, les seccions, la maqueta i la inclusió en bases de dades. En segon lloc, s'analitza la situació actual de les dinou revistes científiques espanyoles de l'àmbit de la documentació que estan actives basant-se en quatre característiques generals (antiguitat, perfil d'editor, presència en bases de dades i difusió en accés obert) i, a continuació, es compara amb la situació existent fa vint anys a partir de les valoracions de tres estudis d'aquell moment. Finalment, es valora l'evolució de la revista *BiD* i se'n presenten els reptes de futur.

Resumen

Se presenta la evolución histórica de la revista *BiD* estableciendo tres grandes etapas en su recorrido: creación (1998–2003), consolidación (2004–2012), crecimiento (2013–). En cada una de ellas se comentan aspectos relacionados con la estructura editorial, las secciones, la maqueta y la inclusión en bases de datos. En segundo lugar, se analiza la situación actual de las diecinueve revistas científicas españolas del ámbito de la documentación que están activas teniendo en cuenta cuatro características generales (antigüedad, perfil del editor, presencia en bases de datos y difusión en acceso abierto) y, a continuación, se compara con la situación existente hace veinte años a partir de las valoraciones de tres estudios de aquel momento. Finalmente, se valora la evolución de la revista *BiD* y se presentan los retos de futuro.

Keywords: Spain, History, Librarianship, Journals

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1 Introduction

The aim of this article is to mark the first 20 years and 40 issues of the journal *BiD*; this length of time provides enough perspective to analyse the journey so far and to determine the course it may take in the future. Many scientific journals have taken advantage of such occasions to review their performance over a given period (in terms of time or number of issues). Often, they conduct bibliometric studies to reveal the profile of the authors who have had work published in them (by affiliation, country, gender, etc.), the main topics covered and how the different sections

have evolved. Such studies have been carried out by Pérez Álvarez-Ossorio (1997), who examined the first 20 years of the *Revista Española de Documentación Científica*; Pedro López *et al.* (2001), who analysed the first decade of the *Revista General de Información y Documentación* (1991–2000), with a particular focus on productivity, collaborations and subjects covered; Rosario Arquero and José Luis del Río (2002), who studied the first 25 years of *Documentación de las Ciencias de la Información*; and Gregorio González *et al.* (2007), who conducted a bibliometric and thematic analysis of the first two decades of *Anales de Documentación*.

With reference to *BiD*, we also have access to older articles on the journal's origins, structure and evolution. First, Concepción Rodríguez (2001) published a brief review in which she described the journal's sections and general characteristics. That same year, Rodríguez-Gairín (2001) used the generic parameters and indicators described by Lluís Codina (2000), which are designed to evaluate web resources, and adapted them for digital journals to assess the structure and digital features of *BiD*. In doing so, he highlighted several weak points and suggested ways to improve them. Later, Abadal and Estivill (2006) also carried out an extensive review of the journal's sections, technological development and application of metadata, and its inclusion in the *Temària* portal and in international databases and portals.

A second group of studies on *BiD* mirrored the aforementioned bibliometric trend and include detailed analyses of the authors who have published in the journal and the topics they addressed. To mark the journal's 10th anniversary, Candela Ollé and Mercè Porras (2008) analysed the content of each section, the topics covered (dominated by ICT, units of information, librarianship and information sources) and the languages used (dominated by Catalan). They also carried out a survey among members of the advisory board regarding the publication's strengths and weaknesses. More recently, Mercè Vázquez *et al.* (2017) conducted a bibliometric study that explored the authors and topics of *BiD* and compared them to those of *Anales de Documentación (AD)* during the 2000–2013 period. The results revealed, on the one hand, that *BiD* addresses more practical topics of professional interest, while *AD* shows a preference for more theoretical and academic content. On the other hand, a certain amount of overlap was identified between the two journals in certain topics, specifically "public libraries", "university libraries", "digital libraries", "ICT", "information resources" and "information management".

Since the two groups of authors mentioned above have carried out bibliometric studies relatively recently, repeating this process or pursuing this line of thinking was deemed to be of little value. Thus, our first goal is to present the historical evolution of the journal *BiD* through an analysis of three key stages, and our second is to frame this development within the context of Spanish journals in the field of information science.

