

ASSESSING ACADEMIC PRODUCTION ON THE HISTORY OF CATALONIA

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Following the invitation made by the Catalan University System Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya, for public participation in the debate on accreditation assessment, the article seeks to contribute to reflections being made on the criteria for assessing scientific production connected with the history of Catalonia (HC) that is submitted for evaluation and accreditation by specialised Catalan research and university bodies. It states that the fact that scientific articles on HC published in renowned journals, whether they are from the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC), the university or academic institutions, are not considered will affect historiographical production in the future in that Catalan language journals are not assessed, with consideration being given only to those indexed in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR). The article also states that HC is the foundation for Catalan identity, and journals on the subject that serve as the basis for many teaching careers are only assessed by publications dealt with by the aforementioned index. The non-consideration of Catalan journals may place the scientific projection of HC in a position of subsidiarity and result in a decrease in research work and articles in scientific journals in this field. The low level of discussion on academic journals on HC – understood in practice to be “of low impact” – affects the public dimension of Catalan culture, which calls, amongst other things, for consummate careers in language, literature, history and geography. The response by new historians to skill assessment and accreditation as a way of progressing in their university careers is to publish research in other areas of history and in other languages as this offers them wider possibilities for positive assessment. Various statistical tables with the main series of publications on history serve to illustrate the points made by the author.

Key words: academic evaluation, Catalonia, evaluation of the history of Catalonia, history, history of Catalonia, historiography.

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1. Aim

This paper aims to examine how articles dealing with the history of Catalonia (HC) are assessed within the academic context of the regional Autonomous Community of Catalonia, especially regarding the new academic accreditations of the Catalan university quality assurance agency, AQU Catalunya. This paper examines how the assessment process influences historiographical production, bearing in mind that assessment does not take place in a vacuum, nor does it deal merely with a textual subject. It can influence the process, objectives, content and even the chosen language of a given text. It therefore affects the very core of research into HC, due to the fact that the majority of researchers either aspire to an academic appointment, or already hold one. In order to gain or maintain such status, assessment must invariably be favourable. Criteria are established with this in mind and assessment, as to being an innocent process describing an objective reality,

becomes something that interferes with this reality, setting objectives that influence researchers wishing to pursue an academic career.

As to an innocuous and merely descriptive process of reality, assessment interferes with reality and conditions researchers wishing to pursue an academic career.

This paper begins with an observation on the role of doctoral theses as an important element of historiographical production in the field of HC. Both quantitative and linguistic considerations are dealt with, due to the recent decrease detected in both the production and number of doctoral theses produced in the Catalan language. This is followed by an analysis of bibliographical production within the scope of General History, a

subject which might seem, at present, to be in good health. This good health, however, is enjoyed despite, among other things, market forces favouring historiographical production in Spanish and the fact that many of the cultural platforms of HC are not positively appraised in academic career assessment. This last factor is of marked and growing importance. The main body of this paper deals with articles published in the quality journals, which, along with conferences and to a lesser extent books, represent the greater part of the research on which assessment is based. The undervaluing of Catalan HC cultural platforms, such as local, provincial, national, university and other academic journals and periodicals, labelled indirectly as being of “low-impact”, and also of the Catalan language and subject matter on Catalonia, may lead to a reduction of research and articles in scientific journals published in Catalan and to the relegation of HC to secondary status.

harm done to those receiving a negative assessment. The absence of a European response to the American model of assessment makes matters worse, at least as far as Catalonia is concerned. At Spanish state level, the Spanish Assessment Agency (ANECA) leaves criteria open as far as quality Spanish journals are concerned, whereas the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU) is moving towards a restrictive consolidation of the assessment system, with only a limited consideration being given to specialist Catalan publications. The Catalan assessment authorities’ observance of general criteria is leading to a situation where abstract justifications are imposed, to the detriment of thematic and linguistic prioritisation. The Catalan History journals do not receive the recognition they deserve, nor are they encouraged to improve by a general plan of renovation – an idea which could only be fully discussed in a separate paper.

The aim is for publications on the history of Catalonia that already display objectively high quality levels to be justly appraised by Catalan authorities, irrespective of whether or not they are included in the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* index.

It is an obvious injustice that research into HC is not positively appraised when it appears in Catalan periodicals, as in the case mentioned above. By taking into account only the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* index, clear levels of priority are established which exclude HC, with diverse negative effects going far beyond the

This process has a negative effect on Catalan culture, because newly-published historiography will lack the academic prestige required by every scientific community. The result will be to reinforce the trend towards the academic production of research on HC in Spanish, to the detriment of research in Catalan. This also has negative effects on recognition and approval, which should combine rigour and quality with standardisation of the level of influence or impact enjoyed by each publication. Catalan historiography is published primarily, almost exclusively, in Catalonia. By ignoring this fact, we make the mistake of following the criteria of North American homologators, becoming mere associates and losing our European appreciation of home-grown production in the process. It is not suggested that harmonisation and the standardisation of academic titles are not

important and even, in the final analysis, necessary, if international standards and a constant level of growth are to be achieved – in rigour, exigency and quality – by publishers, writers and the scientific network of social projection as a whole. The aim is for publications on HC that already display objectively high quality levels to be justly appraised by Catalan authorities, irrespective of whether or not they are included in the JCR index. If other reputable authorities, like Latindex¹, already do so, why should we be obliged to follow the North American model and not the Latin American one?

2. The history of Catalonia and society

Like the Catalan language, HC has long been considered a keynote of Catalan identity and something of a cultural battleground due to the very strictures it has suffered. As an academic subject, HC has only very recently been taught at university. Professor Jaume Sobrequés, in a conference given to the then recently opened Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB),² recalled how, right up until the 1960s, the teaching of HC had to be “camouflaged” under the umbrella of the “History of the Crown of Aragon.” The quest for knowledge of Catalan history is an old one in Catalonia. Language, literature, law and geography were employed in the campaigns of the Romantic Movement, which argued that History should be present in university curricula. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the so-called “noucentistes”

created new private institutions such as the *Estudis Universitaris Catalans* and the *Institut d’Estudis Catalans* (IEC) and it was from this genuine groundswell that a formidable cultural force became manifest. One bibliographic exhibition alone would suffice to demonstrate the splendid results achieved in research, popularisation, academic teaching, methodology, and the production of dictionaries and atlases that transformed HC into a separate instrument of cultural identity, as important and valid as either language or literature. It has taken a great effort by a society without a state - unique in Europe - to situate HC in the position it currently enjoys.

Catalonia boasts a level of culture and scientific production comparable with twenty other states that have difficulties with their own platforms of cultural projection and are often forced to obviate them.

Catalonia boasts a level of culture and scientific production comparable with twenty other states, whether they are old like Denmark or Belgium or new, like the Czech Republic or Slovenia. The latter have difficulties with their own platforms of cultural projection and are often forced to obviate them or, in some cases, to create new platforms in English to fully make their presence felt within the context of the present-day international scientific community.

¹ Latindex is an on-line bibliographic information system dealing with publications and scientific journals from Latin America, Spain and Portugal. For more information: <<http://www.latindex.org>>.

² SOBREQÜÉS. *Diàleg a la Pedrera*, Fundació Viure i Conviure. Barcelona, 12 May 2007.

It is obvious, however, that this extensive and valuable production lacks the necessary mechanisms for dissemination within the cultural context of its own language community³, let alone to the wider world.⁴ The current panorama of scientific exchange has remained unchanged for the last ten years, leaving the field to the traditional pathway of private initiatives, historical journals, a few academic research groups sharing an interest in a particularly interesting point of analysis and a few other enterprises.⁵ Historiographical production, however, remains important and continues to increase.

change or a turning point, due to a growing reliance on factors that affect production rather than distribution - factors that affect the language one chooses to publish or share one's research in, rather than affecting its ultimate dissemination.

3. The production and dissemination of the history of Catalonia

Books dealing with HC (journals are examined later) have long been influential and socially important in Catalonia, from both a qualitative and a quantitative point of view. From the Renaissance till the end of the nineteenth century, books on HC have played a key role in the consolidation of an identity frequently hidden or erased, as well as in the struggle against a hostile political system, which suppressed the Catalan university at the first opportunity in 1714 and did not authorise its reinstatement until over a century had passed. HC became important as a means of cultural description of Catalonia. It therefore has a different function from that found in other well defined regions that aspire only to historical knowledge. Figures showing bibliographical production are important and clearly demonstrate the cultural and social value of HC, despite being

Figures showing bibliographical production are important and clearly demonstrate the cultural and social value of history for understanding society as a community.

In order to fully appreciate the importance of History in the current context, the following observations, among many others that could be made - especially about the publishing world - are necessary. The history of Catalonia finds itself in crisis. This can be understood as a moment of

³ Books published by the Autonomous Government of Valencia, for example, are not to be found here in Catalonia, while books published by the Autonomous Government of Catalonia are equally absent from Valencia or the Balearic Islands. The Catalan Government has, however opened up one bookshop in Madrid. This took precedence over Valencia or Palma, Mallorca. In the same way, the historiographical production of these regions is unknown in Catalonia.

⁴ In 1996, during the composition of the *Guia Bibliogràfica d'Història de les Illes Balears i Pitiüses* (1997), commissioned by the Government of the Balearic Islands, the situation was observed at first hand. It was patent from discussions with history teachers from the UIB and local publishers that they were upset that books produced in the islands were not distributed in Catalonia. There was - and still is - a wall preventing the spread of Balearic history into the rest of Catalonia and vice versa.

⁵ The tremendous importance of these initiatives should not be underestimated. For example, the *Catàleg de les Biblioteques Universitàries de Catalunya* (<http://www.cbuc.es/>) which places more than two million books at the disposal of Internet users in Catalonia, or the *Catàleg Col·lectiu de les Universitats de Catalunya* (CCUC). To these initiatives can be added the doctoral theses now available on-line at TDX (Tesis doctorals en xarxa: <http://www.tdx.cbuc.es/>), which offers the entire text in the form of a .pdf document and contains more than eighty-thousand bibliographical references of a historical nature. This was set up by the Banc de Bases d'Història Local, linked to the UAB and the *Diputació de Barcelona*, (<http://www.uab.diba.es/>). An important attempt is also being made to draw the scientific community's attention to research material published in journals, such as ARCA (Arxiu de Revistes Catalanes Antiques: <http://www.bnc.cat/digital/arca/index.html>) and RACO (Revistes Catalanes amb Accés Obert: <http://www.raco.cat/>), providing the general public with access to the contents of relevant periodicals, both current and discontinued.

