

EDITORIAL

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This year marks 40 years since the first issue of the *Quaestiones Geographicae* was published in 1974. Undoubtedly, this anniversary prompts reflection on the impact of our journal on geographical sciences in Polish and international publishing markets.

The originator and founder of the journal was Professor Stefan Kozarski. The idea that guided the creators of the new journal was not only to focus on the scientific achievements of the Institute of Geography in Poznań, but also as far as possible the achievements of Polish and foreign geographers. This idea has survived to this day. The main publisher of the journal was initially the Institute of Geography and more recently the Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. In the past, the journal was published at various publication cycles. Initially, it was published as a year-book (1974–1984, 2001–2005), and then every six months (between 2006 and 2009 in two semi-annual series A and B). In between these two periods there were also bi-annual issues of the journal (1985–1992). The *Quaestiones Geographicae* had four special editions (1985, 1989, 1992, and 1995). The subsequent volumes covered the systematic areas of general geography, physical geography and socio-economic geography. The relatively short intervals (1978, 1993–

1997, 1999–2000, 2002), during which the journal was being published on a regular cycle (without interruptions) were mainly due to financial difficulties. There were 28 volumes published including the total of 339 papers during 1974–2009.

The main transformation of the *Quaestiones Geographicae* occurred in 2010. In that year we introduced a range of modern structural solutions expanding the number of editors, including international members of the Editorial Board, placing the journal in a number of indexing databases, and launching an electronic version in addition to the hard copy version. However, the most important change has been increasing the frequency and regularity of journal issues up to four per year. In the result, the *Quaestiones Geographicae* has been published as a quarterly. We also changed the company printing the journal. Additionally, we created a platform for content indexing and searching the contents of all volumes published since 1974. Moreover, the current issues are deposited in the university repository. In total, we have published 186 papers in 19 issues during 2010–2014 (until the current issue).

Quaestiones Geographicae has been noted in the era of widespread parameterization and bibliometrics. The journal has been climbing steadily on the Polish ministerial scoring ladder (The Ministry of Science and Higher Education)

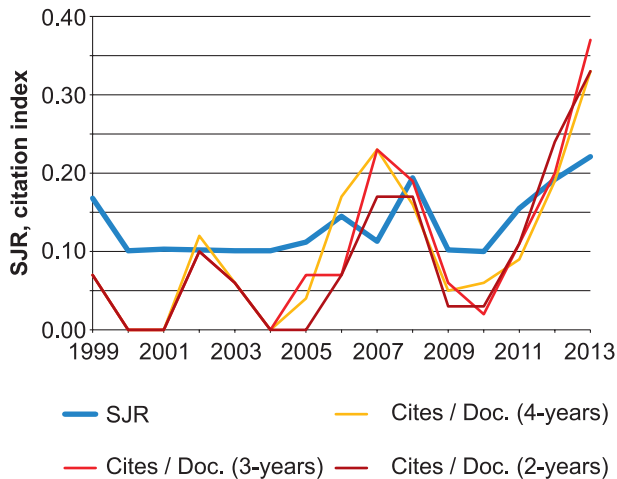


Fig. 1. Variability of SJR index and a 2-year, 3-year and 4-year citation indexes for *Quaestiones Geographicae*, 1999–2013 (SCImago Journal & Country Rank. Online: <http://www.scimagojr.com/index.php> (accessed 10 August 2014))

garnering as of now 9 points (2007: 4; 2009: 4; 2010: 6; 2012: 7; 2013: 9). Harzing's Publish or Perish database has 423 papers that have been cited 1089 times (August 10, 2014). The overall index *h* for *Quaestiones Geographicae* in this database is $h = 15$. The corresponding data for the period 2010–2013 are as follows: 173 papers, 158 citations, h -index = 6. These data show that

the 4-year citation index is 0.913 for the years 2010–2013. Slightly different figures are shown by another database, namely Scopus: 429 papers, 181 citations, h -index = 9. No less important information is the presence of *Quaestiones Geographicae* papers in publications from the list of the Journal Citation Report. The database Web of Science™ Core Collection has 162 papers from *Quaestiones Geographicae* cited in 361 papers indexed in the Web of Science™. Last but not least, we can include the official data published by the portal SCImago Journal & Country Rank. According to their statistics (Fig. 1), the SJR indicator (measures the scientific influence of an average paper in a journal; or put differently it expresses how central to the global scientific discussion an average paper of a journal is) has been increasing regularly since 2010, reaching in 2013 the value of 0.221. One should also that note of the rising numbers for the 2-year, 3-year and 4-year citation indexes (measuring the scientific impact of an average paper published in the journal; it is computed using the same formula as the journal Impact Factor™ Thomson Reuters). As the Editors, it is our wish that this upward-pointing trend continues into the future.

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