2 A brief history

BiD was founded in 1998 by the former School of Library and Information Science at the University of Barcelona. It was not the first journal of the School of Library and Information Science, which had published its predecessor *Biblioteconomía* (1944–1976), created and run by the school's director, Felipe Mateu y Llopis, until 1972. *Biblioteconomía* primarily targeted the professional sector with the aim of solving technical challenges encountered in the field of library management. Aurora Vall (2004) published a very detailed study in which she analysed changes in the journal's publication schedule, its authors (mainly Catalan information science professionals), the language used (the first text in Catalan was not published until 1970) and the subjects covered (in which catalogues and cataloguing dominated). She also included a database dump of all articles published, with comprehensive subject indexes so that they could be accessed.

The original mission of *BiD* was to increase awareness of the School's academic activity and disseminate research carried out at other Spanish university centres, as the presentation text explained:

"Our aim is for *BiD*: *textos universitaris de biblioteconomia i documentació*, the journal being presented here, to help open up and increase awareness of the activity of our School and its members. We want this desire for openness to be reciprocal and are therefore allowing all professionals, researchers and teachers of library and information science to access our 'pages' so that they can publicize their studies and activities." (Miralpeix, 1997)

The journal has had three founding principles, which are still features of the journal today:

1. Catalan and multilingual

The School, as a higher education institution closely linked to the culture and science of Catalonia, had a strong commitment to disseminating the Catalan language. Since the aim was to publish academic texts, however, it also pursued a wide dissemination. The decision was therefore taken at the outset to include texts in any language. In fact, the very first issue included a bilingual text (Spanish) and an English text. Later, starting from issue 20 (June 2008), a full Spanish version and partial English versions were also made available.

2. Digital

One of the reasons for opting for the digital format was to make the journal sustainable, thereby ensuring its survival. At that time, consultation of digital journals was relatively uncommon. This meant that the journal was not widely disseminated, a fact that negatively impacted the journal at the start. However, these disadvantages were immediately offset. It was also decided that the journal would be published in HTML format and not distributed as a PDF version featuring a layout designed for print journals, as many journals continue to do today.

3. Open access

Although this term was not used, the journal was distributed for free from the outset, and a Creative Commons licence was incorporated within a few years.

Note that these three features were unusual for information science journals at that time. Only *Cybermetrics*, which appeared one year before *BiD*, in 1997, and which has not published any articles since 1913, was distributed in digital format, was exclusively in English and was also published in open access.

To offer an overview of the journal's evolution over the last 20 years, we have broken the analysis down into three "classical" stages (foundation, growth and consolidation). For each stage, aspects related to its layout, structure, editorial team and database inclusion are examined.

2.1 Foundation (1998–2003)

This stage encompasses the journal's first six years and 11 issues, which all retained the original layout and logo (shown in Figure 1). Since the first issue was published in June 1998, in fact, only one issue was released during the first year of the journal.



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 - [Informe sobre la 64a IFLA Conference \(Amsterdam, agost de 1998\)](#) / Assumpció Estivill, Concepció Miralpeix
 - [Informe sobre el II Encuentro de Profesores de Biblioteconomía y Documentación \(Zarandilla de la Vera, Cáceres, 24 i 25 de setembre de 1998\)](#) / Ernest Abadal
 - [Informe sobre el IV Taller de Bibliotecas Universitarias de América Latina y el Caribe \(Dirección de Información Científico-Técnica \(DICT\) de la Universidad de Habana, 2 al 9 d'octubre de 1998\)](#) / Rosa Seguí
 - [Informe sobre les sessions Jornades Espanyoles de Documentació \(València, 29, 30 i 31 d'octubre de 1998\)](#) / Amadeu Pons
 - [Resum de les intervencions de la International Conference on National Bibliographic Services \(Copenhaguen, 25-27 de novembre de 1998\)](#) / Imma Baldoocchi
 - [Informe sobre el Seminari «Sistemes d'Informació per a l'Acció Cultural Local» \(Barcelona, 25-28 de novembre de 1998\)](#) / Joan Amorós, Ester Onella
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 - [Selecció de novetats de la biblioteca de l'Escola](#) / Miquel Àngel Hernández

