Chapter 23
Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional: History, Functions and Future

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Abstract The Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional (AEDI) provides an annual report on new developments, trends and challenges in international law and international relations. Doctrinal studies and other articles published in this Yearbook address issues of enduring interest for scholar and practitioners in international law. With a long-standing tradition close to half a century, this Yearbook relies on the solidity and continuity of the successive editorial teams. Good work, research of scientific interest, selection of the collaborators, and opportunity of the contents, have led our Yearbook towards a growing recognition by Spanish and European scholars.

Keywords International Law · International Relations · research of scientific interest · impact and visibility

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23.1 History and Function

This *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* was founded in 1974 as *Anuario de Derecho Internacional* (Yearbook of International Law, which must not be confused with Spanish Yearbook of International Law, founded in 1991 and edited by the Asociación Española de Profesores de Derecho Internacional y Relaciones Internacionales) but in 2006, the name changed to *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* (AEDI) just to make a better identification.

The foundation date of the Yearbook is not trivial. With more than 20 years of teaching experience the School of Law of the University of Navarra (Spain) was launched to take new challenges regarding research and scientific journals. In order to favour the investigation and the visibility of the results of the legal investigation, the dean of the Faculty proposed the Rector’s Office to create a new scientific journal of International Law. The acceptance of the proposal corroborated the long-term and pioneering vision of the University. Regardless of the system of government of Spain at that time, since Spain still lacked a democratic constitution, the University of Navarra was committed to academic freedom and well-done scientific research, like other large and well-known universities in the Europe. Therefore, the main foundational objective of the Yearbook was exclusively academic. It was intended to promote research and facilitate cooperation between researchers in the field of international law, in general.

In the Spain of those years, the discipline of international law encompassed both public international law, as well as private law. All chairs of international law at Spanish universities were in charge of teaching and researching both disciplines. The Faculty of Law of the University of Navarra fulfilled its mission of teaching Law as well as the rest of Spanish universities, according to current national laws. The formal and academic separation of these two branches of law would come later. These contextual circumstances help to better understand the raison d’être of the *Anuario* de Navarra and its evolution. Issues until 1985 were focused on both disciplines, including a special section on Spanish practice on private and public international law. However, as of 1994, studies and contributions to this Yearbook are limited to the area of public international law and international relations which undoubtedly constitute two sides of the same coin.

Nowadays, the *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* is one of the many publications of the University of Navarra. Regarding its origin, two important aspects must be highlighted: first, that the University of Navarra is a private university and second, that the *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* does not depend on a commercial publishing house.

The University of Navarra is a private university, founded in 1952. For more information about the University of Navarra, see https://www.unav.edu/en/home.
State—or the Catholic Church, in accordance with the negotiations of the new Agreements between Spain and the Holy See formally signed in 1953. Moved by the impulse of Saint Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, founder of Opus Dei, a group of law professors belonging to that institution of the Catholic Church, decided to promote a university, a space for university education in all the knowledge of science and without political interference after the Spanish civil war. Since then and until today, the State authorizes the studies and the issuance of academic titles of the University of Navarra according to national laws, but as a non-state educations centre, it enjoys organizational, economic and financial autonomy in accordance with its own Statutes.

As mentioned above, the Anuario does not depend on a commercial publisher. This issue has its organizational and academic advantages, but also the difficulty of its financing. It receives institutional, technical and financial support from the publications service of the university. The Anuario is also supported thanks to the fees from subscribers. Since the University of Navarra is a non-profit institution, subscriptions prices only cover the costs of layout and printing.

This Yearbook provides an annual report on new developments, trends and challenges in international law and international relations. Articles published in this Yearbook address issues of enduring interest for scholar and practitioners in international law. Articles can cover any topic on public international law and international relations, but leaving aside private international law, moreover since in Spain there are others specific journals of private international law.

Over the years, the Yearbook has addressed very varied issues, but all of them of great interest and topical at the time of publication, for example about the Islamic State, the sustainable development goals of the UN, or the refugee’s crisis in Europe. As is known, in 2005 the United Nations was faced with a very complex organizational reform. The Secretary-General’s report “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all” contained many reforms proposals and recommendations in order to update the United Nations. That’s why our Anuario brought a special section that year, regarding the reform of the United Nations. In 2011, the development of the Arab Spring in North Africa was a great challenge to international peace and security system. The situation in Libya was particularly complex. It provoked the armed intervention by NATO and other States without express authorization of the Security Council. These facts led the editorial board to propose a monograph number of the Yearbook. Number 27 offered several doctrinal studies on the Libya crisis. The issue published in Spring 2019 also presents a special section focused on the crisis in Catalonia and the international law on self-determination and the creation of new States. Authors from Spain and around the

