



Revista Tecnológica ESPOL – RTE: Fifty years of scientific history, editorial innovation and academic internationalization (1976–2026)

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Introduction

This June 2026, the Revista Tecnológica ESPOL – RTE commemorates fifty years of academic and scientific history, consolidating itself as one of the most representative multidisciplinary research university publications in Ecuador and achieving, precisely in this historic year, one of the most transcendental achievements of its existence: its indexing in Scopus, one of the most prestigious and demanding scientific databases in the world.

This international recognition not only validates the journal's editorial and scientific quality but also strengthens the academic reputation of the Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL) and showcases Ecuador's scientific output on a global stage. Indexing in Scopus is also particularly significant, as our journal met all the requirements for adherence to international standards set by the evaluation committee on its first application, without facing prior rejections or requests for re-evaluation. This result is a source of great institutional pride and demonstrates the level of editorial maturity the journal has achieved in recent years.

The history of RTE also reflects the evolution of university science communication in the country. Over five decades, the journal has undergone institutional consolidation, technological modernization, digital transformation, and academic internationalization, sustained by generations of directors, editors, reviewers, and authors committed to disseminating scientific knowledge.



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First milestone: the birth of an institutional scientific vision (1976)



The Revista Tecnológica ESPOL, initially conceived as a scientific-technological dissemination vehicle of a transdisciplinary nature, published its first volume in September 1976, under the direction of an editorial committee composed of professors Efrén Jaramillo Carrión, Pedro Carló Paredes, and Carlos Arnao Ramirez, in collaboration with Professor Carlos Becerra Escudero. The first article published was that of Professor Heinz Terán Mite, entitled “Economic, social and technical importance of the state refinery”, which marked the formal beginning of the dissemination of institutional scientific production. In 1977, Professor Becerra was appointed director of the journal by the ESPOL authorities; he was followed in that role by professors Homero Ortiz Arízaga, Alfredo Barriga Rivera, Raúl Paz Chávez, and José Rolando Marín who served as editorial directors, respectively, between 1983 and 2004.

Its creation coincided with a stage of academic strengthening at ESPOL, driven by the return of young professionals trained abroad and by institutional projects such as BIDESPOL I, which promoted the development of polytechnic science. In the early years, editing a scientific journal involved a completely artisanal effort: articles were written on mechanical typewriters, corrections were made by hand, and printing (with movable type) was carried out in workshops on the old Las Peñas campus.

One of the anecdotes most remembered by Professor Efrén Jaramillo Carrión was, precisely, the enthusiasm with which the first editors worked long days reviewing manuscripts in physical format, without imagining that, decades later, that university journal would achieve international recognition. The journal was born with an open vision of scientific and technological knowledge, with articles from the institution’s faculty, and quickly became a space for academic dissemination, initially aimed at researchers and teachers of ESPOL.

During this first stage, the journal gradually consolidated its institutional presence. Subsequently, in 1991, it formalized its serial identification internationally by registering its ISSN, a fundamental step toward its editorial professionalization and imminent international projection.

Second milestone: digitalization, modernization, and first international standards (2005)



The year 2005 marked a turning point for the Revista Tecnológica ESPOL, which has since been abbreviated as RTE. Under the management of Dr. Boris Vintimilla Burgos, a comprehensive process of editorial and technological modernization to comply with international standards of scientific quality began.

During this stage, important innovations were implemented: the editorial and review committees were formalized, structured scientific evaluation processes were introduced, and the “Call for Papers” initiative was launched, strengthening the journal’s academic rigor. At the same time, the first digital editorial management platform was developed, automating processes that were carried out manually.

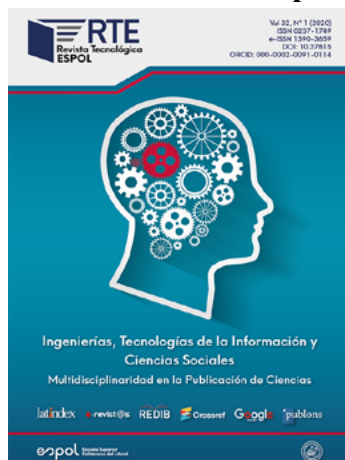
An anecdote, particularly remembered by Dr. Vintimilla, was the enormous challenge posed by the digitization of editorial content at a time when many university journals were still

printed entirely on paper. The development of a digital platform for the reception, review, and publication of articles was considered an innovative initiative at the university and required a significant technical and organizational effort.