Escola Universitària de Biblioteconomia i Documentació
Universitat de Barcelona
<http://bibliodoc.ub.edu>
Consejo lingüístico: Servei de llengua catalana (LUB)
Edició en HTML: Jorge Frangoulis
Cajigleres: Mari Valls
Optimat en 256 colors i 800x600 píxels
Comentaris: bid@bd.ub.es

Consell de redacció:
Ernest Abadal Falgueras
Assumpció Estivill Rius
Jesús Gascón García
Núria Jornet Benito
Teresa Mañá Terré
Cristóbal Urbano Salido

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The journal consisted of just four sections at that time: "Articles", "Norms and regulations" (translations of guidelines, etc.), "Activity reports" and "Reviews". From the outset, Spanish authors and some foreign authors published their work in the journal. By issue 2, the sections "Tribune" and "Experiences" had been added.

The editorial structure started out as an editorial board that was made up of Ernest Abadal, Assumpció Estivill, Núria Jornet and Cristóbal Urbano in issue 1, and was subsequently expanded to include Jesús Gascón, Teresa Mañá, Anna Rubió, Concepción Rodríguez and Josep M. Rodríguez-Gairín. However, from the 10th issue on, the structure consisted of two editorial coordinators, a lead editor, HTML editors, technology support and section editors. From the start, the journal benefited from the support of the University of Barcelona's Language Services, which took on the role of correcting Catalan texts and preparing the journal's style guide.

2.2 Growth (2004–2012)

Starting from issue 12 (June 2004), the layout was changed, the logo was redesigned and versions of the journal in other languages (Spanish and English) were made

more clearly visible. This triggered a period of growth that would last for nine years and 18 issues.

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Tribuna

El paper de la Biblioteca de Catalunya en la política bibliotecària de Catalunya || DOLORS LAMARCA

Articles

Eugeni d'Ors i les biblioteques: una aproximació a partir del *Glosari* || MÒNICA BARÓ, TERESA MAÑÀ

Els arxius de Nicaragua: problemàtica i situació actual = Los archivos de Nicaragua: problemática y situación actual || MARÍA DE LOS ÁNGELES CHIRINO

Proposta d'ús dels topònims en la indexació || FERRAN LÓPEZ, DAVID DOMÈNECH, JOAN FARRÉS

La descripció d'obres d'art: estàndards i projectes || NEUS CONTE GÓMEZ, MARTA MASAFRET SEOANE, JOAQUIM SOLER LLOPIS

Inserció laboral dels titulats en Biblioteconomia i Documentació per la Universitat de Barcelona || ÀNGEL BORREGO, MAITE COMALAT, ASSUMPCIÓ ESTIVILL

Experiències

El valor estratègic de la informació a Accenture = El valor estratégico de la información en Accenture || ARIADNA VICENTE

Selecció i implementació d'un motor de cerca a la Biblioteca Virtual de la UOC || JORDI SERRANO MUÑOZ, ADORACIÓN PÉREZ ALARCÓN

Un tret distintiu de les biblioteques de Barcelona: els programes de difusió cultural i de la lectura || JUAN JOSÉ ARRANZ MARTÍN

El camí a Europa: els serveis d'aprenentatge i recerca a les biblioteques de la UPC || LAIA ALONSO, CONSOL GARCÍA, MARTA LÓPEZ, ANNA ROVIRA, SÍLVIA SUNYER

Textos normatius

Taula de punts de verificació de les Directrius per a l'accessibilitat al contingut de pàgines web, versió 1.0. || WORLD-WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM (W3C). TRADUCCIÓ DE MIQUEL TÈRMENS I MIREIA RIBERA

Informació d'activitats

Defensa dels projectes finals del curs Maestría en Gestión y Organización de Bibliotecas Universitarias a la Universidad Nacional de El Salvador (San Salvador, 20-30 de gener de 2004) || ROSA SEGUÍ I PALOU

Informe del BOBCATSSS 2004 Symposium "Library and Information in Multicultural Societies" (Riga, Letònia, 26-28 de gener de 2004) || MIQUEL CENTELLES

Informe del seminari "Serveis especials a les biblioteques: parlen els usuaris" (Barcelona, 24 de febrer de 2004) || ANDREU SULÉ DUESA