Table 1
Historiographical book production (1997-2006)

	Catalonia	Spain
1999	494	3122
2000	434	3035
2001	541	2399
2002	335	2470
2003	360	2690
2004	494	10041
2005	472	3434
2006	498	3765

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística.
<<http://www.ine.es/inebase/cgi/um?M=%2Ft12%2Fp401%2Fa2003&O=pcaxis&N=&L=0>>

under attack due to problems associated with the social dissemination of the Humanities or other factors, such as the difficult situation currently faced by bookshops specialising in Social Sciences.

The authors of the report *Recerca sobre la HC de l'Institut d'Estudis Catalans*⁶ demonstrate the predominance of History in the register of doctoral theses, showing that History «appears as the dominant discipline within the field of Social Sciences. A significant fact is that doctoral theses dealing with historical studies make up 47.7% of

the total number of theses presented between 1973 and 1988, within the entire range of Social Sciences departments of the eight universities existing at that time in Catalonia and other Catalan speaking regions.» But if we now examine Table 5 and take, for example, only one university, the UPF, we find that in the period 2000-2006, the number of theses on History does not make up even 10% of the total number of 376 theses. If the figures are further broken down according to language, the result is striking and precludes the necessity of further comment.

Table 2 indicates the relationship between the number of theses and language in the five years from 1981-85 and Table 3 does the same for the years 1990-95. In Table 2, we find that linguistic production is quite even. It becomes evident that the legalisation of the Catalan language in the years following the political transition did not lead to normalisation in this field, as doctoral theses submitted in Spanish were still slightly superior in number to those submitted in Catalan.

It can be seen from Table 3 that, in the period afterwards in the 1990s, the IEC statistics show that the production of theses remained roughly

Table 2
Linguistic trend of doctoral theses on History (1981-1985)

	1980		1981		1982		1983		1985	
	Catalan	Spanish	Catalan	Spanish	Catalan	Spanish	Catalan	Spanish	Catalan	Spanish
UB	4	11	11	8	5	6	8	5	10	13
UAB	2	2	9	8	9	1	7	5	1	1
TOTAL	6	13	20	16	14	7	15	10	11	14
Total Catalan	56									
Total Spanish	61									

Source: *Índex d'Estudis Socials*. Years: 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1985.

⁶ BALCELLS₂.

Table 3
Doctoral theses on History (1990-1995)

	Catalan	Other languages	Total of approved theses
UB	23	16	39
UAB	10	11	21
Total	33	27	60

Source: *Reports de la Recerca a Catalunya. Història*, p.30., 1998.

equal between languages. It can therefore be demonstrated that in a very evenly balanced context, in which important factors such as assessments can make a decisive impact on the course of events, there is a risk that theses written in Catalan could become a minority in the field of history, a field traditionally closely linked with HC.

Table 4 shows the current figures.

Table 4
Doctoral theses on Modern and Contemporary History (2000-2006)

	UB*		UAB		Total	
	Catalan	Spanish	Catalan	Spanish	Catalan	Spanish
2000	2	3	1	0	3	3
2001	0	1	-	-	-	1
2002	2	2	4	2	6	4
2003	1	3	3	2	4	5
2004	2	1	2	1	4	2
2005	5	4	1	2	6	6
2006	3	2	0	1	3	3
Total	15	16	11	8	26	24

* Figures from the UB apply to academic years. Figures from the beginning of 2000-01 are included in the year 2000, etc. Theses submitted in French are not included (1,2005) or Italian at the UPF (1, undated).
Source: <<http://www.uab.cat>> | <<http://www.ub.es>>

Table 5
Doctoral theses submitted to the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) (1990-2006)

	Total	Catalan	Spanish	English	French	Italian
Departament de Ciències Exp. i de la Salut	57	23	22	11	1	-
Departament de Ciències Polítiques i Socials	11	4	7	-	-	-
Departament de Dret	80	13	66	1	-	-
Departament d'Economia i Empresa	96	4	6	86	-	-
Departament d'Humanitats	26	4	20	-	1	1
Departament de Periodisme i de Comunicació Audiovisual	25	15	9	1	-	-
Departament de Tecnologia	13	-	1	12	-	-
Departament de Traducció i Filologia	6	2	4	-	-	-
Institut Universitari de l'Audiovisual	-	-	-	-	-	-
Institut Universitari de Cultura	11	-	1	-	-	-
Institut Universitari d'Història J. Vicens i Vives	35	25	9	-	-	1
Institut Univ. de Lingüística Aplicada	26	13	11	2	-	-
Total	376	103	156	113	2	2

Source: <<http://www.upf.edu/grec/gl/sociolin/tesidepart.hfm>>

The reason for the lack of growth in the number of doctoral theses during the period 1970-2000, when the University population experienced the highest quantitative growth in its history, might be attributable to curriculum content. The curriculum plays a clear role in promoting History, which, as a vocational objective within the humanist sphere drifted, during the period of post-Franco political transition, from centre stage to an increasingly marginalised position, as shown by statistics revealing the preferences of up and coming students.

Local History is a complex area, due to the very necessary and important work carried out therein. There has recently been a marked increase in the growth of local study centres and umbrella organisations linking them together. These organisations receive institutional support from the Catalan government and are also usually treated generously by county councils. Local History is and will continue to be highly sensitive to changes in the research policies of the history departments of local and neighbouring universities, and also the decrease in scientific research that is seemingly motivated by a lack of consideration towards HC. Important changes are beginning to take place in the ambit of local history, a traditional bastion of historical research.⁷

Be that as it may, there has been a striking decline in the importance and social relevance of HC.

This is shown by the lack of general knowledge among the public at large and, more seriously, amongst higher secondary school students, even though HC is included in the curricula.

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4. Platforms for the history of Catalonia

Research carried out in any scientific community is generally made available through books and journals, conferences and seminars. Internet also plays a growing role as a dynamic medium, especially in the case of doctoral theses which are available online ever more promptly and with enhanced efficiency and quality. Those conferences or lectures not publishing books also display their content online, coinciding with the appearance of the relevant book or CD. Digital journals dealing with doctorates, Masters and third cycle teaching have begun to appear. These publish research projects worth nine credits, which replace the traditional Master's degree thesis or dissertation. Generally

⁷ The following news item clearly illustrates this. The report states that: "Antoni Simon, Professor of Modern History from Girona, claimed yesterday that less theses were being written on the history of Girona today than in the 1970s and explained that, except in very few circumstances, research into the city's history has all but stopped, despite the incredible wealth of the city's archives. Simon regretted that the *Quaderns d'Història de Girona*, which the Town Hall and County Council had agreed, back in 1986, to publish within a timeframe of five or six years, still had four or five volumes waiting to go to press. Simon spoke out yesterday evening in Girona Town Hall, during the presentation of a book by Montserrat Jiménez, an historian from l'Escala. The book, *Girona, 1793-1795. Guerra Gran i organització política a la monarquia dels Borbons* is published by the Girona City Council, which, according to Simon, is the exception that proves the rule. Professor Simon was at pains to explain that although research into rural history, archaeology and ancient history was being carried out, "we know very little about Girona in the sixteenth century and the second half of the seventeenth century and there are blank areas of our knowledge about the nineteenth and twentieth centuries." It may well be true, as the Professor of Modern History, Joaquim M. Nadal, affirmed on the same occasion, that "the current panorama is better than it was twenty-five years ago," but his declarations are still grave enough, especially bearing in mind the individual character of historiographical research in Catalonia, which is usually carried out without support or the coordinated help of consolidated research groups.

speaking, the conventional media are now judged not for the prestige they enjoy, but for the influence they wield. We might refer to “high-impact” platforms, meaning that they display a series of attributes –seriousness, exigency and intellectual rigour– that must necessarily accompany all academic research. In this sense, we could be forgiven for asking the following question: should an article appearing in an academic journal of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans (IEC) following due approval by an editorial board and professional readers, etc., be valued less than an article appearing in a “high-impact” journal, just because the latter has seen the light in Michigan or Oregon, in accordance with the policy of a company that selects it?

Because of the quantity, type and subject matter of material on the history of Catalonia, it is obvious that the so-called “high-impact” journals cannot absorb the bulk of it, even if they were so inclined.

In the field of historiography, local journals such as *Quaderns de Vilaniu*, from Valls, *Ausa* from Vic and many others from Figueres, Sabadell, Girona, etc., are absolutely indispensable to the understanding of HC. According to the IEC, these are the essential and opinion-forming platforms of contemporary thought. By designating them second-class titles, we hamper the publication of research in these periodicals, research that might not otherwise see the light of day. Researchers could feel impelled to deal with subjects they find more profitable in the short

term, in order to further their careers. The pursuit of an academic career involves achieving objectives within an established academic itinerary. A permanent post and regular work are handed out on the appraisal of one’s research record. Therefore, no young researcher today will carry out the bulk of his or her research in the field of local history and publish the results only in the specialist platforms. Because of the quantity, type and subject matter of this regularly increasing material, it is obvious that the so-called “high-impact” journals cannot absorb the bulk of it, even if they were so inclined.

The vitality of Local History journals is a visible demonstration of its potential and capacity. Cultural centres such as the Institut d’Estudis Ilerdencs, the Centre d’Estudis del Baix Llobregat or the Centre d’Estudis del Bages, display these same qualities and show what can be achieved when a hundred such diverse centres are gathered together under the umbrella of a coordinating committee. The new universities with Humanistic departments (Girona, Tarragona, Lleida and Vic), in conjunction with the enterprise of publishers at county level (Eumo, Cossetània, Arola, Pagès), have already raised the standing of Local History platforms in all ambits. Obviously, no-one would dream of suggesting that a publisher in Vic were inferior to a similar one in Pi Street, Barcelona or that a publisher in Lleida were inferior to one in Ausiàs Marc Street in the Catalan capital. What counts is the final result, the end product. In the field of historical journals, however, periodicals foreign to Catalonia unfortunately hold sway, on the basis of decisions taken thousands of miles away. Meanwhile, our own platforms are silenced, simply due to the slavish observation of criteria adopted by the major world political and economic super-power.

