TITLE: INTRODUCING OTHER SOLAR SYSTEMS IN SCIENCE CLASSES THROUGH ONLINE TOOLS AND DIGITAL APPLICATIONS SHORT TITLE: INTRODUCING OTHER SOLAR SYSTEMS IN SCIENCE CLASSES

Abstract

The discovery of exoplanets – planets orbiting other stars – has strong implications not only on our knowledge of solar systems but also on the study of life in the universe as it expands the possibilities of habitability in our galaxy. Although research in this area is evolving rapidly since the late 1990s, the Primary Education's textbooks and curricula of Natural Sciences still have an obsolete view of Astronomy, ignoring the diversity of planets and solar systems identified by science. This fact turns out to obliterate the student access to such knowledge, thus limiting the work of teachers. The aim of this paper is to present how some tools for scientific dissemination and research can serve the purpose of developing the theme life and universe in schools. Such tools include applications for tablets, official websites, simulators and citizen science projects – through which Internet users can contribute directly with scientific research.

Keywords: Astrobiology. Exoplanets. Science Teaching. Digital Tools. Citizen Science.