Ressenyes

Recursos web sobre lectura fàcil i serveis especials || JOSEP TURIEL

Tecnologies de la informació (barates) aplicades a les persones amb necessitats especials || ANDREU SULÉ DUESA

Fonts en línia d'interès per a l'estudi de la literatura catalana || AMADEU PONS

Coordinació editorial: Assumpció Estivill, Ernest Abadal
Edició: Anna Rubió (coordinadora), Servei de Llengua Catalana (correcció lingüística), Concepción Rodríguez (revisió castellà), Alice Keefer (revisió anglès), Jorge Franganillo (maquetació), Eduard Viàgrosa i Josep Soler (edició en HTML)
Desenvolupament tecnològic: Josep Manuel Rodríguez Gairín i Sergi Chávez
Seccions: Ernest Abadal (Tribuna), Assumpció Estivill (Articles), Concepción Rodríguez (Experiències), Núria Jornet (Textos normatius), Concepció Miralpeix (Informació d'activitats), Àngel Borrego (Ressenyes)

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Figure 2. Front cover of issue 12 (June 2004)

With regard to the editorial structure, the individuals responsible for editing and correcting the texts were named in issue 19, and the process for revising originals was systematized and included as one of the responsibilities ("Scientific edition") in issue 23. Starting from issue 27, the monograph coordinators were included.

The *Blok de BiD*, which was launched in June 2010, featured in the journal from issue 25 on (December 2010). This was created as a supplement to the journal for the weekly publication of scientific study reviews unsuited to the half-yearly format of the journal's issues. This also led to the renaming of the "Reviews" section to "Resources".

In terms of international recognition, *BiD* has formed part of the *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)* since that database's creation in 2003. *DOAJ* later went on to update its inclusion requirements, which *BiD* also fulfilled. Later, in 2012, the journal received major recognition for its quality when it was indexed in the *Scopus* database. Since then, the journal's content has been indexed periodically and entered in the database.

2.3 Consolidation (2013 to the present)

Since issue 30 (June 2013), *BiD* has been published jointly with the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya's Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences. This represented another step towards ensuring the sustainability of the journal, supporting its growth and improving its quality.

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Número 30 (juny 2013)

Català

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CURVATE ANALYZED
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CITATION INDEX
INDEXED

BLOK DE BID

- Mètriques sota context: el camí per l'avaluació dels impactes de la recerca en Ciències Socials i Humanitats
- Joves investigadors: precursors del canvi?
- Els editors importants analitzen la publicació de monografies en accés obert

Editorial
Editorial || MARIO PÉREZ-MONTORO, CANDELA OLLÉ

Tribuna
El retorn de les col·leccions || BERTRAND CALENGE
Política de desenvolupament de la col·lecció: on comença i on acaba? || GLÒRIA PÉREZ-SALMERÓN

Articles
Els llibres electrònics en les col·leccions de les biblioteques públiques || REMEDIOS DE VICENTE GARCÍA
Estudi sobre l'ús dels llibres electrònics a les biblioteques universitàries de Castella i Lleó || JULIO ALONSO ARÉVALO, JOSÉ ANTONIO CORDÓN GARCÍA, RAQUEL GÓMEZ DÍAZ
La gestió de les col·leccions de fons antic en les biblioteques universitàries espanyoles: anàlisi dels textos normatius || JOSÉ LUIS HERRERA MORILLAS
Actors principals de la publicitat: conservar el patrimoni en els centres de documentació i museus || JUAN CARLOS MARCOS RECIO, JUAN MIGUEL SÁNCHEZ VIGIL, MARIA OLIVERA ZALDUA
Les biblioteques populars de Barcelona com a espais de socialització durant el segon franquisme, 1957-1975 || ASSUMPCIÓ ESTIVILL RUIZ
Revistes espanyoles d'arquitectura, ciències de la construcció i urbanisme: visibilitat i internacionalitat || ÀNGELA SORLI ROJO, GONZALO MOCHÓN BEZARES