Table 6
Publications on HC considered important and significant by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC)

<i>Acta Historica et Archaeologica Mediaevalia</i>	<i>L'Avenç</i>
<i>Analecta Sacra Tarraconensia</i>	<i>L'Erol</i>
<i>Anales de la Universidad de Alicante</i>	<i>Laietania</i>
<i>Annals de l'Institut d'Estudis Empordanesos</i>	<i>Lambard</i>
<i>Annals de l'Institut d'Estudis Gironins</i>	<i>Manuscrits</i>
<i>Anuario de Estudios Medievales</i>	<i>Mayurqa</i>
<i>Arrahona</i>	<i>Medievalia</i>
<i>Arxiu de Textos Catalans Antics</i>	<i>Miscel·lània Aqualatensia</i>
<i>Ausa</i>	<i>Miscel·lània d'Estudis Bagencs</i>
<i>Barcelona. Quaderns d'Història</i>	<i>Miscel·lània Penedesenca</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Fundació Ramon Berenguer IV</i>	<i>Miscel·lània Cerverina</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres de Barcelona</i>	<i>Modillanum</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Societat Catalana d'Estudis Històrics</i>	<i>Pedralbes</i>
<i>Cahier Noir</i>	<i>Pirenae</i>
<i>Cardener</i>	<i>Quaderns de la Selva</i>
<i>Centre d'Estudis Comarcals de Banyoles</i>	<i>Quaderns de Vilaniu</i>
<i>Cercles d'Història Cultural</i>	<i>Quaderns del Cercle d'Estudis Històrics i Socials de Girona</i>
<i>Citerior</i>	<i>Recerques</i>
<i>Cota Zero</i>	<i>Revista d'Arqueologia de Ponent</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Arqueología Mediterránea</i>	<i>Revista d'Història Medieval</i>
<i>Cypsela</i>	<i>Revista de Catalunya</i>
<i>Empúries</i>	<i>Rubricatum</i>
<i>Estudis Altafullencs</i>	<i>Terme</i>
<i>Estudis d'Història Agrària</i>	<i>Territori i Societat a l'Edat Mitjana</i>
<i>Estudis del Baix Empordà</i>	<i>Treballs d'Arqueologia</i>
<i>Estudis Històrics i Documents d'Arxius i Protocols</i>	<i>Treballs d'Arqueologia del Pròxim Orient</i>
<i>Finestrelles</i>	<i>Treballs d'Etnoarqueologia</i>
<i>Fonaments</i>	<i>Universitaris Tarraconensis</i>
<i>Fulls del Museu i Arxiu de Santa Maria</i>	<i>Urgellia</i>
<i>Ilerda</i>	<i>Urtx</i>

Source: <www.iec.es/recerca/reports/pdf2/historia9602.pdf>

The importance of the due appraisal of university journals or IEC publications precludes the need for further comment. We will therefore refer only to local journals which are, and have always been, vital to an understanding of HC, especially if we do not wish to confuse it with the History of Barcelona. The local platforms must be taken into account if we are to avoid centralism and give due weight to the territorial and demographic value of knowledge. *Ausa* is a good example of a publication achieving a model

Unfortunately, in the field of historical publications, journals foreign to Catalonia hold sway, simply due to the slavish observation of criteria adopted by the major world political and economic super-power.

perspective of cultural dissemination. It recently published a summing-up of its own publishing record, comprising 63 tables and graphs and 44 well-documented pages put together by R. Ginebra.⁸

Journals from all around Catalonia that publishing history-related material with such high standards of rigour and exigency should be given their due recognition.

The survey reveals that the journal publishes an average of 174.22 pages per year, making a total of 8,494 since it has been in existence. Each edition carries an average of 6.62 articles, adding up to a total of 808 articles divided between 321 authors. A correlation with Lotka's law is demonstrated.⁹ Out of a total of 816 subjects, 74 could be classed under HC, 80 under the history of Osona and 97 under the history of Vic. There are 138 biographies and 8 bibliographies. This means that nearly half of the texts correspond to either history or biography. There are 256 articles and 2,522 pages dedicated to history, the most popular subject, followed by Biography with 138 articles and 1,242 pages. The sciences follow, with 84 and 592; then art, with 74 articles and 768 pages, language and literature with 69 articles and 659 pages, then archaeology with 59 and 577, etc. According to the author:

"History has always been, and continues to be, the journal's principal subject matter. Over time, a body of work has taken shape that is essential to the study of the history of Catalonia at both a general

and a local level. The 256 articles and 2,522 pages of text of historical study carried out under the auspices of the Patronat d'Estudis Osonencs make up an incomparable collection of a recognised high standard. The journal continues to be, in this sense, the principal channel for the dissemination of this sort of article."

The study concludes:

"Thus ends a bibliometric study taking in the whole fifty years of AUSA's existence. Despite the unattractive nature of cold statistical analysis, what emerges from the figures, and what we have seen unfold, is practically the entire history of the journal, of the Patronat d'Estudis Osonencs, of Osona's society in general and the science and culture of Osona in particular.

Beyond the thousands of pages, the hundreds of articles and the dozens of editions, is a body of study and research adding up to a first rate bibliographic source. Statistical analysis of the scale, subject matter, authorship, language of publication and progress made in all these areas yields a fair reflection not only of an entity, but also of a society and a community. The history and the political, cultural and even socio-economic progress made in Osonian society during the last fifty years are faithfully portrayed. It is for these reasons that *AUSA* journal can today be considered a historical testament of incomparable magnitude."

It is in many ways exceptional that in Catalonia and other Catalan speaking regions as a whole, there are periodicals and annuals publishing history-related material with such high standards of rigour

⁸ GINEBRA and MOLINS, 2002.

⁹ For more information about Lotka's Law (which demonstrates the inverse square of author productivity): <<http://www.ejournal.unam.mx/iibiblio/vol13-27/IBI02706.pdf>>.

Table 7
List of publications forming part of RACO

<i>Anàlisi: quaderns de comunicació i cultura</i>	<i>Dovella</i>
<i>Animal Biodiversity and Conservation</i>	<i>Ebre 38: revista internacional de la Guerra Civil, 1936-1939</i>
<i>Annals d'arquitectura</i>	<i>Educació i Història: revista d'història de l'educació</i>
<i>Annals de l'Institut d'Estudis Gironins</i>	<i>Educar</i>
<i>Anuari de la Societat Catalana de Filosofia</i>	<i>ELCVIA: Electronic Letters on Computer Vision and Image Analysis</i>
<i>Anuari de la Societat Catalana d'Economia</i>	<i>Enrahonar: quaderns de filosofia</i>
<i>Anuari de la Societat Catalana d'Estudis Jurídics</i>	<i>Enseñanza de las Ciencias</i>
<i>Anuario internacional CIDOB</i>	<i>Estudi General</i>
<i>Aplec de treballs</i>	<i>Estudis Romànics</i>
<i>Artnodes: revista d'art, ciència i tecnologia</i>	<i>Faventia</i>
<i>Arxiu de Textos Catalans Antics</i>	<i>Formats: revista de comunicació audiovisual</i>
<i>Arxiu de l'ESAB</i>	<i>Gimbernat: revista catalana d'història de la medicina i de la ciència</i>
<i>Arxiu de Miscel·lània Zoològica</i>	<i>Hipertext.net</i>
<i>Athenea digital</i>	<i>HMIc: Història Moderna i Contemporània</i>
<i>Ausa</i>	<i>Ide@sostenible: espacio de reflexión y comunicación en desarrollo sostenible</i>
<i>Beceroles</i>	<i>IDP: revista d'Internet, dret i política</i>
<i>Bibliodoc: anuari de biblioteconomia, documentació,...</i>	<i>Intangible Capital</i>
<i>BiD: textos universitaris de biblioteconomia i documentació</i>	<i>Ítaca: quaderns catalans de cultura clàssica</i>
<i>Biomecànica: òrgano de la Sociedad Ibérica de Biomecánica y Biomateriales</i>	<i>Item: revista de biblioteconomia i documentació</i>
<i>Boletín de la Real Academia de Buenas Letras de Barcelona</i>	<i>IUSLabor</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Institució Catalana d'Història Natural</i>	<i>Lauro: revista del Museu de Granollers</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Societat Catalana de Matemàtiques</i>	<i>Links & Letters</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Societat Catalana de Pedagogia</i>	<i>Llengua i literatura</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Societat Catalana d'Estudis Històrics</i>	<i>Locus Amoenus</i>
<i>Butlletí de les Societats Catalanes de Física, Química, Matemàtiques i Tecnologia. 2ª èp.</i>	<i>LSC – Llengua, societat i comunicació</i>
<i>Carrer de la ciutat: revista de arquitectura</i>	<i>Manuscrits. Revista d'història moderna</i>
<i>Catalan Journal of Linguistics</i>	<i>Mathware & soft computing</i>
<i>Catalan Working Papers in Linguistics</i>	<i>Memorias de la Real Academia de Buenas Letras</i>
<i>CEP</i>	<i>Miscel·lània d'estudis santjustencs de Barcelona</i>
<i>Ciències: revista del professorat de ciències de Primària i Secundària</i>	<i>Miscel·lània litúrgica catalana</i>
<i>Cinematògraf</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Collectanea Mathematica</i>	<i>Orsis: organismes i sistemes</i>
<i>Comprendre. Revista catalana de Filosofia</i>	<i>Papers de la Càtedra Unesco</i>
<i>Coneixement i Societat</i>	<i>Papers. Revista de sociologia</i>
<i>Contributions to science</i>	<i>Periodística: revista acadèmica</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Arqueología Mediterránea</i>	<i>Perspectivas Urbanas</i>
<i>Cuadernos internacionales de tecnología para el desarrollo humano</i>	<i>Publicacions de la Secció de Matemàtiques</i>
<i>DCidob</i>	<i>Publicacions Matemàtiques</i>
<i>Digithum: revista digital d'humanitats</i>	<i>Quaderns agraris</i>
<i>Documentos de la Escuela de Ingenieros Industriales de Barcelona</i>	<i>Quaderns de la Selva</i>
<i>Documents d'Anàlisi Geogràfica</i>	<i>Quaderns de l'Institut Català d'Antropologia</i>
<i>Dossiers agraris</i>	<i>Quaderns d'història de l'enginyeria</i>
	<i>Quaderns d'Italià</i>

