



Editorial letter

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## EDITORIAL ON JUBILEE: THE FIRST 70 YEARS OF THE JOURNAL OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE “JOVAN CVIJIĆ” SASA

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### Introduction

In 2021, the Journal of the Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA is celebrating an important jubilee—70 years since the publishing of the first edition. In January 1951, at the initiative of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and the Geographical Institute SAS, the first volume of the Journal was edited by Academician Petar S. Jovanović. In the following years and decades of work, the Journal has been published in regular intervals, in Serbian, French, and English, and presented the empirical and theoretical results of the research in the fields of physical geography, social geography, regional geography, cartography, and related sciences and scientific disciplines.

During the many decades of the long development of the Journal, a continuous advancement is notable in the quality of the published articles, the introduction of CC license, the innovations in the editorial policy, and the creation of the new website driven by the Open Journal Systems (OJS). Due to this, the quality of article-level metadata has been significantly improved. As the platform is supplied with an OAI-PMH module, the visibility of the Journal content has been increased. In the last five years, the Journal has been accepted for indexing in the following international databases:

- Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL);
- Dimensions;
- DOAJ – Directory of Open Access Journals;
- EBSCOhost Database;
- ERIH PLUS – European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences;
- Ingenta Connect;
- ROAD – Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources;
- Scopus (Elsevier);
- The Library of the US Congress; and
- Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics).

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At the same time, the Journal was granted the prestigious status of the national journal of international significance (M24 in national categorization) by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

Today, the Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA is a modern, interdisciplinary scientific publication which is regularly published three times a year, and which enables a free access and the publishing of scientific articles free of charge. The complete content of the Journal is available in an *open access* mode, and can be downloaded from the website of the Journal, and used for educational and non-commercial purposes. The submission of articles does not involve article processing charges (APCs) or submission charges. Journal's alternative titles and abbreviations are: *Зборник радова Географског института "Јован Цвијић" САНУ* / *Zbornik radova: Geografski institut "Jovan Cvijić" SANU* / *J. Geogr. Inst. Jovan Cvijić SASA*. The bilingual version of the Journal's name (in Serbian-Cyrillic and English) can be seen on the cover page (Figure 1) but the Journal's content is exclusively in English.

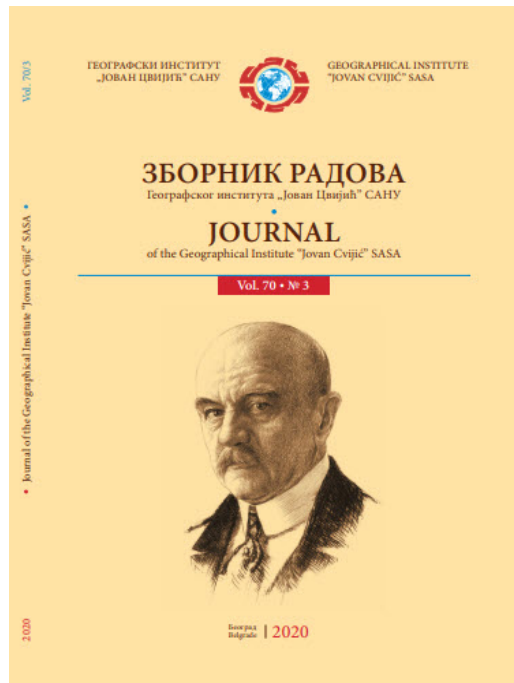


Figure 1. The title page of the last published Journal's issue in December 2020.

The Editorial letter aims to present the general development and important segments of the editorial policy and the chronology of publishing, and to point out the need for further scientific and academic development of the publication. The tasks focus on a systematic and organizational review of the most important aspects during the 70-year-long history of publishing the Journal.

## General overview

The Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA publishes original scientific articles, reviews, communications, letters, research notes and book reviews, and other article types related to diverse aspects of geography. In particular, the Journal welcomes the manuscripts from the authors whose empirical and theoretical findings can enrich the overall view of geography and related scientific disciplines. It is assumed that all the authors, having submitted their papers to the Editorial Board, agree to the publishing politics and ethics. The special focus of the Journal is devoted to the publishing of articles within scientific disciplines, such as:

- Physical geography (geomorphology, hydrology, biogeography, environmental sciences, glaciology, climatology, meteorology, geology, pedology, palaeogeography, and related scientific disciplines) and
- Human geography (demography, urban and rural geography, regional geography, economic geography, geopolitics, cultural geography, tourism geography, spatial planning, human-environmental geography, GIS, cartography, and related scientific disciplines).