Experiències i anàlisis
Documents de política de desenvolupament de la col·lecció en la Xarxa de Biblioteques Municipals de Barcelona || MARTA CANO VERS, MONTE CANTI MARRUGAT
La política de col·lecció a la Xarxa de Biblioteques de L'Hospitalet de Llobregat || PEDRO A. BRAVO JIMÉNEZ
Passi per un fons especialitzat a la Biblioteca Sant Antoni-Joan Oliver: el col·leccionisme || MA. NEUS MONTSERRAT VINTRÓ, ESTRELLA GÓMEZ ENRIQUETZ
Implantació de l'e-book a les biblioteques d'investigació: estudi de cas de la Biqfr || IRENE-SOFIA ROMERO-OTERO, ELEA GIMÉNEZ-TOLEDO
Modificació de la situació de les col·leccions: una visió del model d'adquisicions dirigides per l'usuari a les biblioteques de l'Arizona State University || MELISSA GUR
La biblioteca digital de l'Instituto Cervantes: model de selecció per al llibre electrònic i gestió de la col·lecció || ANA CRISTINA GONZALO IGLESIA
Lotus Notes com a eina d'anàlisi de comunitats virtuals: el cas de la Comunidad Marca || FEDERICO GUERRERO-SOLÉ, HIBAI LÓPEZ-GONZÁLEZ
"Vols buscar informació sobre salut a Internet? Vne i aprèn-ne!": descripció d'una activitat formativa || AURORA VALL, CLARA BOTÉ

Recursos
Fons especials i recursos bibliogràfics digitals a les biblioteques públiques de Catalunya || JORDI LLOBET DOMÈNECH, NÚRIA VENTURA, EVA MATAMOROS
La gestió dels llibres electrònics a la Biblioteca virtual de la UOC || MIREIA PÉREZ CERVERA, ANDER GÁMEZ DOMÍNGUEZ, PEPI CAPOVILA BUSTINZA, ANNA ZUÑIGA RUIZ

Editors: Ernest Abadal i Lluís Pastor
Direcció: Mario Pérez-Montoro i Candela Ollé
Coordinació del monogràfic: Lluís Agustí i Jordi Llobet Domènech
Edició científica: Jordi Ardanuy i Àlex López-Borrull
Consell de redacció: Lluís Agustí, Jordi Ardanuy, Núria Comellas, Núria Ferran, Núria Gallart, Àlex López, Rafael Pedraza, Mario Pérez-Montoro, Josep-Manuel Rodríguez-Gairín, Concepción Rodríguez Parada, Anna Rubió, Pedro Rueda, Patricia Russo, Aurora Vall i Merò Vázquez.
Edició: Aurora Vall, Lluís Agustí, Mar Castellví i Merò Vázquez.
Producció editorial: Serveis Lingüístics de la UB (assessorament lingüístic), Jorge Franganillo (maquetació), Josep Soler i Eduard Vilagrosa (edició en HTML), Adán Server (metadades)
Desenvolupament tecnològic: Josep-Manuel Rodríguez-Gairín i Sergi Chávez

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Figure 3. Summary of issue 30

With respect to the editorial team, members of the UOC were incorporated into each role, and joint UB/UOC teams were created to strengthen the journal.

With respect to external recognition, it obtained the FECYT Seal of Quality in 2014 and was included in the *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)* in 2016.

In terms of social networks, a Twitter profile was created in 2014 to announce the release of the journal issues and the *Blok de BID* weekly reviews.

Both the UB and the UOC have scientific journal support services, and these have served as valuable tools to ensure that the journal's commitment to continuous quality improvement is honoured. In the case of the UB, this responsibility falls to the Project Unit of the Learning and Research Resources Centre (Centre de Recursos per a l'Aprenentatge i la Investigació, or CRAI), which carries out advisory and training tasks for the individuals who manage journals. In the case of the UOC, the Scientific Publications Subcommittee of the University's Research and Innovation Committee has helped prepare a strategic plan for the journal and an annual proposal for objectives.

3 Spanish context

Following this summary of the evolution of *BiD*, the journal can now be analysed within the Spanish context. How many journals were there 20 years ago? What were they like? What quality indicators did they meet? What problems and shortcomings did they experience? A historical retrospective study would be too time consuming; however, we can refer to three studies carried out at that time and compare their results to today's situation.

