

Response to comment on “Sci-Hub and evidence-based dentistry: an ethical dilemma in Cuba”.

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I am grateful for the interest expressed by the authors Gonzalez-Argote and Alfonso-Sanchez regarding my comment.¹ At the beginning of their reply they assert: “*The article, very similar to that published by Bendezú-Quispe et al.,² addresses an issue considered an ethical dilemma worldwide.*” Hence, they recognize that the issue in question is considered an ethical dilemma on a global scale, so they cannot leave Cuba out of the discussion. Then they put forward arguments that, in my opinion, are contradictory.

I have known for long that the INFOMED network offers free access to more than 20 databases and that through the Virtual Health Library of Cuba researchers have access to a large number of books by Cuban authors. In addition, I did not assert in any line of my comment that Sci-Hub is the “*only source of science-based information in Cuba.*”

We agree that the Cuban Ministry of Public Health invests substantial resources in the purchase of literature, subscription to various databases and that there is an extensive collection of books by Cuban authors available in digital and printed format. However, as the authors themselves recognize there is no “*access to Scopus or Web of Science,*” which limits the practice of dentistry based on the best available evidence.

As I stated,¹ access to many databases and journals is open and free. However, the most important and influential journals in the area of Dentistry, for example: *Journal of Dental Research*, *British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Oral Oncology*, *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* and *Journal of the American Dental Association*, just to name a few, are not indexed in those databases or do not participate in the open access initiative.

I do recognize that there may be varied and even differing opinions on the same subject, and that my commentary¹ puts conflicting (but worthy of discussion) issues on the table.

To conclude, I would like to say that I appreciate the comments received as they leave me with the satisfaction of having initiated a useful and necessary debate.

REFERENCES.

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2. Bendezú-Quispe G, Nieto-Gutiérrez W, Pacheco-Mendoza J, Taype-Rondan A. Sci-Hub and medical practice: an ethical dilemma in Peru. *Lancet Glob Health.* 2016;4(9):e608.

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