

REVISTA-VALISE: FROM ITS CREATION TO ITS EDITING EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT: This article aims to convey the reflections implemented throughout the preparation process of *Revista-Valise*, as well as its development and creation experience. *Revista-Valise* is a biannual visual arts-oriented academic journal managed by the alumni at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)'s Graduate Program in Visual Arts. Here, we will present all the steps taken to build it, such as the project's goals, the editorial team's formation, the delineation of the journal's scope, tutorials, invitation of peers, editals and details on receiving and forwarding articles to peers for evaluation.

KEYWORDS: Research in Visual Arts. Scientific journals. *Revista-Valise*.

PRESENTATION

Created by the students at UFRGS's graduate program in Visual Arts, *Revista-Valise* is a means to publish articles, interviews, reading notes, translations and thesis abstracts. It aims to bring out *stricto sensu* postgraduate researches, namely, those carried out by the students at the Graduate Program or Graduates in Visual Arts and fields alike. In each future issue, *Revista-Valise* will also feature artwork by an invited artist. A special area was equally reserved for contributors, namely the publishing of articles written by guest researchers. Since *Revista-Valise* is a peer-reviewed periodical, the remaining collaborators are required to submit their work online. There is no fixed number of collaborators. The quantity of published articles stems from the number of biannually approved ones.

In view of the visual arts field's expansion, *Revista-Valise* covers all

study fields that can be traced back to the arts. In this sense, it is important to stress the intense involvement of the visual arts field with related areas. This fact has presented the permeability of theoretical references, activated powerful debates and promoted points of intersection between different practices and projects.

The proposal for the establishment of *Revista-Valise* was presented at a PPGAV/UFRGS professors meeting held in the second half of 2010, when the team responsible for drafting the proposal to be forwarded to the Graduate Program Committee (COMPÓS) was formed. At the time, the meeting dealt about the need for the implementation of a project that would promote scientific publication by nationwide master's and Ph.D. students, which was something of utmost importance for the circulation of developed researches. The project's development was the next step. Therefore, after being analyzed by COMPÓS, we began drafting the actual journal, structuring its focus, scope and means of implementation.

The starting line for deciding the journal's name was the term *palavra-valise* (something along the lines of portmanteau), which emerged from an encounter between Alice and Humpty Dumpty, the worldwide famous characters by Lewis Carroll. A portmanteau is a suitcase, in which one would "pack" things, hence the word chosen by Carroll. In *Through the Looking-glass*, Carroll, in the voice of Humpty Dumpty, explains to Alice the term's meaning: 'You see it's like a portmanteau — There are two meanings packed up into one word.' (Chapter VI. Humpty Dumpty) From the interest in the morphological unfolding of portmanteaus came the journal's name, *Revista-Valise* ("Portmanteau Journal"), which we understand to be a new component, born from the encounter of two distinct words. The word's meaning comprehends the journal's goal: to welcome academic production and different perspectives, and to compile them, in view of the incorporation of new senses.

From this end, the digital medium arised as a possible space for the journal's distribution, and thus *Revista-Valise* was added to the Electronic System for Journal Publishing (SEER)¹ and obtained its registration and ISSN number. The SEER system provided certain guidelines for the journal, such as a comprehension of its goals and the required structure for the establishing of anonymous peer review, which would ensure impartiality on choosing the articles that should

¹ The SEER is the Brazilian adaptation of British Columbia University's Open Journal System (OJS). It was created by the Brazilian Institute of Science and Technology Information (IBICT). It aims to offer storage and free access to scientific information, enabling researches and exchanges of metadata through the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH).

be published, as well as transparency in editorial decisions. Therefore, one should submit his or her article to the website <http://seer.ufrgs.br/RevistaValise>. On the next step, the editors sort the articles. Then, they forward each anonymous article to two experts who may be members of the journal's Editorial Board or ad hoc reviewers. A third evaluation may be requested when need is presented.

When arranging the editorial board we took into consideration, above all, the invitees's academic involvement. Therefore, in order to intensify the exchange of experiences, we invited research-active professionals, from the field of Visual Arts and fields alike, from different universities across the country. Likewise, we avoided invitations to ad hoc reviewers at the time of article distribution. It is important to call attention to the positive response of the counselors and ad hoc reviewers who were asked to take part in *Revista-Valise*, for this fact allowed the journal's project to leave the drafting table to become a reality in its first issue.

One of *Revista-Valise*'s goals is to generate debate on selected topics. In October 2011, along with CNPq-UFRGS research group *Veículos da Arte* [Vehicles of Art], the editors held the *PPGAV/UFRGS Research Seminar – The Space for Publishing in the Artistic Process*. The event's main objective was to generate thoughts on the means of conception and dissemination of the artistic and theoretic thinking through editorial means, thus bringing the issue of the contemporary conveyance of art to the debate.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS ON VISUAL ARTS AND STUDENT RESEARCH

Scientific journals are means to store and circulate knowledge production. According to Gruszynski (2008), the emergence of scientific journals in the second half of the 17th century carried the hope that the establishment of a collective debate would make new discoveries possible (Gruszynski, 2008, p. 3). Add to that the need for the formalization of the scientific communication's process, the production's legitimation and the recognition of authorship and authority, which "guarantees the memory of science, shows its level of evolution, establishes intellectual property, legitimizes new fields of studies and disciplines, is the source for the beginning of new research, thus giving visibility and prestige to researchers among a highly specialized audience, their own peers" (Ibid, p. 4).

Considering the importance of promoting and sharing the researches's results, *Revista-Valise*'s electronic version enables agility in editorial workflows, as well as extends the distribution and visibility of issues, which can be accessed by anyone and everyone and are free of charge (this is true about this journal in particular, but

also applies to so many other scientific journals in general). Thus, conditions are established for the intensification of the dialogue, which may extend beyond the journal's space so as to reach the spaces between authors and readers.

In the specific case of student research, as researchers are in the process of learning, such feedback can mean greater qualification and the enrichment of the experience of researching.

One of the greatest challenges that present-day universities have been facing is to disseminate and exchange the knowledge produced by its student body. The experience acquired in *Revista-Valise*'s first three issues in indicates the modern-day need for groups of people joined together due to intellectual affinities who are willing to interact in a way that contributes to the public dissemination of the results generated by surveys conducted with students at Graduate Courses. Our goal to establish a free and fruitful exchange of ideas between different academic centers may represent new directions and challenges for reflection, and such challenges deserve to be addressed.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

By providing a qualified space for researchers, Graduate students and Graduates to publish their articles, *Revista-Valise* seeks to become more than a simple digital archiving system. As publishers, we seek to enable discussions and promote the possibility of intersection between different practices and projects in the Visual Arts and similar fields. *Revista-Valise* encourages research by proposing the common point of current theoretical and artistic production and by contributing to the dialogue between the different institutions and freelancers, enhancing the dissemination of research results.

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