First of all, Elea Giménez, Luis Rodríguez Yunta and Adelaida Román (2000) applied the 24 Latindex editorial quality criteria to the 21 information science journals active at that time in Spain. Shortly afterwards, Emilio Delgado (2001) carried out a similar exercise when he analysed the quality of information and of the editorial process in those same 21 journals, and included a series of 14 quality improvement measures. Finally, Ángel Villagrà and Àngela Sorli (2003) analysed 17 Spanish information science journals over a 10-year period (1992–2001). Their study took a broader approach to the analysis than the previous two, since they considered not only the journals' fulfilment of editorial quality indicators and degree of openness or endogamy (based on the composition of editorial boards and author diversity), but also the recognition or prestige of the journals among the scientific and professional community (a review by experts based on a survey).

Below is an overview of today's Spanish information science journals that includes data on four general characteristics (longevity, editor profile, inclusion in databases and open-access publication) and then compares this information to the situation more than 15 years ago, based on an assessment of the three studies mentioned above.

3.1 Overview

The *MIAR* directory (*Information Matrix for Evaluating Journals*) lists 44 Spanish journals in the field of information science. Our selection excludes journals that are not strictly scientific and those that have not published any issues for more than four years. This resulted in a table of 19 titles, which offer an overview of today's Spanish scientific journals.

Title	Publisher	Created	Databases	FECYT	DOAJ
<i>Aabadom: boletín de la Asociación Asturiana de Bibliotecarios, Archiveros, Documentalistas y Museólogos</i>	AABADOM	1990			
<i>Anales de documentación (AD)</i>	Univ. Murcia	1998	Scopus, ESCI	Yes	Yes
<i>Anuario ThinkEPI (EPI)</i>	EPI	2007			
<i>BiD: textos universitaris de biblioteconomia i documentació</i>	UB, UOC	1998	Scopus, ESCI	Yes	Yes
<i>Boletín de la Anabad</i>	ANABAD	1950			
<i>Boletín de la Asociación Andaluza de Bibliotecarios (BAAB)</i>	AAB	1984			
<i>Cuadernos de documentación multimedia (CDM)</i>	Univ. Complutense	1992	ESCI		
<i>Documentación de las ciencias de la información (DCI)</i>	Univ. Complutense	1976	ESCI		Yes
<i>Hipertext.net</i>	UPF	2002			Yes
<i>Ibersid</i>	Univ. Zaragoza	2007	Scopus, ESCI	Yes	
<i>Item: revista de biblioteconomia i documentació</i>	COBDC	1975			
<i>Lligall. Revista catalana d'arxivística</i>	Associació d'Arxivers de Catalunya-Gestors Documentals (AAC-GD)	1988			
<i>Métodos de información (MEI)</i>	COBDCV	1994	ESCI		Yes
<i>El profesional de la información (EPI)</i>	EPI	1992	Scopus, SSCI	Yes	
<i>Revista española de documentación científica (REDC)</i>	CSIC	1977	Scopus, SSCI	Yes	Yes
<i>Revista general de información y documentación (RGID)</i>	Univ. Complutense	1991	Scopus, SSCI	Yes	Yes
<i>Scire</i>	Univ. Zaragoza	1995	Scopus, SSCI	Yes	
<i>Tabula: revista de archivos de Castilla y León</i>	Asociación de Archiveros de Castilla y León (ACAL)	1992			
<i>Tría</i>	Asociación de Archiveros de Andalucía (AAA)	1994			

Table 1. Current Spanish information science journals(Source: *MIAR*)

In terms of longevity, *Boletín de la Anabad* (1950) is the oldest. This is followed by three journals from the 1970s: *Butlletí de l'Associació de Bibliotecàries* (*Item's* predecessor) (1975), *DCI* (1976) and *REDC* (1977). Two of the journals were founded in the 1980s, 10 in the 1990s and three more during the first decade of the 21st century, which is when the more recent journals in this field were launched.

The journals that were included in the three aforementioned studies but not in our study (given that they have not published any issues for more than four years or are not considered scientific) are as follows: *Boletín AEDOM*, *Bilduma*, *Cybermetrics*, *Educación y bibliotecas (EB)*, *Forinf@*, *Journal of Spanish Research on Information Science* and *Palimpsesto*. On the other hand, our study includes the three journals that were launched in the first decade of the 21st century: *Hipertext* (2002), *Anuario ThinkEPI* and *Ibersid* (both in 2007).

