

Sixty years on a journey of discovery: Editorial for the anniversary of AUC Geographica

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Dear readers,

It is with both pride and gratitude that we welcome you to the jubilee issue of our journal, which, incredibly, celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year. Established in 1966, AUC Geographica has for decades served as a platform for sharing scientific knowledge and has become an indispensable part of the Czech and Slovak geography scene. This year provides an opportunity not only to celebrate but also to reflect on the journey the journal has travelled and the direction it will take in the future.

The beginnings of AUC Geographica date back to 1966 when the first issue was compiled from contributions from the Czech-Polish Geographical Seminar held at Charles University in Prague. The original intention was to showcase the diversity of geographical research and to provide a publishing space for domestic geographers – from renowned professors to novice researchers – and to support their international involvement. This approach has guided the journal since its early years when articles were published in various languages and copies were exchanged with foreign journals, which served to significantly enrich the resources of our geographical library. Subsequently, foreign authors began to contribute to the journal, which led to the transition to publishing in English from the 1990s.

The path from the first issues of the journal to the present has been full of changes. The original name “Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Geographica” was shortened to today’s AUC Geographica in 2011. Concurrently, the journal was comprehensively redesigned, as described in detail by Vilímek (2011). However, this evolution primarily reflected the dynamics of the scientific field and efforts to remain relevant. The journal has managed to adapt to changing trends in geography – from traditional directions to modern methods and paradigms. Space remains open in the journal for a wide range of geographical topics – from

physical geography, which examines the dynamics of natural processes, through human and social geography, which help us to understand societal changes, to the geography of regional development and demography and the study of advanced geoinformatics methods. These topics are often explored via a multidisciplinary approach, which is essential in terms of accumulating contemporary scientific knowledge.

Efforts towards international recognition and the ability to innovate culminated in the journal’s inclusion in a number of prestigious international databases, including Scopus (listed since 1975) and the Web of Science (listed since 2017), in which the journal has gained a valuable impact factor since 2022. It ranks in the upper half of similar journals in the Central European region in terms of the citation count of its articles, with the number of citations increasing over time (Fig. 1). Moreover, articles that feature in the journal are widely cited not only in domestic periodicals but also in prestigious foreign publications (Fig. 2), all of which confirms the quality and relevance of the journal’s content and demonstrates that the geographical research published stands up to global competition. The journal’s open access format and the use of DOI significantly enhance its accessibility for the professional community.

On this special occasion, we would like to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has helped to ensure the journal’s continuing success. We thank the authors for their original and inspiring contributions, the reviewers for their thorough and professional approach, which forms one of the pillars of the quality of the journal’s output, and, naturally, past and present editorial boards and all those who were involved in the journal’s management in past years (for more details, see Vilímek 2015). Their vision and determination laid the foundations upon which the journal stands today.

Looking to the future, the journal aims both to maintain its high quality and to continue to develop.

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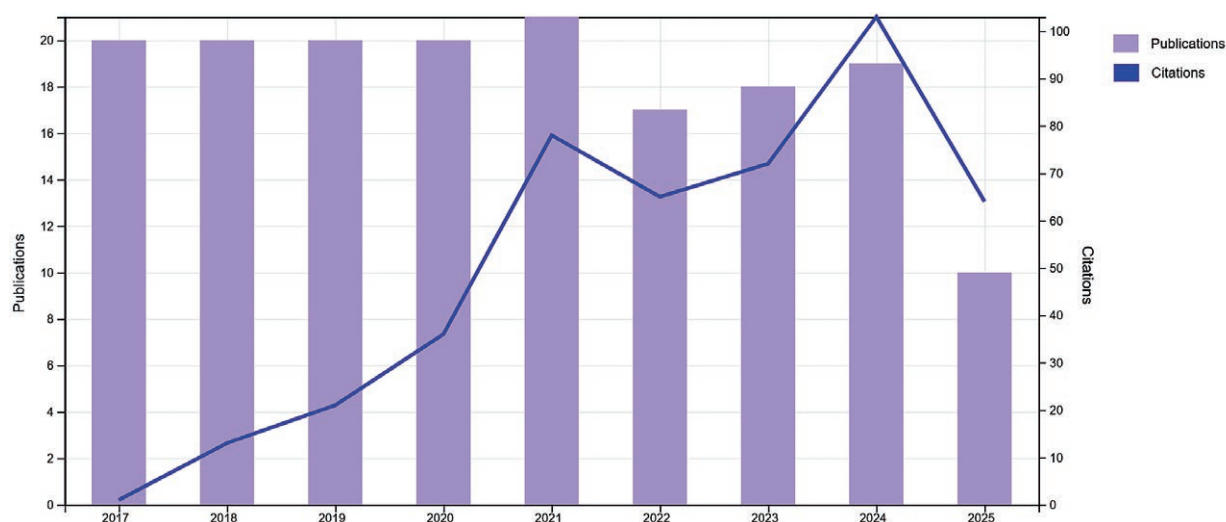


Fig. 1 Number of publications and citations in the AUC Geographica journal on the Web of Science (as of 8 September 2025). Source: Web of Science Core Collection.



Fig. 2 Journals that most frequently cite articles from AUC Geographica published between 2015 and 2025 (as of 8 September 2025). Note: The citations were tracked only for the “Article” document type. The 15 most frequent titles are displayed, which account for approximately 27% of the total number of citations. Only 16% of all the citations were from authors at Charles University, and 34% from Czech authors. Source: Web of Science Core Collection.

We aim to focus on strengthening international cooperation, supporting multidisciplinary research, and reflecting global geographical challenges (e.g. Brodský et al. 2024). AUC Geographica must remain a platform for innovation and critical discussion for renowned geographers, as well as a publication that continues to support the younger generation of scientists and to offer them encouragement to enter the publishing process. The journal should remain a forum for the exchange of ideas and the foundation upon which the future of geographical science is built.

In conclusion, we wish AUC Geographica, one of the flagship journals published under the umbrella of Charles University, specifically the Faculty of Science,

many more successful and inspiring years and we look forward to the next chapters of its continued successful development.

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