<i>Quaderns: revista de traducció</i>	<i>Revista d'etnologia de Catalunya</i>
<i>Quark</i>	<i>Ripacurtia</i>
<i>QÜESTIÓ (Quaderns d'Estadística i Investigació Operativa)</i>	<i>RUSC: revista de universidad y sociedad del conocimiento</i>
<i>Rails</i>	<i>Scientia gerundensis</i>
<i>Recerca</i>	<i>Scripta Nova: revista electrònica de geografia y ciencias sociales</i>
<i>Recerca Musicològica</i>	<i>Senienc, Lo. Memòria, natura i llengua</i>
<i>Redes: revista hispana para el análisis de redes sociales</i>	<i>Sessió Conjunta d'Entomologia</i>
<i>Reduccions: revista de poesia</i>	<i>SORT (Statistics and Operations Research Transactions)</i>
<i>Resclosa, La</i>	<i>Sostenible?</i>
<i>Revibec: Revista iberoamericana de economía ecológica</i>	<i>Tamid</i>
<i>Revista Catalana de Dret Privat</i>	<i>TECA. Tecnologia i Ciència dels Aliments</i>
<i>Revista Catalana de Musicologia</i>	<i>Temes de disseny</i>
<i>Revista Catalana de Pedagogia</i>	<i>Terme</i>
<i>Revista Catalana de Sociologia</i>	<i>Tradumàtica: traducció i tecnologies...</i>
<i>Revista CIDOB d'afers internacionals</i>	<i>Treballs d'Arqueologia</i>
<i>Revista de Dret Històric Català</i>	<i>Treballs de Comunicació</i>
<i>Revista de física</i>	<i>Treballs de Física</i>
<i>Revista de geografia</i>	<i>Treballs de la Societat Catalana de Biologia</i>
<i>Revista de la Societat Catalana de Química</i>	<i>Treballs de la Societat Catalana de Geografia</i>
<i>Revista de Tecnologia</i>	<i>Treballs de sociolingüística catalana</i>
<i>Revista del Centre de Lectura de Reus</i>	<i>Tripodós.com: revista digital de comunicació comunicació</i>
<i>Revista d'Ensenyament de la Psicologia: Teoria i Experiència (REPTE)</i>	<i>UOC Papers: revista sobre la societat del coneixement</i>

Source: <<http://www.raco.cat/index.php/index/raco/cercaXR?searchJournal=>>>

and exigency. If new generations of historians choose to undervalue them and focus their attention on publishing in foreign journals of type A - where it is difficult to publish HC-related material - they will have to channel their efforts into publishing material divorced, in the strictest sense, from HC itself. *Ausa* is available online via the RACO access service, an extremely useful tool in which a fine selection of academic journals, many dealing with history, is to be found. Even though these publications do not feature in the AQU list, they are important instruments of knowledge that should be included in whatever category necessary – A, B, or C, - and given the recognition due to them.

Latindex¹⁰ is an important initiative in the drive to create an effective database making specialist

information available for academic use. It applies internationally recognised criteria, which is decisive in the field of academic publications. Latindex is made up of a network of institutions working together to garner information. It currently has a directory of 15,815 journals, a catalogue of 2,653 and 2,517 journals available via the electronic resources index. It gathers together titles from the Iberian Peninsula and South, Central and North America and is based at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Méjico (UNAM). Latindex also includes publications in the Basque and Catalan languages. These are listed amid the Spanish titles and easily located by an efficient search engine. There are a total of 171 journals in Catalan, from a list of more than fifteen thousand. Publications from Valencia and

¹⁰ See foot note number 1

Table 8
List of Spanish History periodicals included in Mexico University's Latindex database

<i>Afers. Fulls de recerca i pensament</i>	<i>Estudios mindonienses</i>
<i>Anales de Historia Contemporánea</i>	<i>Estudis d'història agrària</i>
<i>Antilia. Antigüedad y cristianismo</i>	<i>Florentia Iliberritana. Revista de Estudios de Antigüedad clásica</i>
<i>Anuari de la Societat d'Estudis d'Història Eclesiàstica moderna i contemporània de Catalunya</i>	<i>Gerión</i>
<i>Anuario de Estudios Americanos</i>	<i>Gladius. Estudios sobre armas antiguas, armamento, arte militar y vida cultural en Oriente y Occidente</i>
<i>Anuario de Estudios Atlánticos</i>	<i>Glossae. Revista de historia del derecho europeo</i>
<i>Anuario de Estudios Medievales</i>	<i>Hispania</i>
<i>Anuario de Historia de la Iglesia</i>	<i>Hispania antiqua</i>
<i>Aportes. Revista de historia contemporánea</i>	<i>Hispania Epigraphica</i>
<i>Archivos leoneses. Revista de estudios y documentación de los reinos hispano-occidentales</i>	<i>Hispania Sacra</i>
<i>Argensola. Revista de Ciencias Sociales</i>	<i>Historia Agraria</i>
<i>Arrahona</i>	<i>Historia, antropología y fuentes orales</i>
<i>ARYS. Antigüedad: religiones y sociedades</i>	<i>Historia contemporánea</i>
<i>Asclepio</i>	<i>Historia. Instituciones. Documentos</i>
<i>Ayer</i>	<i>Historia social</i>
<i>Baluarte. Estudios gaditano-cubanos</i>	<i>Historia y comunicación social</i>
<i>Barcelona. Quaderns d'història</i>	<i>Historia y Política. Ideas, procesos y movimientos sociales.</i>
<i>Boletín americanista</i>	<i>Iberia. Revista de la Antigüedad</i>
<i>Boletín de la Asociación Española de Orientalistas</i>	<i>Ilu. Revista de Ciencias de las Religiones</i>
<i>Boletín do Museo Provincial de Lugo</i>	<i>Ilu. Revista de Ciencias de las Religiones. Anejos</i>
<i>Byblos. Revista de Historiografía Histórico-Jurídica</i>	<i>Investigaciones de historia económica</i>
<i>Complutum</i>	<i>Investigaciones históricas. Época moderna y contemporánea</i>
<i>Compostellanum</i>	<i>Itaca</i>
<i>Contrastes. Revista de Historia Moderna</i>	<i>Itsas memoria</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Estudios del Siglo XVIII</i>	<i>Iura Vasconiae</i>
<i>Cuadernos de historia contemporánea</i>	<i>Liceo franciscano. Revista de estudio e investigación</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Historia del Derecho</i>	<i>Manuscripts. Revista de historia moderna</i>
<i>Cuadernos de historia moderna</i>	<i>Mayurqa</i>
<i>Cuadernos de investigación histórica. Seminario Cisneros</i>	<i>Medicina e Historia</i>
<i>Cuadernos del Instituto Antonio de Nebrija</i>	<i>Melanges de la Casa de Velázquez</i>
<i>Cuadernos Dieciochistas</i>	<i>Memoria y civilización. Anuario de Historia</i>
<i>Documenta et Instrumenta</i>	<i>Migraciones y exilios. Cuadernos de la AEMIC</i>
<i>Duoda</i>	<i>Minius. Revista do Departamento de Historia, Arte e Xeografía</i>
<i>Dynamis</i>	<i>Miscelánea medieval murciana</i>
<i>Emblemata. Revista Aragonesa de Emblemática</i>	<i>Mundaiz</i>
<i>En la España Medieval</i>	<i>Notitia Vasconiae. Revista de Derecho Histórico de Vasconia</i>
<i>Espacio, tiempo y forma. Historia contemporánea</i>	<i>Palaeohispánica. Revista sobre lenguas y culturas de la Hispania Antigua</i>
<i>Espacio, tiempo y forma. Historia medieval</i>	<i>Papeles de historia. Revista de la Asociación Papeles de Historia de Ubrique</i>
<i>Espacio, tiempo y forma. Historia moderna</i>	<i>Pasado y Memoria. Revista de Historia Contemporánea</i>
<i>Estudios humanísticos. Historia</i>	

<i>Polis. Revista de ideas y formas políticas de la Antigüedad Clásica</i>	<i>Revista de historiografía</i>
<i>Príncipe de Viana</i>	<i>Revista de Indias</i>
<i>Quaderns d'arqueologia i història de la ciutat de Barcelona</i>	<i>Revista de la Inquisición</i>
<i>Qurtuba. Estudios Andalusíes</i>	<i>Revista internacional de los estudios vascos</i>
<i>REDEN. Revista española de Estudios Norteamericanos</i>	<i>Rudimentos legales. Revista de Historia del Derecho de la Universidad de Jaén</i>
<i>Revista agustiniana</i>	<i>Saitabi</i>
<i>Revista complutense de historia de América</i>	<i>Studia historica. Historia Antigua</i>
<i>Revista española de historia de las ciencias de la naturaleza y de la tecnología</i>	<i>Studia historica. Historia Contemporánea</i>
<i>Revista de Demografía Histórica</i>	<i>Studia historica. Historia Medieval</i>
<i>Revista de Estudios ibéricos Revista electrónica</i>	<i>Studia historica. Historia Moderna</i>
<i>Revista de Historia Actual</i>	<i>Studia Monastica</i>
<i>Revista de historia económica. Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History</i>	<i>Tiempos de América. Revista de historia, cultura y territorio</i>
<i>Revista de historia industrial</i>	<i>Trienio. Ilustración y Liberalismo. Revista de Historia</i>
<i>Revista de historia moderna</i>	<i>TsT.Transportes, Servicios y Telecomunicaciones. Revista de Historia Vasconia. Cuadernos de Historia-Geografía</i>

Source: <<http://www.latindex.unam.mx/latindex/busquedas1/index.html>>

the Balearic Islands are also present.¹¹ The list demonstrates the cultural potential of the Catalan language and the threat posed to its international prestige, if accreditation parameters are not widened and the predicted desertion by the academic world occurs.

undervaluing of Catalan culture when it is not considered as either a worthwhile language or an object of study.

The Centro de Información y Documentación Científica (CINDOC) (part of the CSIC) produces another general list of Spanish publications. This features an interesting and representative selection of publications from the field of Catalan culture, making up approximately a quarter of the total. The series includes individualised descriptions with objective information about each publication, and represents a dependable body of data and value measurements, such as quotations, Latindex criteria, etc. It could provide a good starting point for establishing objective criteria for assessments in Catalonia, in the absence of a similarly trustworthy and practical list emanating from the Catalan government's own assessment agency.