The Journal is subsequently published in print and online in the English language. Manuscripts in English are delivered to the Editorial Board in an electronic form. Authors use a Form for writing articles (template file), which can be found in Authors Guidelines, to prepare their manuscripts. Papers will be considered only if they have not been published elsewhere before or if they are not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and if their publication has been tacitly or explicitly approved by all the co-authors (if any) and by the responsible authorities at the institution where the work was carried out. After the publication in the Journal, the authors also warrant that the manuscript will not be published elsewhere in any language without the consent of the copyright holder.

All the articles published in the Journal undergo a rigorous double-blind peer-review process. The first review is based on an initial Editorial screening, which is followed by a more detailed review by at least two anonymous reviewers. Each submitted manuscript is evaluated on the following basis:

- The originality of its contribution to the field of scholarly publishing;
- The soundness of its theory and methodology;
- The coherence of its analysis; and
- Its ability to communicate to readers (grammar and style).

Journal's Editors-in-Chief are fully responsible for deciding which manuscript submitted to the Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA will be finally published (Table 1). The Editors are guided by the policies of the Journal's Editorial Board and constrained by the legal requirements in force regarding libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism.

Table 1

*A list of Editors-in-Chief of Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA over the past 70 years*

Editors	Section	Volumes and Issue Numbers
Petar S. Jovanović	Geography	1 – 13
Pavle Vujević	Geography	14 – 17
Vladimir Đurić	Geography	18
Čedomir S. Milić	Geography	19 – 22
Radovan Ršumović	Geography	23
Čedomir S. Milić	Geography	24
Milisa V. Lutovac	Geography	25
Mihajlo Kostić	Geography	26
Miloš Zeremski	Geography	27

Table 1  
*Continued*

Editors	Section	Volumes and Issue Numbers
Mihajlo Kostić	Geography	28
Milislav V. Lutovac	Geography	29 – 30
Čedomir S. Milić	Geography	31
Mihajlo Kostić	Geography	32
Dušan Dukić	Geography	33
Mihajlo Kostić	Geography	34 – 35
Radovan Ršumović	Geography	36
Čedomir S. Milić	Geography	37 – 39
Petar M. Stevanović	Geography	40
Milovan Radovanović	Geography	41
Aleksandar S. Veljković	Geography	42
Miloš Zeremski	Geography	43
Milovan Radovanović	Geography	44 – 46
Milan Bursać	Geography	47 – 48
Miroslav Ocookoljić	Geography	49
Milan Bursać	Geography	50 – 52
Marina Todorović	Geography	53
Milovan Radovanović	Geography	54 – 58
Željko Bjeljac	Geography	59(1) – 62(2)
Boško Milovanović	Physical Geography	63(1) – 63(2)
Rajko Bukvić	Human Geography	63(1) – 63(2)
Nina Ćurčić	Physical Geography	63(3) Special Issue
Ana Jovanović	Human Geography	63(3) Special Issue
Boško Milovanović	Physical Geography	63(4) – 65(1)
Rajko Bukvić	Human Geography	63(4) – 65(1)
Milan Milenković	Physical Geography	65(2) – 68(3)
Marko D. Petrović	Human Geography	65(2) – Present
Gorica Stanojević	Physical Geography	69(1) – Present

The Editors-in-Chief must hold no conflict of interest regarding the articles they consider for publication. They have a responsibility to protect the anonymity of reviewers and/or authors as per the highest academic standards. Furthermore, they shall evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content free from any racial, gender, sexual, religious, ethnic, or political bias. Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used in an Editors' own research without the expressed written consent of the author. In addition, Technical Editors provide full support and have a significant role in preparation and assistance in the Editorial process. Some of them who have contributed in the last couple of years are Suzana Lović Obradović, Dejan Doljak, Dragana Miljanović, Jasna Micić, Tamara Jojić Glavonjić, Dejana Jakovljević, Marko Filipović, Marko Urošev, Dragoljub Štrbac, and others. We also recognize the enormous contribution made by Lazar Stošić, online scholarly publishing expert, librarians Dobrila Stajić and Milica Ševkušić, and English teachers Dragana Žigjić and Jelena Radovanović for providing us with their full organizational and technical support through the last couple of years.

Along with internal editorial team, the Associate Editors Board (AEB) members for Physical Geography and Human Geography sections perform the vital service through the support, advice, and reviews they conduct. It is their collective efforts that lead to the selection of the finest research for the inclusion in the Journal. The current AEB members have our heartfelt thanks for the time and attention they bring to the reviews that they conduct. Their service has been invaluable. We invite other authors

and readers to consider acting as reviewers. The blind review process forms the bedrock of our research vetting process, so your involvement could make quite a difference in this endeavor. Their efforts are a critical step in the editorial decision process. This combination of writing experience, topic expertise, and knowledge of research methodologies prepares them well for the paper assessment process.

