

LACRETRACT: Diretório de Retratações da América Latina e Caribe

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Resumo:

A integridade e ética na publicação científica são temas que merecem um estudo devido à recente proliferação na América Latina. Com base no banco de dados Retraction Watch, este artigo apresenta uma proposta de criação de um diretório de artigos retratados cujos autores tenham afiliação a países da América Latina e do Caribe. A proposta complementa estudos recentes na região sobre ética na pesquisa e má conduta acadêmica, tais como fábricas de artigos, venda de autoria e publicação em revistas fraudulentas e questionáveis.

Palavras-Chave: má conduta em publicações. banco de dados de retratações. banco de dados. revistas publicações questionáveis.

Abstract:

Research ethics and integrity publication in the digital era is necessary to study due to recent proliferation in Latin America. Based on Retraction Watch Database and inspired by RetractableBase, this study introduces a directory of retractions from authors with affiliation to Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) countries. This proposal complements recent studies in LAC about research ethics and academic misconduct such as paper mills, authorship for sale, publishing in fraudulent and questionable journals, hijacked journals.

Keywords: misconduct publishing. retraction database. scientific database. questionable publications.

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MODALIDADE:

Resumo expandido

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1 INTRODUCTION

Recent studies on Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) countries report an increasing evidence about misconduct ethics and publication integrity due digital context by misuse of artificial intelligence, continuous pressure to “publish papers”, hegemony of selective/proprietary databases, and lack of policies on monitoring/assessment of research. An emerging black market of papers including farms of fake papers/paper mills and scientific authorship for sale is coming-up in South American countries with Brazil and Peru as cases documented (Santos-d’Amorim, *et al*, 2024; Alhuay Quispe, & Yance Yupari, 2025).

Rhodes, Linnenluecke (2025) defines “junkification research”, as driven by the commodification of research following: academia intensifies pressures to produce and publish, intensification of ‘publish or perish’. In recent years, new issues of anomalies in predatory publishing are defined as questionable journals which are delisted or excluded from selective scientific databases including cases in Latin American titles (Alhuay-Quispe, Bautista-Ynofuente, Madero-Durán, 2024). Related cases of publishing in fraudulent sources reveals that more than twenty journals from Latin America were listed as hijacked journals (Alhuay-Quispe, *et al.*, 2025a, 2025b).

Monitoring retractions in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) is vital for research evaluation, as misconduct in these fields often involves plagiarism and the ‘junkification’ of theoretical discourse (Martínez-Rojas, Zahn-Muñoz, Espinaza-Solar, 2025). Within this context, the proposed observatory serves as a critical infrastructure to assess how ‘publish or perish’ pressures distort the SSH bibliographic record in Latin America (Rhodes, Linnenluecke, 2025).

There is a little background and research on retracted papers by Latin American authors. Santos-d'Amorim *et al.* (2021) investigated a sample of Brazilian retracted articles indexed in SciELO Brazil; furthermore, as of 2024, 641 documents from the LAC region have been retracted (Damasio, 2024). Other study, about the reasons for retractions across different subject areas in Latin America concludes that misconduct is predominant cause for retraction, mainly in Business and Technology, while the unintentional errors are common in Biological and Health Sciences (Martínez-Rojas, Zahn-Muñoz, Espinaza-Solar, 2025). As STI policies context, the latest update of the National Integrity Code of Peru in 2024 defines “retraction” for the first time. Actually, a Supreme Decree¹ in March 2026 states that faculty with retracted publications at three past years lose their economic bonus of 50% of their salaries.

Retraction Watch started in 2010 as a journalism blog focused on creating a repository for retractions break stories, eventually leading to the creation of a comprehensive retraction database (Oransky, Marcus, 2010). After more than a decade running the database at www.retractiondatabase.org, in September 2023, the organisation behind the Retraction Watch blog and database announced that the Retraction Watch Database (RWDB) was acquired by Crossref, making the entire raw dataset publicly available (Hendricks, Lammey, 2023). More recently, in 2025 was launched RetractBase, a Spanish open database of scholarly publications retracted (retracted articles), retraction notices (retractions) or have been removed (withdrawals) which is sourced by Crossref and OpenAlex (Sánchez, *et al.*, 2026).

2 METHODS

A case study method is carried out in the sense of a short-data paper. It presents the analyzed case of retracted papers in Latin America, and introduces a prototype

¹ <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/mef/normas-legales/7856058-028-2026-ef>

web application directory or database of retractions with field “affiliation” containing at least one occurrence of a Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) country². The proposed directory is a web-based application that is available for free and publicly, developed in R-language programming. Data sources include primary data from Retraction Watch through Crossref GitLab³. Also, as secondary data source will be collected from a local database in CSV format results of web-scraping from OJS portals, searched in Scholar Google, and for next releases to open access data sources and commercial databases with API frees. The data retrieved is updated real time from the Retraction Watch Database at CrossRef.