Latindex demonstrates the cultural potential of the Catalan language and the threat posed to its international prestige, if accreditation parameters are not widened and the predicted desertion by the academic world occurs.

There are consequently two aspects affecting accreditation trends: the quest of HC itself and publication in the Catalan language, and the

¹¹ List available at: <<http://www.latindex.unam.mx/latindex/busquedas1/buscavan.php>>

Table 9
Scientific journals considered “high-impact” by CINDOC

<i>Afers. Fulls de recerca i pensament</i>	<i>Hispania Sacra</i>
<i>Afers. Fulls de Recerca i Pensament</i>	<i>Historia Agraria</i>
<i>Analecta Calasanciana</i>	<i>Historia Contemporánea</i>
<i>Analecta Sacra Tarraconensis</i>	<i>Historia Moderna</i>
<i>Anales de la Universidad de Alicante. Historia Medieval</i>	<i>Historia Social</i>
<i>Anuario de Estudios Medievales</i>	<i>Historia y Política. Ideas, Procesos y Movimientos Sociales en la España Medieval</i>
<i>Aportes. Revista de Historia Contemporánea</i>	<i>Historiar. Revista Trimestral de Historia</i>
<i>Archivo Iberoamericano</i>	<i>Investigaciones Históricas. Época Moderna y Contemporánea</i>
<i>Áreas. Revista de Ciencias Sociales</i>	<i>Ius fugit. Revista Interdisciplinar de Estudios Histórico-jurídicos</i>
<i>Arenal. Revista de Historia de las Mujeres</i>	<i>Llull. Boletín de la Sociedad Española de Historia de las Ciencias</i>
<i>Asclepio. Revista de Historia de la Medicina y de la Ciencia</i>	<i>Manuscrits. Revista d'Història Moderna</i>
<i>Avenç, L'</i>	<i>Medicina e Historia</i>
<i>Aventura de la Historia, La</i>	<i>Medievalismo</i>
<i>Ayer</i>	<i>Memoria Ecclesiae</i>
<i>Barcelona. Quaderns d'Història</i>	<i>Memoria y Civilización. Anuario de Historia</i>
<i>Boletín de la Real Academia de la Historia</i>	<i>Migraciones & Exilios. Cuadernos de AEMIC</i>
<i>Cercles. Revista d'Història Cultural</i>	<i>Militaria. Revista de Cultura militar</i>
<i>Chronica Nova</i>	<i>Obradoiro de Historia Moderna</i>
<i>Contrastes. Revista de Historia Moderna</i>	<i>Pedralbes. Revista d'Història Moderna</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Historia Contemporánea</i>	<i>Polis</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Historia de España</i>	<i>Recerques</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Historia Moderna</i>	<i>Revista Agustiniana</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Investigación Histórica Seminario Cisneros</i>	<i>Revista de Demografía Histórica</i>
<i>Cuadernos de Investigación Histórica: Brocar</i>	<i>Revista de Historia Canaria</i>
<i>Cuadernos dieciochistas</i>	<i>Revista de Historia Económica</i>
<i>Dynamis</i>	<i>Revista de Historia Industrial</i>
<i>Edad Media. Revista de Historia</i>	<i>Revista de Historia Jerónimo Zurita</i>
<i>Edades. Revista de Historia</i>	<i>Revista de Historia Militar</i>
<i>Emblemata. Revista Aragonesa de Emblemática</i>	<i>Revista de Historia Moderna</i>
<i>Espacio, tiempo y forma. Historia Contemporánea</i>	<i>Revista de la Inquisición</i>
<i>Espacio, tiempo y forma. Historia Antigua</i>	<i>Revista del Centro de Estudios Históricos de Granada y su Reino</i>
<i>Espacio, tiempo y forma. Historia Medieval</i>	<i>Revista d'Història Medieval</i>
<i>Espacio, tiempo y forma. Historia Moderna</i>	<i>Revista Internacional de los Estudios Vascos</i>
<i>Estudis d'Història Agrària</i>	<i>Rudimentos legales. Revista de Historia del Derecho de la Universidad de Jaén</i>
<i>Estudis Històrics i Documents dels Arxius de Protocols</i>	<i>Studia Historica</i>
<i>Estudis. Revista de Historia Moderna</i>	<i>Studia Historica. Historia Medieval</i>
<i>Gaceta Numismática</i>	<i>Studia Historica. Historia Antigua</i>
<i>Gerion</i>	<i>Torre de los Lujanes</i>
<i>Gladius. Estudios sobre Armas Antiguas, Armamento, Arte Militar y Vida Cultural en Oriente y Occidente</i>	<i>Trocadero. Rev. de Hist. Moderna y Contemporánea</i>
<i>Hispania</i>	<i>XX siglos</i>
<i>Hispania Antiqua</i>	

Source: <<http://resh.cindoc.csic.es/indicedecitas2003.php?varea=50>>, CINDOC
 List of publications in Social Sciences and Humanities, CINDOC.

Another initiative currently under evaluation by the AQU are the lists of journals dealing with Humanities and Social Sciences produced by the Catalan government’s Directorate General for Research, (DGR) – the so-called CARHUS lists. These, according to the web page of the Catalan Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Industry (DIVE), “are a support instrument for activities related to research assessment.”

In these lists, (table 10), criteria are employed that go some way to meeting the demand that production and evaluation should consider not only those titles included in the ISI and JCR indices, but also take into account science produced in Catalonia and included in the high quality publications. The list displayed on the DIUE’s web page is not as exhaustive as it would need to be in order for the research work of

Table 10
Proposal for lists of Humanities and Social Science publications within the field of Contemporary History. Rating value included. (CARHUS lists)

Annales historiques de la revolution française	A
Journal of contemporary history	A
Awraq	B
Ayer	B
Historia contemporánea	B
Revista de historia industrial	B
Revue d’histoire de la 2eme. guerre mondiale et des conflicts contemporaines / Guerres mondiales et conflits contemporains	B
Anales de historia contemporánea	C
Bulletin d’histoire contemporaine	C
Cahiers de l’institut d’histoire du temps present	C
Contemporani, El. Revista d’història del Centre d’estudis historiogràfics de la UB	C
Ebre 38	C
España contemporánea	C
Estudis d’història contemporània del País Valencià	C
Historia del presente	C
Historia y fuente oral	C
Illes i imperis: estudis d’història de les societats en el món colonial i postcolonial	C
Oral history review	C
Pasado y memoria. revista de historia contemporánea	C
Prohistoria: debates y combates por la historia que viene	C
Quaderns d’història contemporània	C
Rassegna storica toscana	C
Risorgimento	C
Siglo XIX	C
Siglo XX / 20th century	C
Spagna contemporanea	C
Storia contemporanea	C
Trienio: ilustración y liberalismo	C
Vingtième siècle. Revue d’histoire	C

Source: <http://www10.gencat.net/dursi/ca/re/aval_rec_sist_pc05_llistes.htm>. (Last updated: august 2005)

those applying for accreditation to be fully assessed.

The list is still open and even though it is valid until 2008, it seems that the DGR wishes to establish an open debate and receive feedback from the wider scientific community, ranging from the IEC to the Universities.

The DGR states:

“Proposal for lists of publications on Humanities and Social Sciences (CARHUS lists): the lists of publications on Humanities and Social Sciences (CARHUS lists), drawn up by the Directorate General for Research, are a support instrument for activities related to research assessment. In drawing up the lists, primary consideration has been given to the proposal made in the year 2000 by the Consell d’Avaluació Científica i Tècnica (CONACIT), suggestions about modifications received in recent years, publications deemed “high-impact” by the Information Science Institute (ISI), the *Journal Citation Reports*, the *Social Sciences Edition*, the journals accepted in studies carried out by the Centro de Información y Documentación Científica (CINDOC) and others, publications suggested by researchers in opinion polls carried out during the survey *Estudi sobre l’avaluació de la recerca en humanitats i ciències socials*, as well as consultations made by the DGR to researchers working in different fields. The list is a work in progress, designed to provide guidance for reviewers, researchers and publishers. It will be modified over the course of time, according to feedback received from the scientific community.”¹²

This is all well and good. In the meantime, however, the assessment of objectives and the accreditation

of research and advanced research carry on inexorably, depending on the committees and panels assessing them. Assessments usually include the fateful sentence: “Negative assessment given for period X, corresponding to research objective Y.” The explanation follows: “None of the publications cited in the research submitted are included in the *Journal Citation Reports* index or have been subjected to a peer review process.”

Publications on the field of Catalan culture making up approximately a quarter of the total of the Spanish Center of Scientific Information and Documentation (CINDOC)’s index of Spanish publications.

Specialisation should also be taken into account during the approval process. Not all historical research takes place within History departments. political history, social history, economic history, the history of religion, science, communication, journalism, publicity, medicine etc, are not only present in the academic realm in their specific scientific disciplines. They also have their own publications, which could be recognised and approved equally well by either the Thomson company from the United States, or by our very own Catalan assessment agencies.

5. Academic assessment of the history of Catalonia

Accreditation is, as we have seen up until now, decisive in determining historiographical research

¹² Source:<http://www10.gencat.net/dursi/ca/re/aval_rec_sist_pc05.htm>.

and also exerts an influence on its social aspect. The following section examines this in more detail.

5.1 Assessment and its repercussions

Defining assessment criteria and indicating the platforms apt for assessment is a perfectly legitimate practice in any collective process in which judgments are made about individual merits. There is a wide selection to choose from in Catalonia, with a wide range of hues and sensibilities - meaning that diverse factors intervene in the necessary process of establishing standards. The options open include:

selecting only university publications; selecting only those publications fulfilling certain criteria; selecting all academic publications (by institutions and universities), or selecting only the publications appearing in the international registers, irrespective of whether they are in Catalan or not. We seem to have opted for the latter, most debatable option, although this is fortunately now undergoing revision. There are numerous journals. The CBUC summary of titles, shown in Table 11, shows a sample of this great variety, even though only those dedicated to research have been selected rather than to popularisation.

