
International Journal of Cartography – An analysis of a decade of publishing

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Abstract:

2024 marked the 10th anniversary of the International Journal of Cartography. The ICA took initiative to establish the Journal to provide the international Cartography and GI Science community with a vehicle to facilitate the dissemination of the outcomes of research in our wide field of endeavours.

Work on the Journal began in 2014 and the first volume of the Journal was published in 2015, with two issues. From the outcome it was the aim of the Editors to provide a platform that would facilitate the publishing of the outcomes of research over the many discipline areas that ICA-affiliated academics and professionals. We should publish in research areas and areas of endeavour in which the international Cartography and GIScience individuals and groups were engaged. And papers published in the Journal should come from the wide international community.

From the first volume it can be seen that this vision was achieved, with papers covering the topics of cartograms in education, automatic identification of building types, map projections, mobile and navigational mapping, sequential and qualitative colour schemes, wayfinding, Japanese colonial mapping, toponyms, atlases, semantics and terrain maps. As well, the country of abode of the authors who contributed to the first volume was from numerous countries – Hungary, Germany, Croatia, Japan, Czech Republic, Switzerland, USA, Taiwan, France, Australia, Italy and the Netherlands. (See Cartwright and Ruas, 2015a, 2015b for a synopsis of the contents of Volume 1, issues 1 and 2.)

This contribution reflects on a decade of publishing and it reports on an analysis of the themes of papers published –using three methods: a classification of the papers based on our knowledge of the field, an analysis of the key words entered by the authors and finally an analysis of the titles.

Initial conclusions from the analysis:

1. The Journal covers a wide range of topics;
2. A significant number of papers dealt with the theory of cartography: semiology and design;
3. A large volume of papers was published on the topic of the history of cartography (including maps, technics, cartographers and even the ICA)
4. The traditional topics of data geometry, 3D representations, map projections, generalization, wayfinding, visualization, time, data collection and analysis and eye-tracking are well represented;
5. The main keywords used are generalisation, projection, (geo)visualisation, design, spatial, user, analysis, analytics and wayfinding;
6. Generally, the keywords used closely follow the list of ICA Commissions and Working Groups; and
7. On a continent based analysis, most papers are coming from Europe, but the greatest number of papers came from the USA, followed by France.

Further analysis information and outcomes:

The methodology of the analysis and a more detailed description of the outcomes of the analysis, including the country of origin of accepted papers, will be reported at the conference.

References:

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