This stage also marked the official transition to an electronic format via e-ISSN registration, strengthening the journal's digital presence and expanding its international reach. As a result of these advances, the journal was indexed in Latindex in 2007, one of the first formal recognitions of its editorial quality, marking the beginning of its internationalization.

Subsequently, the efforts led by Dr. Fabiola Cornejo Zúñiga and Dr. Xavier Ochoa Chehab, between 2008 and 2018, allowed the consolidation of digital continuity, progressively strengthening its online presence and keeping the publication active during a key stage of technological transition.

Third milestone: Scopus publishing relaunch and international indexing (2019–2026)



At the end of 2019, the Revista Tecnológica ESPOL – RTE began one of the most strategic transformations in its long history. After a year of editorial inactivity, the current Vice-Rector of R+D+i at ESPOL, Dr. Carlos Monsalve Arteaga, proposed that Dr. Nayeth Solórzano Alcívar assume the General Editorial Directorate, thereby initiating a comprehensive reconstruction process to position the publication in accordance with international standards.

The anecdote that marks this new beginning arises precisely from that conversation in the Association of Professors of ESPOL, in which Dr. Monsalve Arteaga posed the challenge of leading a journal that had remained practically inactive for more than a year. Dr. Solórzano Alcívar's initial response was clear: to accept the challenge of securing open institutional support that would enable a deep and sustainable transformation. What began with a small editorial team later became an ambitious international relaunch project.

In 2020, the journal was officially relaunched with a new visual identity, a renewed technological platform through the adoption of updated versions of OJS (Open Journal Systems), the incorporation of DOI (Digital Object Identifiers), much more rigorous editorial processes, and a strategy aimed at strengthening quality, visibility, and scientific interoperability.

From then on, the journal experienced sustained growth through the consolidation of an international editorial team, the strengthening of peer review, open-access bilingual publication, and the development of volumes and special sections in collaboration with prestigious national and international institutions, including the Ecuadorian Corporation for the Development of Research and Academia (CEDIA); Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA, Switzerland); the Network of Faculties of Systems Engineering and Computer Science of Ecuador (RedIFIESIS); the Business Technological University of Guayaquil (UTEG); the University of Specialties Espíritu Santo (UEES); the University of Engineering and Technology (UTEC); and the Ecuadorian Association for the Promotion of Educational Research (ASEFIE). These collaborations enabled the journal to expand its interdisciplinary and global reach, addressing issues in innovation, sustainability, logistics, migration, social justice, education, and digital transformation.

Between 2020 and 2025, the journal obtained important international indexing, registrations in databases, directories, libraries, and memberships, such as DOAJ, REDIB,

Crossref, e-journals, Latindex 2.0, AmeliCA, EuroPub Index Copernicus, Publons, Road, MIAR, OpenAlex, RERCIE, and We-editors, which progressively strengthened its global positioning.

Subsequently, in March 2026, the ESPOL Technology Journal was officially indexed in Scopus, becoming the first ESPOL institutional journal to receive this distinction. Beyond academic recognition, this represents the consolidation of an editorial process characterized by strategic vision, discipline, and institutional commitment. This achievement is particularly significant because the journal far exceeded all of Scopus's international criteria at the time of its initial application, a rare feat in the evaluation processes for this type of international journal indexing.

This milestone confirms not only our editorial quality but also ESPOL's ability to publish and disseminate world-class scientific research through a rigorous, ethical, and socially responsible editorial process. It also expands opportunities for international collaboration, increases the visibility of Ecuadorian researchers, and positions the university as a regional benchmark for scientific production and academic communication.

At its fiftieth anniversary, the Revista Tecnológica ESPOL – RTE not only celebrates a history of institutional permanence, but also of transformation, resilience, and scientific innovation. Its indexing in Scopus is one of the greatest achievements of half a century of collective effort and an opportunity to continue improving and maintaining excellence, while also marking the beginning of a new stage in the international projection of multidisciplinary science and technology produced in Ecuador for Latin America and the world.

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¹ Bibliography and other sources consulted for this commemorative narrative and anecdotal article