Table 11
Journals on the history of Catalonia from the Catàleg de Biblioteques Universitàries de Catalunya (CBUC)

<i>Afers. Fuls de recerca i pensament</i>	<i>Índice histórico español</i>
<i>Analecta sacra tarraconensia</i>	<i>Laietania</i>
<i>Annals de l'Institut d'Estudis Empordanesos</i>	<i>Lligall. Revista catalana d'arxivística</i>
<i>Annals de l'Institut d'Estudis Gironins</i>	<i>Miscel·lània Cerverina</i>
<i>Anuario de estudios medievales</i>	<i>Miscel·lània d'estudis santjustencs</i>
<i>Arraona. Revista d'història</i>	<i>Monte catano. Rev. del museu mun. "Les maleses"</i>
<i>Arxiu de textos catalans antics</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Aula historia social</i>	<i>Papers del Montgrí</i>
<i>Ausa</i>	<i>Pedralbes. Revista d'història moderna</i>
<i>Avena, L'</i>	<i>Quaderns de la Selva</i>
<i>Barcelona. Quaderns d'història</i>	<i>Quaderns de Vilaniu</i>
<i>Boletín de la Real Academia de la Historia</i>	<i>Recerca</i>
<i>Butlletí arqueològic</i>	<i>Recerques. Història, economia, cultura</i>
<i>Butlletí de la Societat Catalana d'Estudis Històrics</i>	<i>Resclosa, La</i>
<i>Butlletí interior Societat d'Onomàstica</i>	<i>Revista d'arqueologia de ponent</i>
<i>Cercles. Revista d'història cultural</i>	<i>Revista d'arxius</i>
<i>Compactus. Revista d'arxius i biblioteques</i>	<i>Revista de Catalunya</i>
<i>Cota zero</i>	<i>Revista de dret històric català</i>
<i>Cypsela</i>	<i>Revista de Girona</i>
<i>Documents d'arqueologia clàssica</i>	<i>Revista de la Societat Catalana d'Amics del Pròxim Orient Antic</i>
<i>Dovella</i>	<i>Rubricatum. Revista del museu de Gavà</i>
<i>Ebre</i>	<i>Tamid</i>
<i>Empúries</i>	<i>Treballs d'arqueologia</i>
<i>Eridu</i>	<i>Tribuna d'arqueologia</i>
<i>Estudis del Baix Empordà</i>	<i>Urgellia</i>
<i>Hmic. Història Moderna i Contemporània</i>	<i>Urtx. Revista cultural de l'Urgell</i>
<i>Iber</i>	<i>Vitrina</i>

Source: < <http://sumaris.cbuc.es/> >

On the other hand, the majority of these publications are published in Catalan. In those university publications aspiring to achieve international recognition and approval, an increase in the presence of articles written in Spanish has been detected. These are written by Catalan speaking authors who have both studied history and habitually write in Catalan. The perception is that research will be viewed more positively if presented in Spanish, bearing in mind that the tribunals and commissions reviewing their work in the future will not themselves be made up by Catalan speakers.

In the academic journals of the university world, there exists an added, environmental pressure. This is due to the unwritten rule that an author must submit himself for assessment by Professors and Associate Professors from around Spain whose task it is to approve or reject stages of research. These Professors will be dealing with people who have taken their degrees in Catalonia and who have published articles exclusively in Catalan! This phenomenon, which occurs with several academic journals, and the misgivings of researchers, leads to an undermining of the presence of Catalan in favour of Spanish.¹³

As far as the assessment of articles is concerned, the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU) makes its accreditations policy towards applicants clear by alluding to the research and teaching capacity demonstrated in accordance with article 46 of the law 1/2003 of 19 February on the Universities of Catalonia. In the document *Criteris en l'emissió de les acreditacions de recerca*, displayed on the AQU's web page, it states:¹⁴

“In journals:

Transference of research results and publication in journals will be assessed jointly and assigned equal value. As far as articles are concerned, only publication in indexed periodicals will be appraised; in other words, after having been submitted to peer review and appearing in the ISI, or similar, data base.* To duly assess the full repercussions of an applicant's research, the publication's impact category will be taken into account whenever possible, as well as the number of citations received by each article. The degree of creativity, thematic diversity and innovation found in the research shall also be considered.

In the academic journals of the university world, there is an added, environmental pressure to publish research in Spanish.

The system of assessment establishes the following three categories of journals (A, B and C).

- a) Internationally recognised journals, displaying the highest level of quality within specific fields and situated in the upper echelons of international indices and enjoying the highest impact coefficients.
- b) Internationally recognised journals, with a lower impact coefficient in international indices than those of group A, as well as non-indexed journals of a proven high level in specific areas, an

¹³ At present, the preponderance of texts in Catalan existing in university journals during the 1980s has decreased substantially. If we take the case of the well-known journal *Anàlisi*, the trend has been reversed, the reason being that assessment obliges authors to write their texts in the language deemed most useful and beneficial to their interests. This is a widespread tendency.

¹⁴ Source: < http://www.aqucatalunya.org/uploads/pagines/arxiu%20pdf/CriterisAR_cat.pdf >.

international readership, a rigorous assessment system and an international scientific committee.
 c) Good quality journals in specific fields, employing a rigorous assessment system.

Applicants must publish a minimum of ten articles in all three categories. At least four of them must be in categories A or B.” **

* The DIUE’s CARHUS system is not currently compatible, because it is still under review.

** This is not a case of an absolute minimum requirement, but a general yardstick within the field of Social Sciences. Each case must be compared with the general level of quality shown in other publications, as well as average productivity in the corresponding area.

It is surprising that criteria established by a private company are more easily accepted than those which might be expected from a European assessment policy that, at present, refuses to value its own objectively high-quality journals, but accepts, without criticism, North American ones.

The AQU’s denial of research accreditations to applicants who have published, for example, twenty research articles in university journals, whilst only ten are required within categories A and B, has led to a reverse in trends in historiographical research. Many researchers are now opting to publish in quality journals in languages other than Catalan.

In 2003, the year in which the new regulations began to be rigorously applied, there were 183

journals on the ISI list. Not one of them came from the realm of Catalan culture, whereas there were two from the Spanish area, the same as from Mexico. The wide variety of publications displayed on this list embraces the entire world, from Australia to Europe up to, and including, the Balkans. There is, however, a massive predominance of titles from the English-speaking world, even including, if one looks carefully enough, titles which are no longer even published. By examining the area of pure History, without paying attention to specialist publications, we find only one journal published in Barcelona: *Studia monastica*, whilst the quality scientific journals of the IEC or the universities are conspicuous by their absence. Journals covering far-away territories or cities in the United States that pay due attention to their own history are to be found –the New York history journal, for example. The surprising fact emerges that there are almost as many journals covering the history and culture of Spain published in the United States as there are in Spain itself.

At the end of the day, it is surprising that criteria established by a private company are more easily accepted than those which might be expected from a European assessment policy that, at present, refuses to value its own objectively high-quality journals, but accepts, without criticism, North American ones. In the same way, the AQU’s restrictive interpretation of criteria is not shared by the Spanish accreditation agency, ANECA, which does bestow research qualifications for merit on the very people whom the AQU has rejected.

In other areas, Spanish academics are equally negative in their opinion of the criteria. In the field of journalism, for example, we find that:¹⁵

¹⁵ GIMÉNEZ TOLEDO, (2006).

“One of the unlooked-for consequences of the criteria set by the various assessment agencies is that titles featuring in the Web of Knowledge or the *Journal Citation Reports* are inundated by a sea of manuscripts and have had to increase their rejection rates, while other journals, both national and international are finding it hard to get enough interesting material to fill up each and every edition. For the year 2005, there are 35 Media Science-related journals included in the JCR lists. The fact the journals listed in the ISI database are all of high quality does not mean that there are no quality journals among those

not listed. In other words, all those present are good titles, but not all the good titles are present. A mere glance at the origin of Media Science Journals on the JCR list is enough to reveal the bias existing as regards linguistic and geographical representation. Out of these 35 titles, 21 are published in the United States, 12 in the United Kingdom, 1 in Slovenia and another in the Netherlands.”

The History-related journals are found in Table 12. The same bias existing in Media Science can be detected in this field.

Table 12
List of History-related journals taken from the *Journal Citation Reports*.
(Included in the section: Arts & Humanities. Index citation: History)

<i>Acadiensis</i>	<i>California history</i>
<i>Acta poloniae historica</i>	<i>Canadian historical review</i>
<i>African economic history</i>	<i>Caravelle - Cahiers du monde hispanique et luso-bresilien</i>
<i>Agricultural history</i>	<i>Catholic historical review</i>
<i>Agricultural history review</i>	<i>Central european history</i>
<i>Al-qantara</i>	<i>Chinese studies in history</i>
<i>American heritage</i>	<i>Church history</i>
<i>American historical review</i>	<i>Civil war history</i>
<i>American history</i>	<i>Colonial latin american historical review</i>
<i>American indian culture and research journal</i>	<i>Comparative studies in society and history</i>
<i>American jewish history</i>	<i>Diplomatic history</i>
<i>Americas</i>	<i>Dix-septieme siecle</i>
<i>Annales de Bretagne et des pays de l'ouest</i>	<i>Economic history review</i>
<i>Annales historiques de la revolution francaise</i>	<i>England life and letters</i>
<i>Appalachian journal</i>	<i>English historical review</i>
<i>Architectural history</i>	<i>Environmental history</i>
<i>Archiv fur reformationsgeschichte-archive for reformation history</i>	<i>Estudos ibero-americanos</i>
<i>Archiv fur sozialgeschichte</i>	<i>Ethnohistory</i>
<i>Archivio storico italiano</i>	<i>European history quarterly</i>
<i>Arkansas historical quarterly</i>	<i>French historical studies</i>
<i>Australian historical studies</i>	<i>Geschichte und gesellschaft</i>
<i>Australian journal of politics and history</i>	<i>Guerres mondiales et conflits contemporains</i>
<i>Beitrage zur geschichte der arbeiterbewegung</i>	<i>Hahr-hispanic american historical review</i>
<i>Bibliothque de l'ecole des chartes</i>	<i>Harvard journal of asiatic studies</i>
<i>Bulgarian historical review-Revue bulgare d' histoire</i>	<i>Hispania-revista española de historia</i>
<i>Bulletin of the institute of history and philology academia sinica</i>	<i>Histoire sociale-social history</i>
<i>Cahiers du monde russe</i>	<i>Historia</i>