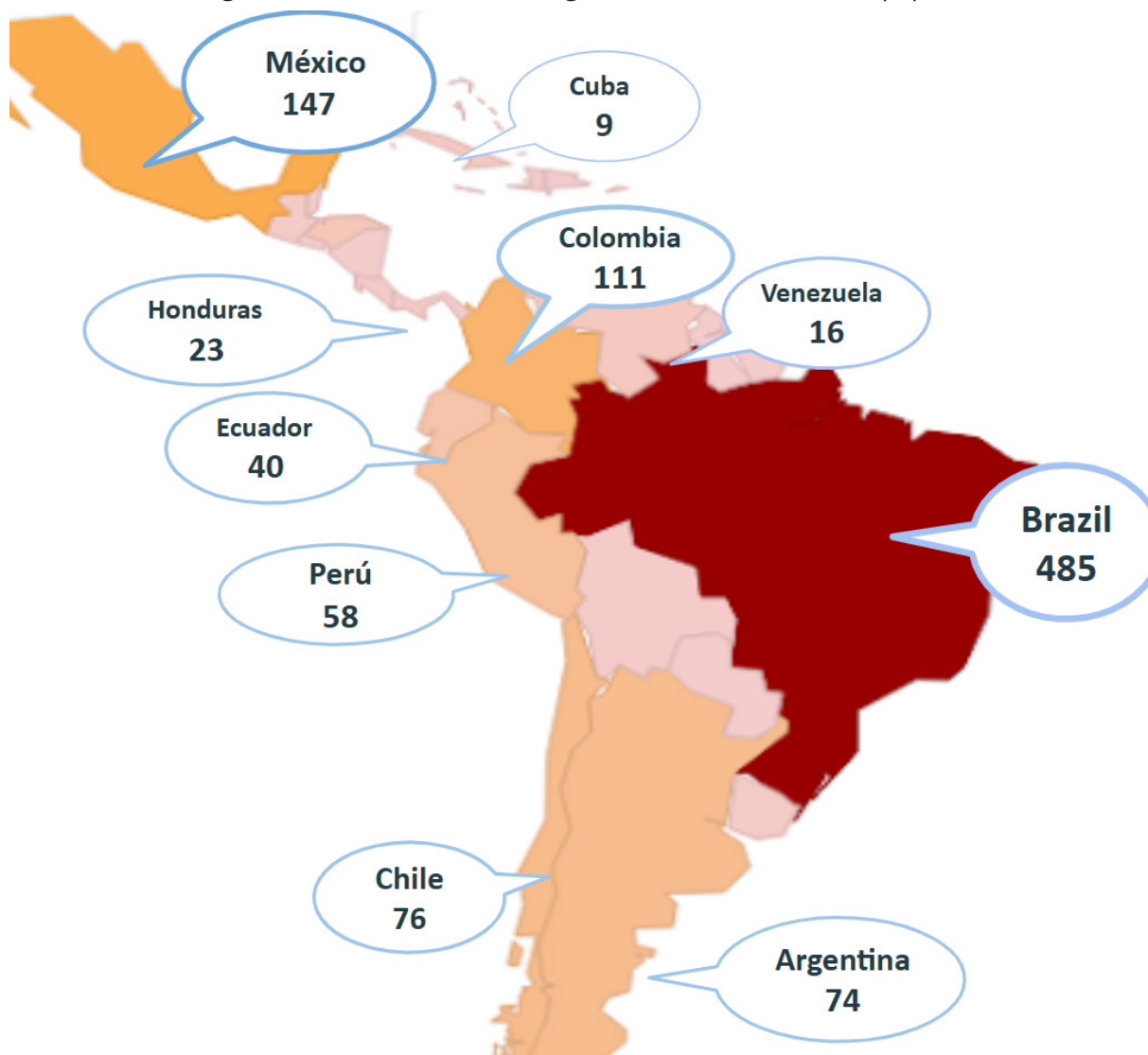
3 FINDINGS

On March 20 2026, a total of 983 retracted documents belonged to Brazil, as the highest in South America, followed by Colombia in the CAN region, and Mexico in Central America (Figure 1). The data retrieved were filtered in the field “institution” that only documents with at least one country of Latin America and Caribbean.

² Such as: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, Bahamas, Guyana, Suriname

