Science in South Brazil: Production overview between 2000 and 2010

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The evaluation of scientific activity is essential in building R&D indicators which are used to ensure the distribution of resources, the development of national, regional and institutional policies and to assess the results of the implemented strategies. Recently, this type of evaluation has also become a point of interest for nations that present rapid expanding scientific output. This is the case of Brazil. However, in addition to data at national level, it is also important to identify the situation at regional level, since several Brazilian regions present a huge diversity. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the scientific output in Rio Grande do Sul, a state located in southern Brazil, indexed by Web of Science between the years 2000 and 2010, identifying characteristics such as the output size, document type, language and journal name. Bibexcel software was employed for analysis of the 41,552 references obtained. Results show a large growth of scientific output between years 2006 and 2009, the diversity of languages in which papers are published, the importance of journal papers and the prevalence of articles on Agriculture.