<i>Historia mexicana</i>	<i>Journal of the society of archivists</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Journal of the southwest</i>
<i>Historia-zeitschrift fur alte geschichte</i>	<i>Journal of the west</i>
<i>Historica</i>	<i>Journal of urban history</i>
<i>Historical journal</i>	<i>Journal of womens history</i>
<i>Historical methods</i>	<i>Journal of world history</i>
<i>Historical reflections-reflexions historiques</i>	<i>Kritika-explorations in russian and eurasian history</i>
<i>Historical research</i>	<i>Labor history</i>
<i>Historicky Jasopis</i>	<i>Labour-le travail</i>
<i>Historische zeitschrift</i>	<i>Late imperial china</i>
<i>Historisches jahrbuch</i>	<i>Literature & history-third series</i>
<i>Historisk tidsskrift</i>	<i>Mariners mirror</i>
<i>History</i>	<i>Mexican studies-estudios mexicanos</i>
<i>History and theory</i>	<i>Michigan historical review</i>
<i>History of political thought</i>	<i>Militargeschichtliche zeitschrift</i>
<i>History of religions</i>	<i>Montana-the magazine of western history</i>
<i>History workshop journal</i>	<i>Mouvement social</i>
<i>Holocaust and genocide studies</i>	<i>New England quarterly-a historical review of new New Mexico historical review</i>
<i>Indian economic and social history review</i>	<i>New York history</i>
<i>International history review</i>	<i>New zealand journal of history</i>
<i>International journal of african historical studies</i>	<i>Northern history</i>
<i>International labor and working-class history</i>	<i>Numen-international review for the history of religions</i>
<i>International review of social history</i>	<i>Nuova rivista storica</i>
<i>Irish historical studies</i>	<i>Oregon historical quarterly</i>
<i>Jahrbucher fur geschichte osteuropas</i>	<i>Otechestvennaya istoriya</i>
<i>Journal of african history</i>	<i>Pacific historical review</i>
<i>Journal of american ethnic history</i>	<i>Pacific northwest quarterly</i>
<i>Journal of american history</i>	<i>Past & present</i>
<i>Journal of asian history</i>	<i>Patterns of prejudice</i>
<i>Journal of british studies</i>	<i>Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography</i>
<i>Journal of contemporary history</i>	<i>Preservation</i>
<i>Journal of early christian studies</i>	<i>Proceedings of the american antiquarian society</i>
<i>Journal of ecclesiastical history</i>	<i>Prologue-quarterly of the national archives and records administration</i>
<i>Journal of economic history</i>	<i>Public historian</i>
<i>Journal of imperial and commonwealth history</i>	<i>Publishing history</i>
<i>Journal of interdisciplinary history</i>	<i>Quaderni storici</i>
<i>Journal of mediterranean studies</i>	<i>Radical history review</i>
<i>Journal of military history</i>	<i>Rassegna storica del risorgimento</i>
<i>Journal of modern history</i>	<i>Religion and american culture-a journal of interpretation</i>
<i>Journal of modern italian studies</i>	<i>Rethinking history</i>
<i>Journal of pacific history</i>	<i>Reviews in american history</i>
<i>Journal of religious history</i>	<i>Revista de Indias</i>
<i>Journal of social history</i>	<i>Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire</i>
<i>Journal of southern history</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire de l'amerique francaise</i>
<i>Journal of the early republic</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire ecclesiastique</i>
<i>Journal of the history of sexuality</i>	

Revue d'histoire moderne et contemporaine
Revue de l'histoire des religions
Revue du nord
Revue historique
Rhetorica-a journal of the history of rhetoric
Risorgimento
Rivista storica italiana
Russian history-histoire russe
Russian review
Saeculum
Scandinavian journal of history
Scottish historical review
Sixteenth century journal
Social history
Social science history
South african historical journal
Southern cultures

Southwestern historical quarterly
Studi romani
Studi storici
Tijdschrift voor geschiedenis
Transactions of the royal historical Society
Urban history review-Revue d'histoire urbaine
Vierteljahrshefte für zeitgeschichte
Voprosy istorii
War in history
Welsh history review
Western historical quarterly
William and mary quarterly
Womens history review
Zeitgeschichte
Zeitschrift für geschichtswissenschaft
Zeitschrift für historische forschung

Source: <<http://www.thomsonscientific.com/cgi-bin/jrnlist/jresults.cgi?PC=H>>.

In response to the public invitation made by the AQU on its web page relative to scientific journals and their assessment, the suggestion made here is that a list of journals should be drawn up according to more finely tuned criteria, such as the RESH¹⁶ requirements employed by Latindex. This could be a temporary measure until the EU or UNESCO has drawn up their own lists along European lines. All research work published in titles on this list could indeed be graded under either category A), B) or C) but it would not be possible to exclude them from all of these groups, as currently happens to the core of publications featured in this article. The idea

here is to create a local data base which avoids putting into the same category – category C, for example – a university journal with a thirty-year publishing history that satisfies all 33 RESH requirements alongside an erratic journal of two year's standing that satisfies only half of them.

The then Ministry of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) respected the AQU's autonomy when listing Catalan scientific history-related journals as high-quality journals on the DURSI¹⁷ web page. The AQU, however, refused to consider them as valid.¹⁸

¹⁶ RESH is the conjunction of parameters defining editorial quality that all journals included in the Latindex must observe if they wish to be included in the catalogue of printed journals or the catalogue of digital journals. These parameters are guaranteed by the CINDOC, the CSIC and the Ministry of Education and Science (MEC). It is a public document and generally very well thought of within the academic community. There are 33 points for printed scientific journals and 36 points for digital journals. The required data sets very high standards of rigour and quality.

¹⁷ Up until 2005, the Directorate General for Research (DGR) offered a list of more than two thousand titles dealing exclusively with History, the assessment coefficients of which are easily accessed, together with a study. Professor Urbano, from the Departament de Biblioteconomia i Documentació de la Universitat de Barcelona, directed the survey on which this document is based.

¹⁸ When the DGR asked for our expert opinion on the list of publications that we considered should be included, we were inclined to include the scientific journals of Spanish universities, of the IEC and those of important local study centres and institutions accrediting a high level of quality in terms of course of development, rigour, etc.. The list was ignored, due to the way in which the autonomous AQU tribunes function and the inadequacy of any general rules. A paradox was arrived at whereby researchers who had published almost half a hundred articles in journals included on this list were not accredited by the AQU. Fortunately for their academic careers, the ANECA did consider that their published articles were of sufficient scientific merit.

“Information system for identifying and assessing scientific journals.

This list of journals, which is available for consultation, is the result of a bibliographic and bibliometric survey carried out by Dr. Cristóbal Urbano, of the Departament de Biblioteconomia i Documentació de la Universitat de Barcelona, at the behest of the DGR. The survey takes the form of a database of scientific journals within those areas of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, in which a large number of journals are also present in international databases, thus permitting the correlation of grades based on teaching indices. Whenever possible, related university disciplines have been taken into consideration within each field. [...] The information is arranged in three types of list:

- In each discipline, the journals are arranged according to an ICDS (compound secondary diffusion index) point score, as well as a list of journals organised alphabetically. Each of the subject areas (MEC-MCYT) has a list of journals arranged according to the ICDS points score and, finally, all of the journals are listed alphabetically.”

(Available at: <http://www10.gencat.net/dursi/ca/re/aval_rec_sist_siar.htm>
(Last updated: 22 April 2005)

The DURSI listing thereby follows along the lines of the Latindex criteria and also permits the juxtaposition of variable assessments. Nevertheless it doesn’t solve an old problem: the zero point score given to many local publications. These do not count precisely because they are both local and in Catalan, whilst similar periodicals in English achieve a higher score.

As we have already seen, non-consideration of our own Catalan research platforms creates problems because tribunals may or may not then assess favourably the research records of those applying for accreditations. Bearing this in mind, the negative effects on HC could be summed up as follows:

The effects of the non-consideration of HC-related journals on the accreditation process in Catalonia.

– The loss of social and scientific prestige suffered by HC related journals in Catalan.

HC is mainly published in the Catalan language and in local journals. If HC is not present in the lists of high-impact journals, the plight of historians who prefer to work in this field is worsened. It becomes more difficult for them to gain accreditation and thereby access to teaching posts, as is their right under current legislation. This differs from other disciplines, such as Medicine or Technology, where the general nature of the core material makes it easier to publish in English. The non-consideration of HC related journals in the basic lists means that there is a certain process of discrimination occurring.

– The penalising of researchers specialising in HC, in flagrant contradiction of the Ministry of Innovation, Universities and Industry’s avowed aim of promoting research into Catalan culture.

A non-Catalan speaking researcher publishing in a language other than Catalan in “high-impact” journals will be assessed positively, while a Catalan speaker who

¹⁹ Previously named the DURSI.

publishes in Catalan in journals not featured on the list of “high-impact” publications, will be negatively assessed, if guidelines prioritising the journals within categories A), B) and C) are followed to the letter.

– **Disregard for statutory regulations linking the Catalan Government with the culture, language and science of Catalonia, within the framework of teaching staff assessment.**

Catalan culture has a series of publications considered as “high-impact” by the scientific community. The Autonomous Government of Catalonia could grade high-impact journals by creating its own list, to include publications from the universities, the IEC, etc. The Statute of Autonomy for Catalonia is clear on the scientific use of the Catalan language and cultural production, and stops short of undervaluing them in the face of foreign initiatives, however internationally prestigious the latter might be. The right to equal treatment is negated when all cultural platforms and publishers are not assessed objectively.

– **Decrease in research production due to a lack of stimuli.**

This is a merely subjective opinion which would need to be backed up by full bibliometric studies.

5.2 Criteria for accreditation assessment

The fulfilment of research objectives that are rewardable both financially and in terms of credits is controlled by various parameters. One of the most important is the publication of research in the so-called “high-impact” journals. In other words, it is more important to get one article

published in a journal of these characteristics, than to publish ten articles of similar contribution, length and quality in those journals considered to be “local”. (A Catalan, of course, would consider them to be “national”.) The main problem resides in the relative benefits accruing to an author when publishing on certain History-related subjects. The same could be said about certain aspects of Language, Literature, Geography and related material. The results derived from publishing on certain subjects are not as favourable as those gained by publishing in the high-impact journals. Researchers holding legitimate aspirations about their academic future are, as a result, relegated to a subordinate position due to the application of criteria that might even be described as “colonialist”. This becomes even clearer when the AQU does not consider Catalan publications in accreditation assessment, while Spanish and international publications are given a higher valuation.