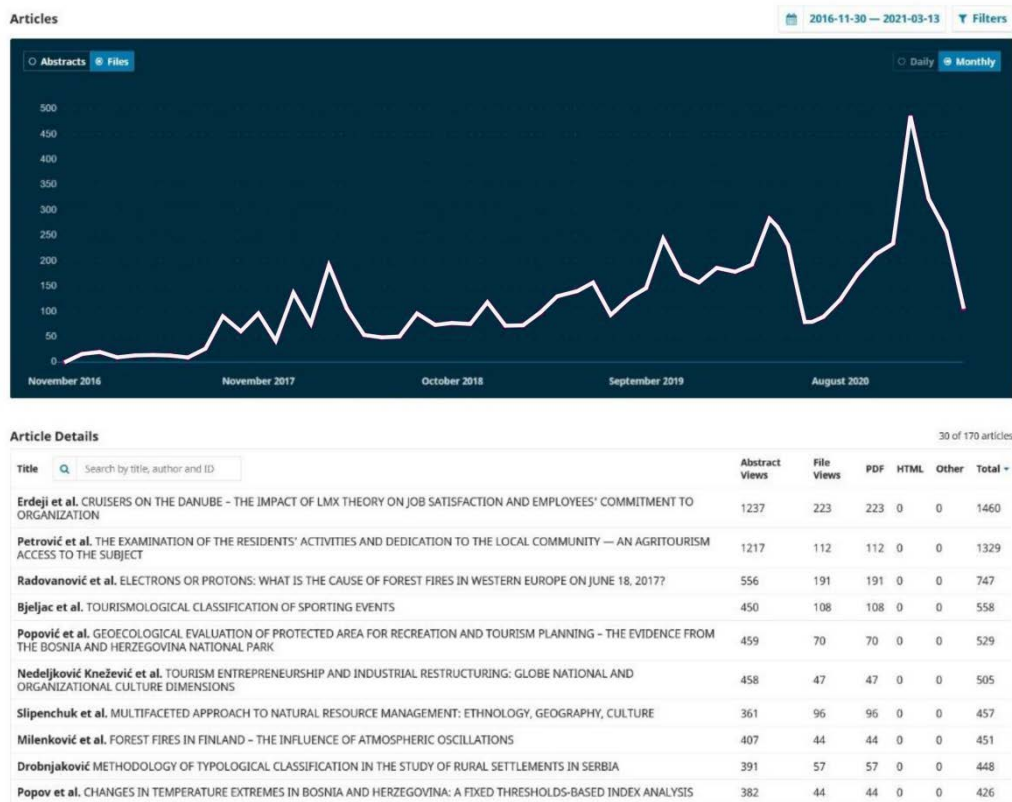


Figure 2. The Statistics tool provided by the Journal's website in the OJS software.

Speaking of improvements in the Journal's metrics, a number of new trends should be highlighted. Due to the creation of the new website driven by the OJS in November 2016, the quality of article-level metadata has been enhanced. As the platform is supplied with an OAI-PMH module, the visibility of the Journal content has been enlarged. One of the indicators is presented in Figure 2, where an overview of the total abstract and file views for the time period of data collection via OJS (November 2016–March 2021) has been illustrated.

In 2009, the Journal started to publish two issues per year, and from 2011, three issues per year. Today, the issues are released in April, August, and December. The increase is an outcome of the improved status of the Journal as evidenced by its strengthened international reputation and indexing by Web of Science and Scopus (a common measure of the use of the published research by other researchers). For the 12-month period from December 30, 2019 to December 29, 2020, there were 131 submissions to the journal, 107 rejections (or subsequent withdrawals), and 24 accepted for publication (an 18.3% acceptance rate). The remaining submissions are still in the review process.

According to the citations rate in Web of Science database, the comparison with the previous five-year period (2010–2015), citation rates in the last five years (2016–2020) significantly improved and met the additional impact criteria:

- 132 papers in total published since 2015 were cited 128 times (86 without self-citations);
- These papers achieved 0.97 average citations per item, with 5 h-index value; and
- The total number of citing articles was 96, including 65 without self-citations.

On the other hand, according to the Scopus database for the timeframe between 2012 and 2019, the citation rates improved:

- 89 papers published since 2012 were cited 140 times; two-thirds of those citations came from international authors and only 8% came from journals published in Serbia;
- Since 2012, the journal received 241 citations, accounting for 92.34% of the total number of citations (261) retrieved in Scopus;
- The number of citations per year increased since 2014 (until 2011, the journal received less than 10 citations a year). The Table 2 shows that papers older than five years still receive citations.