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2 Longobardo 2017.
3 Díaz Barrado 2016.
4 Ramon Chornet 2015.
5 See, particularly, Bermejo and López-Jacoiste 2005; Gutiérrez Espada 2005; Scovazzi 2005.
6 See Echevarría 2011; Oliva Martinez 2011; Cervell Hortal 2011.
7 See, for instance, Fernández Liesa 2019; Calduch 2019; López-Jacoiste 2019.
world are invited to publish peer-reviewed articles in Spanish, the Yearbook’s official language. Nevertheless, contributions written in French or English will be published too.

23.2 Internal Organization

With a long-standing tradition close to half a century, this Yearbook relies on the solidity and continuity of the successive editorial teams. Today we have two kinds of editors: two senior (professors Romualdo Bermejo and Cesáreo Gutiérrez Espada) and two executive editors, (Maria Jose Cervell and Eugenia López-Jacoiste) since both senior editors retired in September 2018. All editors share the same goal: the publication of relevant legal studies for the scientific community in the field of international law and international relations. As executive editors, we coordinate the editorial process, but always pursuing the final assessment of the senior editors. Members of the Editorial Advisory Board also participate, when required, in this process to guarantee the journal’s quality standards. As editors, we have responsibilities toward the authors who provide the content of the journal, the peer reviewers who comment on the quality of manuscripts for publication, the journal’s readers and the scientific community as a whole. This responsibility is exercised thanks to a fluid and cordial communication between the directors and collaborators.

23.3 Recent Developments and Manuscript Management

Good work, research of scientific interest and selection of the collaborators, and opportunity and interest of the contents, have led our Yearbook towards a growing recognition by Spanish and European scholars. During the last 5 years, editors have been working hard to adapt the Anuario to the quality criteria required for scientific and research evaluation.

This Yearbook publishes a printed version and an open access electronic version too (or online) after a year of embargo. Some years ago, we began to be aware of the convenience of adopting our Yearbook to new times. Increasing and improving our presence on the Internet became not only convenient but also necessary. Since November 2016, you can consult its website in the portal of scientific journals of the Publications Service of the University of Navarra, which uses an Open Journal System.

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8Schreiber 1978; Gros 1978; Rey Caro 1985; Barberis 1982; Arcari 1997; Mousourakis 1998; Kovács 2001; Kohen 2001; Acquaviva 2001; Meireles Pereira 2001; Citroni 2003; Pineschi 2004; Scovazzi 2005; Odello 2006; Real 2006; Haugen 2009; Seatzu 2015; Binder 2015; Longobardo 2017; Dailler 2018; Caflisch 2018; Eiseleman 2018; Giraudeau 2018; Estrada Tank 2019; Coppelli 2019; Cocchini 2019; Delalic 2019; Wengler 1985.

9Schreiber 1978; Caflisch 1993; Kovács 2001.

10Ramcharan 1975; Kovács 2004; Milano 2006.
On this website you can access all the volumes of the *Anuario* from its beginnings, as well as all the specific information of the publication, according to the quality criteria required by the prestigious databases.

As is well known, the most important criteria when considering the quality of a research journal are: the composition of the Editorial Committee and the Advisory Board—sufficiently outsourced to avoid manipulation—the timeliness of publication, the peer review, the visibility and impact of the publication, a code of ethics and open access to the contents. All these criteria are already met in our Yearbook. All contributions must be original and still unpublished; papers already printed elsewhere will not be accepted. In addition, to ensure true plagiarism-free investigation, every article received is subjected to an anti-plagiarism program (Turnitin) before starting the external peer review process. In order to guarantee the periodicity of the Yearbook all manuscripts and contributions must be submitted through our website or by e-mail before 15 January. The printed version will be published in the following spring.

This Yearbook has different sections:

1. **Doctrinal Studies**: This section includes legal research papers that are unpublished and that correspond to current affairs and interests of international order and international relations. It is open to free participation and contributions are subject to peer review.

2. **Notes**: are foreseen for the analysis of Spanish diplomatic, legislative, judicial and other domestic practices with an incidence in international law. This section also includes studies and legal comments shorter than Doctrinal Studies, which deal with current affairs of the international order. It is open to free participation and contributions are subject to peer review.

3. **Decision of judicial bodies**: This section collects and analyzes the main and most emblematic decisions of the Spanish judicial bodies applying international law. The directors of the Yearbook can propose to a series of authors if they want to collaborate.