It is mainly down to the Catalan cultural platforms to publish history of Catalonia.

This implies that research is gravitating towards specialised platforms. Here, the chosen language is important, but so is subject matter and subject matter is always determined by typology. It is much easier, for example, for French journals to publish on aspects of French history rather than aspects of HC. More importantly, articles on HC which are not linked to French history will be very rare indeed. The case is clear: it is down to the Catalan cultural platforms to publish HC. We would like to make this very clear, because it is an important point; if these journals are not

considered, a new generation of historians, with legitimate aspirations to an academic career, will be penalised. They will have to undergo a twenty-year long process of constant assessment, precisely at an age when they might be expected to carry out the major part of their lifetime's research.

The purpose of accreditations and merit given by agencies such as AQU and ANECA.

Merit for:

- Other categories, such as associate lecturers (*professors associats*)
- Accreditation for assistant lecturers (*professors ajudants*)
- Accreditation for lecturers
- Research accreditation for assistant PhD
- Advanced research accreditation for university professors
- Merit for research work, Catalan categories
- Certification for civil servant lecturers
- Certification for civil servant professors
- Merit for research work, Spanish categories (civil servants)

The aim, in all of these cases, is to demarcate the range of research. This may work with Science, but when applied to History, this approach has several shortcomings. In the first place, changes in the university system have already led to a reduction in doctoral theses. Today, the thesis is not a prerequisite for obtaining a doctorate. One completes the necessary doctoral credits and is

not obliged to present a thesis as a conclusion. Secondly, research on history is mainly a solitary activity. Working parties or research teams are much more commonly found in technological fields. The very fact that History research is solitary demands additional effort from the researcher, on top of that already required to achieve the results guaranteeing the fulfilment of short term objectives, which are taken on during the normal course of preparation for a stable teaching position.

Finally, in Catalonia's case, thematic material is limited within narrow bands of space and time, and the fact that it is difficult to publish this material in "high-impact" journals prevents research work from being properly carried out because it does not always result in publications, despite there being sporadic institutional assistance.²⁰

The AQU's accreditations criteria are generally similar to those expressed in the policy statement previously referred to, drawn up by the Research Accreditation Committee (Social Sciences). The same criteria apply to Humanities and can be consulted on their web page, in the section dealing with criteria for teaching staff.²¹

6. Conclusion and final remarks

In the specific case of accreditations, it is obvious that only by duly accepting local Catalan peculiarities can accurate decisions about the relevance of research be arrived at. The setting up

²⁰ We need only list the funding received by certain researchers working on temporary commissions, such as the *Comissió Institucional Lluís Companys*, the Centre d'Història Contemporània de Catalunya, the *Programa del Memorial Democràtic*, etc., and show how many of the projects in receipt of funding go on to be published, either as articles, books or in other formats.

²¹ http://www.aqucatalunya.org/uploads/pagines/arxiu%20pdf/CriterisAR_cat.pdf.

of a database which includes the presence of specialist journals within categories A), B) and C), with criteria based on local knowledge might be, along with other measures, an important step in the right direction regarding the cultural projection of HC. Committees may determine the number of articles in each category necessary for accreditation, but in denying the validity of some platforms, a whole series of local Catalan publications is relegated to second-class status. There needs to be reconsideration and a new approach made towards these journals. If not, there is the risk of a blow being dealt to the scientific community and its network of scientific publications, which could affect the prestige, volume and standing of the articles they print and, ultimately, their place in the public imagination of Catalan culture. Naturally, a specialist or teaching journal that does not adhere to the Latindex criteria is not the same as a quality university or academic publication that applies nearly all of them. Selection criteria need to be diverse, according to the public for whom they are intended – secondary school social studies' teachers, History students at university, professional historians, etc, and there need to be two different categories, but they must be considered. It reflects very badly on the state of Catalan culture and science when these two kinds of journal are not fully appraised. Policies tending towards the consolidation of research production in HC need to undergo diverse modifications. The ideal situation, of course, would be the establishment of a truly Catalan higher education system, offering real equality between differing subjects and disciplines and making its own decisions regarding dynamic policies and their application and repercussions. Until that day, policies could at least be developed that shoulder the temporary or sporadic role of promoting HC.

Policies to consolidate research production in the history of Catalonia need to undergo diverse modifications.

Measures aimed at revitalising the social projection of HC.

- The setting up of a general database of all Catalan historiographical production, including both foreign and homespun production, which could be made freely available on the Internet. It should take into account all bibliographical production related to Catalan historiography. (methodology, auxiliary sciences, etc.)
- Coordination of criteria for technical support given to scientific journals of a local, private or academic nature. This should enable them to raise standards, allowing for improvement and thereby inclusion in one of the quality categories. This would in turn grant researchers and students publishing therein due recognition for assessment purposes.
- The launch of new initiatives to internationally promote Catalan historiography, such as the creation of a journal in English.
- A yearbook or bulletin, in a traditional and/or digital format. This should include all the latest bibliographical developments and especially the latest writing on History from around the Catalan speaking world, along the lines of the *Bibliographie Annuelle de l'Historie de France* which has been published yearly by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique at the Institut d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine, in Paris, since 1954.

Other innovations still await implementation, despite the fact that they were proposed by Catalonia's foremost academic institution, the IEC, in a report published ten years ago. There have been some advances, with the appearance of powerful new instruments such as Dialnet,²² which offers more than four thousand journals, or the aforementioned RACO, a fine service that is constantly expanding. Both portals are becoming ever more useful due to the sheer volume of information they have stored.

The IEC's observations on the situation of HC

- “A database containing all the research publications made by university teaching staff is required. It must be accessible, standardised and well organised, in order to facilitate future reports on research. The work of research students should also be included.
- A journal – or an accessible database – dealing with the bibliography of Catalan history is also needed. This should contain exhaustive information on books and articles, clearly differentiating between research and teaching. An agreed index of research journals should be drawn up, to facilitate assessment of individual and collective research efforts.
- In order to counter current trends, the geographical scope of these activities must be extended, if possible, throughout all Catalonia and other Catalan speaking regions.
- The future of the index of Social Sciences theses presented at the universities of Catalonia,

Valencia and the Balearic Islands must be assured and its dissemination promoted. This model instrument, which was initially sponsored by the Fundació Jaume Bofill, now comes under the auspices of the Universitat de Barcelona.

- The use of Catalan as a historiographical language in Catalonia must not be renounced, despite its status as a minority language and the subsequent questions surrounding its dissemination abroad. This is a matter of vital importance in the process of Catalan enhancing its status as an official language, even though it might cause commercial problems in the marketplace. There should be more HC published in journals from other countries and other languages, and this important point should not be overlooked.”

Source: IEC Report,²³

It is fair to say that some of these initiatives have already been put into action. Recent high quality innovations, such as the aforementioned RACO, have already begun to alleviate the existing paucity of information. The Catalan University libraries' catalogue offers an expanding digital database where abridgements of publications of all kinds are to be found. The full copies can be supplied by libraries to teaching staff, as an aid to continuous education. Another useful measure is the CCUC, containing internal references like the TRACES literature database, with many history related entries, or the aforementioned local History database coordinated by Professor Borja

²² <<http://dialnet.unirioja.es>>.

²³ IEC Report, Barcelona, 1998, p. 36.

de Riquer, which is an important methodological aid due to the comprehensive bibliography that it offers. A debate should be held, however, on a whole series of recommendations aimed at situating HC within its corresponding context of the wide range of both public and private institutions involved with it, such as archives, museums, cultural organisations and the like.

This would facilitate the instigation of a generic campaign to plan and implement the publication of a Catalan history journal in English; to allow access to primary research or, at least, the dissemination of Catalan historiographical bibliography in the “high-impact” quality journals; the assumption by UNESCO of the responsibility for gathering together publications from a European perspective and above all, more open towards the non-English speaking world; the inauguration of a common database containing the historiographical bibliography of all the lands historically linked to the Catalan language and culture – the Principality of Catalonia itself, North Catalonia (in France), Andorra, the Autonomous Community of Valencia, the Balearic Islands etc. and, finally, a collection of contributions made towards HC in other languages and ambits.

At present, the lack of a European reaction reaffirms the existing assessment system, thus maintaining the European scientific quality journals in a position of subsidiarity. The consolidation of the assessment system, with scant consideration for Catalan journals shown by assessment authorities, coupled with the personal attitude of certain reviewers, strengthens the case for an ad hoc prioritisation along linguistic or thematic lines, without taking into consideration the difficult situation currently faced by Catalan scientific journals, at a time when English is the most dominant scientific

language. Another noxious effect is the relegation of Catalan scientific journals, of both local and national coverage, to a subsidiary and outmoded position, given that they are not receiving high-quality contributions from the universities.

Only an efficient independent higher education system, able to make the final decision about placements, posts and research objectives, can achieve results exercising a positive effect on the state of Catalan historiographical research.

At the end of the day, it is clear that only an efficient independent higher education system, able to make the final decision about placements, posts, research objectives etc, can achieve results exercising a positive effect on the state of Catalan historiographical research. This will need to be accompanied by all Catalan agencies applying criteria that are in touch with reality.

Encouragement is needed for the setting of European quality standards, improvements made to cultural platforms wherever possible and the highest levels of creativity called for in research, at the same time that research conditions are positively assessed in order for the results to be socially and intellectually useful to society. This is, after all, the motive force behind the pursuit of knowledge. Catalan universities must face up to their responsibilities. The UNAM, with its powerful Latindex has become a fundamental point of reference, together with the Universidad de Granada group’s “Assessment of science and

scientific communication".²⁴ At this point in time, they are essential components of a new assessment framework that is looking to provide an alternative European-Latin American perspective to the North American model.

In the case of Catalonia, it is not just a question of corporate interests or teaching staff accreditations, but rather of general social ambition. After all, where will HC be researched and published, if not in Catalonia?

²⁴ <<http://ec3.ugr.es/>>.

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