³ Available at: <https://gitlab.com/crossref/retraction-watch-data>

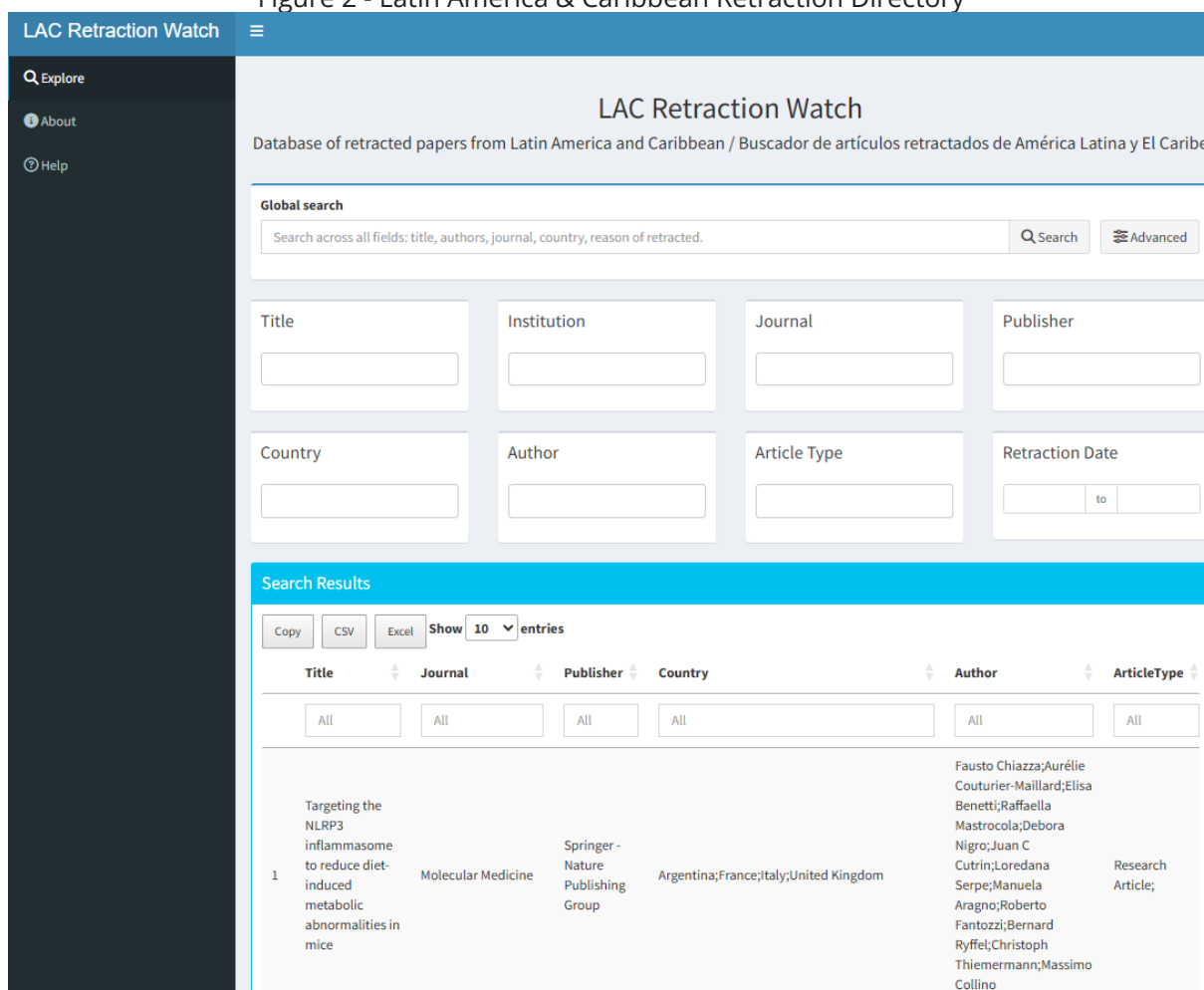
Figure 1 - LAC countries with highest number of retracted papers



4 PROTOTYPE PROPOSAL

The application web was developed in open R-language with shinydashboard library as framework web running at server shinyapps. Figure 2 shows a preliminary view of the index web database that includes a single search box and advanced filters.

Figure 2 - Latin America & Caribbean Retraction Directory



LAC Retraction Watch

Database of retracted papers from Latin America and Caribbean / Buscador de artículos retractados de América Latina y El Caribe

Global search

Search across all fields: title, authors, journal, country, reason of retracted.

Search Filters:

- Title:
- Institution:
- Journal:
- Publisher:
- Country:
- Author:
- Article Type:
- Retraction Date: to

Search Results

Show 10 entries

Title	Journal	Publisher	Country	Author	ArticleType
Targeting the NLRP3 inflammasome to reduce diet-induced metabolic abnormalities in mice	Molecular Medicine	Springer - Nature Publishing Group	Argentina;France;Italy;United Kingdom	Fausto Chiazza;Aurélié Couturier-Maillard;Elisa Benetti;Raffaella Mastrocola;Debora Nigro;Juan C Cutrin;Loredana Serpe;Manuela Aragno;Roberto Fantozzi;Bernard Ryffel;Christoph Thiernemann;Massimo Collino	Research Article;

Note: This proposal is available at <https://infoedutec.com/lacretractdirectory/>

5 CONCLUSION

A prototype database as an observatory of retracted papers complements recent studies in LAC about research ethics and publishing misconduct, such as paper mills, authorship for sale, fraudulent and questionable publications.

STI policy implications of retractions have improved changes at country level with Peru as a case of penalizing faculty researchers with retracted papers. So, by identifying patterns in retracted literature, this tool transitions from a technical directory to a diagnostic instrument for institutional integrity (Alhuay-Quispe, Yance-Yupari,

2025). This allows evaluators to distinguish between genuine scholarship and the output of emerging paper mills or fraudulent journals in the region.

Finally, a call to action is proposed as follows to: a) STI decision-makers, incorporate scientific integrity indicators into your national evaluation policies; b) funders and project managers, support regional digital infrastructure to ensure sustainability of Open Science initiatives; c) researchers and academics, report cases of retractions in your disciplines to enrich this community-based database.

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