Table 2  
*Citations rate according to Scopus database*

Year	Citations received by all papers	Citations received by papers published since 2012
2019	7	7
2018	56	50
2017	44	26
2016	38	21
2015	45	25
2014	26	10
2013	13	1
2012	12	-

Note. The advanced search ((REFSRCTITLE ("journal name") OR ("former journal name") OR ("journal's abbreviations")) has indicated the presented results.

The editorial team have put great effort in attracting international and domestic authors to publish their papers in the Journal. According to our statistics, from 2014 to 2017, the overall share of papers authored by international author teams increased (Table 3).

Table 3  
*Total number of published articles from Serbia and from abroad (2014–2017)*

Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA			Published articles with the authors only from Serbia	Published articles with the authors from different countries (incl. Serbia)
Year of publication	Journal's volume	Total number of articles published		
2014	64(1)	9	3	6
	64(2)	9	4	5
	64(3)	10	6	4

Table 3  
 Continued

Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA			Published articles with the authors only from Serbia	Published articles with the authors from different countries (incl. Serbia)
Year of publication	Journal's volume	Total number of articles published		
2015	65(1)	11	7	4
	65(2)	9	6	3
	65(3)	12	4	8
2016	66(1)	14	8	6
	66(2)	10	7	3
	66(3)	9	4	5
2017	67(1)	8	2	6
	67(2)	8	3	5
	67(3)	8	2	6

*Note.* The international visibility measured through citations received from the journals already indexed by Scopus has also increased. The advanced search (REFSRCTITLE ("journal name")) retrieved 209 citations in Scopus for 171 papers published in the Journal for the observed timeframe.

Although it should be kept in mind that it is practically impossible to trace all the citations because, through its history, the Journal has been cited using several dozen variants of the alternative titles in English and French, along with a dozen variants of the title in Serbian, the results indicate that the international visibility measured through citations received from the journals already indexed by WoS and Scopus has increased.

Other major improvements in the Journal in the last couple of years include the following:

- Full indexing information added on the Journal's website;
- The Publishing Ethics section has been expanded and the responsibilities of the publisher, editors, authors, and reviewers, as well as the malpractice statement, have been explained in detail;
- Editorial Policy has been improved and made more transparent, addressing all the details related to journal's focus and scope, section policies, peer review process, publication frequency, open-access policy, self-archiving policy, detailed responsibilities of the editors, authors, and reviewers;
- Clear set of guidelines for reviewers has been included on the website of the journal, under the title Peer Review Process and it covers all the details how the review process is being carried out;
- The Submission process has been strictly defined, involving the description of the online submission steps, authors guidelines, copyright notice, and privacy statement; and
- The Authors' statement on the manuscript originality is now mandatory for all the submissions.

## Conclusion

Recognizing the wide range of research methodologies that can be used, in the future we welcome both qualitative and quantitative studies. A key aspect of the Journal's mission is the advancement of theory and empirical research in geography and related disciplines. While descriptive studies can be

quite informative, studies that extend the existing theory or develop a new theory make a greater contribution to the Journal's mission. We encourage authors who conduct this type of research to consider submitting their future work to the Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA.

The Journal is very much a product of how it is perceived in the academic community and there is no doubt that it has been a continuing success, with an expanding readership in terms of the number of people throughout the world who access us on the Web. The healthy continuing input of good quality submissions is another aspect of the Journal's success. Anyone browsing our tables of contents can see that we cover a wide range of topics with a very broad spread of contributors. However, there is still room for more diversity of foreign contributors. All these factors contribute to our most important aim: to maintain and improve the quality of research papers and theoretical reviews in the Journal.

Bearing in mind that the Journal is currently under consideration for the inclusion into the WoS–SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index), we honestly believe that the recent results would contribute to the final decision of evaluation editors. We look forward to working with our authors, reviewers, and AEB members in our quest to continue to strengthen the quality and status of the Journal.

Finally, we would like to thank all the individuals and institutions who have contributed to the development of the Journal by their submissions, by their editing, refereeing, or by their administrative or financial contributions, and those who have participated in the scientific, academic, and editorial activities of the Journal for many years. More specifically, we would like to extend our warm gratitude to the Publisher – Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) in Belgrade, a number of past chief and technical editors of the Journal over decades, the present and past members of the Editorial Board. We are grateful to our dear authors who submit their manuscripts to us, and whose work we have published in the last 70 years, and for entrusting us with their insights. Special thanks go to many people who have refereed the submitted manuscripts and to all the readers of the Journal of the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić" SASA. Here's to the next 70 years!