From the Script to the Headset: Microbiando Podcast as a Teaching-Learning Tool for Undergraduate Students in Microbiology and Immunology


Abstract:
Podcast is a form of audio publishing distributed through the RSS feed technology on the Internet. This technology allows easy access to audio files, as new content is gathered in a single aggregator app. This media is gaining space in the field of teaching and scientific communication, gathering thousands of followers and listeners. Shows that adhere to the scientific debate such as Dragões de Garagem, Alô Ciência, Scicast and Serendip have thousands of followers on their social networks. In order to broaden the scope of the area of microbiology and immunology for students, professionals and general public, the extension project Microbiando Podcast was created by professors and researchers at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and Fundação Oswaldo Cruz. Undergraduate students of the course of Microbiology and Immunology (13) and Biological Sciences (1) actively participate in the production of the podcast, and their participation is intended to serve as an auxiliary tool in the learning process during graduation, experience that will be taken to their professional lives. In addition to preparing articles of latest research in the area of microbiology and immunology, students should be able to contextualize and discuss the content clearly to listeners. Using a Quali-quantitative methodology through interviews and optional questionnaires, the aim of this work is to evaluate whether the extension project Microbiando Podcast assists in the teaching-learning process of the participating students. The Microbiando podcast is structured in 3 sections: discussion of a research article, short news and biographic articles. The script of the main article is carried out by the professors with the purpose of discussing more deeply recent discoveries in the field. The short news and biographic articles are written by students, where they discuss articles or news of public interest and bring the academic trajectory of renowned scientists in the field of microbiology and immunology, respectively. The scripts are revised by all participants. With 28 episodes published (so far) and an average of 700 listeners per episode, the participating students obtain a better understanding of methodologies, are exposed to new areas of application for the knowledge acquired in the undergraduate course, practice writing and science communication. Besides helping in the science dissemination, the podcast is improving and helping the academic life of the participating students.

Keywords: Podcast, teaching, science dissemination, science communication

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