Based on their level of recognition in databases, three groups can be created, with a total of 10 journals. Although *EPI* and *REDC* enjoy the greatest recognition levels, note that a significant number of journals provide clear evidence of the quality improvement that has been achieved in recent years. If we look at the dates on which *EPI* was first entered in *Scopus* (2006) and *WoS* (2008), and *REDC* was first entered in *Scopus* and *WoS* (2008), it is clear that these events have all taken place in the last 10 years.

	Journals	Comments
Maximum recognition	<i>EPI, REDC</i>	In <i>Scopus</i> and <i>ESCI</i>
High recognition	<i>AD, BiD, Ibersid, Scire, RGID</i>	In <i>Scopus</i> and <i>ESCI</i> , FECYT Seal of Quality
Significant recognition	<i>CDM, DCI, MEI</i>	In <i>Scopus</i> or <i>ESCI</i>

Table 2. Inclusion in databases (Source: *MIAR*)

The study by Giménez *et al.* (2000) also analysed the journals' inclusion in international statewide databases, specifically *LISA* and *Francis*.¹ At that time, the most indexed journals were *Banabad* and *REDC* (which were included in both databases), followed by *BAAB*, *EPI*, *Item*, *RGID* and *Scire* (which were included in one of the two databases). Villagr  and Sorli (2003) examined the journals' inclusion in *ISA*, *LISA*, *Francis*, *BUBL* and *Inspec* and concluded that *EPI* was the most indexed, with five entries, closely followed by *REDC*, with four. Four journals (*AD*, *Banabad*, *RGID* and *Scire*) had a single entry. The main overlap occurred with *REDC* and *EPI*, which were also indexed in the highest number of international databases; however, the main difference was that the four professional journals (*Banabad*, *BAAB*, *EB* and *Item*), which made up almost half of this exclusive group at that time, have now disappeared from the list completely.

Once all Spanish journals are put into context, it becomes evident that information science journals enjoy significant international recognition, especially given the limited size of the field. This was clear in a recent study on the dissemination and recognition of Spanish scientific journals in all disciplines (Somoza *et al.*, 2017), which revealed that certain, more socially recognizable disciplines such as law had fewer journals indexed in international databases.

The other major change that has occurred in the last 20 years is the diversified strategy of journals published by academic institutions when compared to journals published by professional associations and bodies. The latter have improved in terms of their fulfilment of quality indicators, but they have not moved much beyond this, except in the case of *M todos de informaci n* (COBDCV), which is indexed in *ESCI*. This is to be expected, because they are geared primarily towards professionals rather than researchers, and therefore have little incentive to compete for citations for their articles. This gap was already beginning to open up almost 20 years ago (Delgado, 2001). The only exception is *EPI*, which is owned by a private publisher.

With respect to *DOAJ*, only six journals have been indexed, the first of which was *BiD* (2003). The editorial policies of some journals state that they are open access (such examples include *Ibersid* and *Scire*) or that they offer free access to content (e.g. *CDM*), but they are not yet included in this prestigious directory.

3.2 Comparison

Below is a comparison of the current situation and the analyses carried out by Gim nez *et al.* (2000), Delgado (2001) and Villagr  and Sorli (2003). Although the articles were written at different times and took different approaches, it is clear that they agree in their overall assessments. In the 15 to 20 years that have passed since these articles were written, considerable progress has been made in terms of the characteristics, visibility and operation of Spanish information science journals.

Gim nez *et al.* (2000, p.340–341) divided the challenges faced by information science journals into three categories: awareness of the way they should look and journal style (guidelines for authors, bibliographic entries, etc.), application of documentary analysis (the inclusion of abstracts and keywords in several languages) and transparency in the review processes (external evaluators, indication of the process, indication of receipt, review and publication dates, etc.). Thus, the article also highlighted common indicators that all journals would need to assess first.

Delgado (2001, p.55–56) proposed a list of 14 improvement measures that should be applied to information science journals in a section titled *Mirando hacia el futuro: plan estrat gico de mejora de las revistas espa oladas de cd* (Looking to the future: strategic plan for improving Spanish information science journals). The first 10 refer to quality in questions of style (similar to those mentioned in the previous paragraph), two refer to the computerization of editorial management processes (tracking of originals and revisions), and the remaining two call for a more professionalized editorial team and the establishment of quality audit systems in publishing processes.