4. **Books reviews**: this section presents comments on the new published monographs of international law that are argumentative and innovative. These reviews are carried out by scholars previously designated by the Editors of the Yearbook.

Any text considered as Doctrinal Studies and Notes will be subject to a blind review process. The ‘instructions for authors’ indicate procedures for blinding author identities or reviewer selection. Accordingly, the Executives Editors will request two experts on the field to issue two separate reports in order to make a publication decision. In case of disagreement between the two peer reviewers, a third report will request. Reviewers who accept the evaluation request receive the anonymous manuscript and the evaluation form.

Once the publications decisions are filled, authors may be required to proofread the first printed proofs, and to return them within a limited period of time.

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11 See [https://www.unav.edu/publicaciones/revistas/index.php/anuario-esp-dcho-internacional/index](https://www.unav.edu/publicaciones/revistas/index.php/anuario-esp-dcho-internacional/index)
(approximately 10–15 days). At this stage no substantial changes will be allowed. Authors will receive a hard copy of the Yearbook where their text is published and a digital copy of their article. After describing peer review and the editorial process from the perspective of innovations as a contentious set of procedures, we describe the method used to gather data.

23.4 Visibility and Impact

The *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* has a paper edition (800 pages per year) and an electronic version (Open Journal System platform, OJS). All the subscribers to the printed edition, as well as the exchanges and the donations can have free access to the electronic edition. The electronic edition is in open access after one year of embargo. Online or traditional (printed) publication has been a continuous debate in recent years. Statistical data show that younger researchers normally use the digital version of the Yearbook, due to the obvious advantages such as an easier access, immediacy and agility. But we cannot deny the fact that printed editions are still necessary and that making them disappear would be premature. Converting the Yearbook into an exclusively online version could reduce expenses and it would even accelerate the editorial process, but universities continue to count the volumes of books and magazines that house their libraries. As long as almost all of our subscribers to the print edition are libraries and some of our readers continue to prefer the *direct touch* of a piece of paper, we will try to provide them with that opportunity.

In this global era of digitalization, all good scientific research must be also registered in the various databases and repositories. The *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* is present in several databases to full text belonging to EBSCO, ProQuest and HeinOnline. Additionally, lawyers and practitioners can find full text papers in several databases repositories, such as, for instance, in Dadun, Dialnet or Latindex. Just as any other academic scientific journal, the *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* is evaluated by the most important Systems of Integrated Classification of Scientific Journals, such as, for instance, CIRC, MIAR or CARHUS Plus+ 2018. Furthermore, the AEDI receives citations from the journals included in this database. The publications service of the University of Navarra regularly studies the impact of all its journals and provides the respective directors with their results. Thus, for example, the evolution of the visibility and impact of

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12 https://www.unav.edu/publicaciones/revistas/index.php/anuario-esp-dcho-internacional/index
13 https://www.ebsco.com/.
14 https://www.proquest.com/products-services/periodicals_index.html
15 https://home.heinonline.org/titles/Law-Journal-Library/Anuario-Espanol-de-Derecho-Internacional/?letter=A
16 https://dadun.unav.edu/handle/10171/39736
17 https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/revista?codigo=122
our Yearbook can be observed in the following graph (see Fig. 23.1) through the quotations made in Google Scholar:

![Graph showing citations in Google Scholar](image)

### 23.5 Some Final Remarks About the Future and New Goals

All good work must have a projection of the future. The editors of this Yearbook periodically review and update the short and medium-term objectives of this publication.

Of course, the *Anuario Español de Derecho Internacional* can improve the internal working of manuscripts and the information on the website, in order to offer a better service for all researchers and to be more efficient in the management of manuscripts. Our desire is to be able to achieve greater visibility for the Academy and to have more contributions from good scholars and international law practitioners. We intend to attract more authors through the publication of “Call for papers” on blogs, mailing lists and International Law institutions websites. Likewise, we are considering to include every year a fixed section on a specific subject (anniversaries commemorations, special events, current international problems or controversies…).

A topic for future discussions is, as we already observed, whether the printed version of the Yearbook is destined to disappear or not. We are convinced that a high-quality library cannot do without the printed version of specific journals, but we cannot underestimate online facilities. The course of recent events has helped us to confirm that online solutions are more necessary than ever: in March 2020, during the COVID-19 crisis, when the publisher house had to delay its editing work, the readers
of the Anuario enjoyed an easy access to the then just published 2020 volume thanks to the online version. Furthermore, thanks to technology, all the contributors had their articles published on time. Perhaps in ten years this tendency will consolidate and time will confirm that online version is the only and natural option.

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