

Public universities journals and large private publishers: capital concentration nowadays

Today's globalized world has publicized an increasing number of mergers and acquisitions of companies in various economic industries. Companies are grouped, incorporating stages that start with the production of goods and services in global scale up to the ever-growing, homogeneous retail industry. This process is potentiated by powerful advertising investments, creators and creatures of new personalized consumption desires, forming true transnational giants that dominate markets in proportions never seen before.

In an article entitled "After a record year for mergers, expectations are good for 2016", published in January 05, 2016 in the *Exame* magazine, Manuel Baigorri¹ says:

Actually, companies seem more optimistic with mergers and acquisitions than in the last year: in an EY survey published in October, nearly 60 percent of the executives said that they expected to make acquisitions in the next twelve months, compared to 40 percent one year before. (Our translation)

In the international level, technology and health seem to concentrate the interests of investors today; financial institutions also play a key role in this process. Brazilian news media has announced almost every month major acquisitions and mergers in the country, also in the educational sector (as is the case of a recent deal closed with a higher education institution), beverage industries (comprising the production of beers, soft drinks, teas and water), foods (production of meats and animal derivatives), retail industries, communications... Anyway, if there is an economic and/or political crisis in Brazil, it seems to be solved, showing vigorous actions towards concentration of capital and power in current market.

1 Access on April 25, 2016. Available at <http://exame.abril.com.br/economia/noticias/apos-ano-com-recorde-de-fusoes-expectativa-e-boa-para-2016>.

And what to say about the dissemination of scientific knowledge in this scenario? The universe of scientific journals has been dominated by private enterprises based in developed countries with their few international publishers and metrics that inform (as if they were unquestionable truths) that science has or does not have quality. In the Brazilian case, the production of knowledge predominates in public universities, where there is a wide range of scientific publications; however, for the major agencies that support and foster research and the development of researchers, as well as other sectors that assess the national science, the hegemonic model lies in nature sciences, which maintain a culture and tradition of publishing in international journals in clear detriment of the vehicles that there exist. To these conditions it should be added the increasingly lack of funding for public universities, as can be seen in current news.

Noticing then, on the one hand, the growth and concentration of private enterprises in the educational sector and in the dissemination of knowledge production and, on the other hand, the weakening of public universities and shrinking funds for publications (which do not charge for submission or access to their contents), we have seen a recent movement of publishers to start charging writers for submission, review and publication of articles and/or the English version (a requisite to be considered qualified in the field of science).

In view of this scenario, a question is left open, as if announcing a warning: what will be of our universities, our scientific research and our scientific journals?

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