Villagr  and Sorli (2003, p.459–460) closed their article with a series of conclusions that revealed the key weaknesses of Spanish information science journals: the number of articles published was low (135 per year in total), the quality of their appearance in general terms was questionable and endogamy indices were too high. They also mentioned that university and professional journals enjoyed similar levels of quality recognition.

If these findings are compared to the situation today, it is clear that most journals have addressed the vast majority of weaknesses and limitations related to aspects of their overall appearance and style (guidelines for authors, translation of titles, abstracts, etc.) and editorial aspects (the most serious of which was not having a clearly explained expert review system). Also, a significant number of the journals have successfully been included in international databases. At present, therefore, the degree of compliance with quality of form indicators is very high among all journals, not only the most indexed.

Secondly, it is also clear that corporatism has declined, and all journals now seek to incorporate work by authors from outside their institutions and by foreign authors. To illustrate this point, *BiD* had the highest indicator of endogamy at 60% (Villagr ; Sorli, 2003, p.455), whereas it now lies below reference levels.

Thirdly, the computerization of editorial processes, with regard to both the internal management of manuscripts and the procedures for publishing and displaying final articles, has also been implemented across the board.

In addition to the three improvements mentioned above, a significant gap has also opened up between journals published by university and research institutions and those that are published by professional associations and bodies. This gap can be explained by the fact that many authors are required to fulfil academic recognition conditions and therefore seek to publish their work in journals that are indexed in leading international databases; professional journals, on the other hand, have a different target audience with more practical needs. While both journal types may have enjoyed similar levels of external recognition in the past, this is certainly no longer the case, and journals published by academic institutions have taken a giant step forward.

Lastly, little progress has been made in the two areas mentioned at the end of Emilio Delgado's list. First, the need for the professionalization of journals has not been met and there is no indication that this situation is set to improve in the short or medium term, mainly because of a lack of financial resources. Secondly, quality assessment and accreditation processes similar to those commonly used for university degrees, for example, have not been implemented.

4 Final assessment

This article has analysed the creation and growth of the journal *BiD* within the context of other Spanish journals in the field. *BiD* was created in accordance with three founding principles that were groundbreaking at the time and are still features of the journal today: digital format, open access and multilingual versions. The sections have undergone changes over the last 20 years, before the current four were finally settled on, and the journal has adopted the practice of addressing monographic topics in each issue that are entrusted to an external editor. It deserves special praise for the external recognition it has achieved by being indexed in two prestigious international databases, *Scopus* and *ESCI*, and by obtaining the FECYT Seal of Quality. It has made progress in its fulfilment of the benchmarks set for all scientific journals, but it must set new milestones every year if it is to continue improving. In this regard, the annual plans that the UOC requests of its journals represent an effective tool.

This analysis of the journal's evolution and its current situation should serve to create a series of improvement measures or proposals to be implemented over the coming years. The list is long, but we will highlight four:

1. Increase the degree of professionalization.

This has already been mentioned above. Although the journal has made some progress towards increasing professionalization (by partially outsourcing correction and translation tasks), it has not reached the minimum standards required due to a lack of financial resources. Note that *BiD* is co-published by two universities and does not charge publishing fees (the infamous APCs, article processing charges), so its budgetary resources are limited and always take account of the time spent on the journal by the staff of the two universities.

2. Increase the number of originals received.

This is a general issue among journals that are not indexed in *WoS* and is therefore a problem for *BiD*. The publication of monographic issues and promotional activities carried out by coordinators to attract texts help a little, although they are not the solution.

3. Incorporate new functions and features.

Over the years, the features that allow readers to interact with the content have been updated (statistics, search function, similar text searches, citations, PDFs, etc.), but there is still a long way to go. The inclusion of altmetrics, for example, would represent an innovative feature. The fact that *BiD* does not use a specific editing program makes this a more laborious task.

4. Increase dissemination actions.

This would lead to the content being more widely read and more easily disseminated on social networks and, most probably, to more citations.

The lines of action proposed here can be surely be applied to other Spanish information science journals. We will have an opportunity in the future to assess the degree to which they have been fulfilled, perhaps when the journal celebrates its next key anniversary in 10 years' time.

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Notes

¹Note that *Web of Science* did not yet feature on the list.

