



THE FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY IN NOVI SAD

Pavle Tomic

Institute of Geography, University of Novi Sad
Trg Dositeja Obradovica 3, 21000 Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

Abstract

During the existence of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, despite Cvijic's recommendation, neither a university nor a college were opened in the Vojvodina. There was, consequently, not a single institution in the region for the study of geography. After World War II, in the first half of 1946, Professor Bukurov began a course of lectures in geography at the newly-opened Teacher Training College in Novi Sad. On the dissolution of the College in 1961, the study of geography was transferred to the Faculty of Philosophy Novi Sad, for students majoring in history. At this same faculty, a Chair of Geography was established in 1962, offering first and higher degrees of four years' duration. After the Faculty of Philosophy was divided and the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics founded in 1969, the Chair of Geography was included in the latter faculty. In the course of a reorganisation of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the Chair became the core of an Institute of Geography. The most recent changes (1992) resulted in the integration, of the Institute into the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, which also includes also the Institutes of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

Research work in the Institute of Geography is currently carried out within the context of two multi-year projects - Complex Geographic Studies of Vojvodina and Regional Geographic Studies of the Banat. Members of the teaching staff of the Institute are also engaged on other research subjects. In line with their personal interests.

Key words: Institute of Geography, Novi Sad, foundation, development, research work.

Introduction

Before the foundation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the study of the geography of the Vojvodina consisted of travellers' records, supplemented by geological and palaeographic works by a number of Hungarian researchers. In the period between the two World Wars, the principal promoter of geographical science was Jovan Cvijic. Thus in his address delivered before the Great Assembly of the *Matica Srpska* on January 27, 1992, he laid emphasis on the importance of studying the geological past of the southern Pannonian Basin, giving a more complete account of the Vojvodina sands, and carrying out measurements of the hydrographic regime. Cvijic also pointed out that the *Matica Srpska* should encourage the study of peoples, their history and ethnography, etc.

He was of the opinion that it would be necessary to open, colleges and faculties (for agriculture, technology, teacher-training. *etc.*) in at least two Vojvodina centres. In the immediate aftermath of Cvijic's proposals, the Scientific Section of the *Matica Srpska* was formed. The elected members of the Scientific Board included Jovan Cvijic, Borivoje Milojevic, Pavle Vujevic, Pavle Popovic, Feliks Mileker. Soon afterwards, professor Milojevic began his study on the Vojvodina sands and loess plateaux. Caslav Stojadinovic became engaged in the study of the Bela Crkva valley. Pavle Vujevic began to study the hydrography and climate of Vojvodina. Branislav Bukurov, then a young

researcher, made an impact in the thirties with his first article on the settlement of Ada, published in the Bulletin of the Serbian Geographic Society in 1931. The study was carried out in line with Cvijic's principles. The arrival on the scene of professor Bukurov established the academic foundations for the development of geographical science in the Vojvodina.

The Development of University-Level Geographical Studies in The Vojvodina

In the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, despite the opinion of Cvijic that it was necessary, neither a faculty nor a college were opened in Vojvodina, and consequently there was not one institution for studying geography. After World War II, in the first half of 1946, at the newly-opened Teacher-Training College In Novi Sad, professor Bukurov started his lecture course in geography. From the autumn of that year, the course was promoted to a two-year study of geography and history at the same college. When the College ceased to exist in 1961, the study of geography was transferred to the Faculty of Philosophy Novi Sad, for students majoring in history. A Chair of Geography was established by professor Branislav Bukurov at the same faculty in 1962, offering first and higher degrees of four years' duration.

The main problem facing the new Chair was a shortage of qualified staff. At that time, great help came from the professors of geography from the Faculty of Sciences of Belgrade, gratefully recalled down to the present. Among others, it should be mentioned that Dr Milorad Vasovit, at the time assistant professor of the Faculty of Sciences, held courses in regional geography in the period 1962-1969; Dr Mirko Bailaktarevit (full professor), taught ethnology from the beginning and over the next two decades, Dr Zora Sucic, and Dr Vladimir Aksin, at that time assistant professors, led the courses in geology and petrography until 1966. Dr Stevan Stankovic, after professor Bukurov's retirement, led the course on Geographic Regions of Yugoslavia (Caric, 1985).

After the division of the Faculty of Philosophy and foundation of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in 1969, the Chair of Geography was included In the latter faculty. In the course of reorganisation of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the chair was elevated to an Institute of Geography. The most recent changes in 1992, resulted in the integration of the Institute into the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, which also includes the Institutes of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

University teaching of geography in Novi Sad has developed within the context of concepts formulated at Yugoslav state level. At first, the remit was simply to provide appropriately-equipped teachers of geography for schools of all kinds where geography is taught. In time, this was extended to include the organisation of research work. The first curricula were set up on the premise that they had to reflect the social, economic and scientific needs of the country. They consisted of vocational, general vocational, and general education courses, to meet the needs of the university teaching of geographical science and society at large. A key characteristic of the first university-level curricula was their four-year duration. The first two years encompassed the basic elements of geographical science - physical and social geography and additionally subsidiary subjects related to geography (geology, ethnology, history, sociology, etc.). The third and fourth years included geomorphology, regional geography of Yugoslavia and educational subjects. Postgraduate studies in geography teaching were also established at the same time. This structure in university-level geography teaching remained in force until 1979, when some significant changes were introduced.

These changes had already been foreseen in 1974, when Professor Bukurov in his paper '*Problems of Teaching Geography in Universities*', delivered at the 1st Yugoslav Symposium on Geography Teaching. It should be emphasised that Professor Bukurov mentioned that 90% of our graduate students (BSc. in Geography) are employed at schools and only 10 % found employment in other branches of the economy. He expressed the opinion that the introduction of new principal papers in the

context of the four-year degree course could not be justified on the grounds of economy, and he proposed courses of *'three and four years of study, to be more oriented towards the problems of tourism, urbanism, regional planning, journalism and the like, and less towards regional geography and the geography of Yugoslavia.'* Furthermore, he continued, it would be necessary, *'after the fourth year ... to introduce one-year specialist courses to train specialists in geography. The latter courses should be intended exclusively for graduate students that have received a BSc. for four years' study of geography'* (Bukurov, 1974).

Throughout this period, changes in geography curricula were actually taking place in all Yugoslav university centres. In Belgrade, four main tracks were set up, viz. general geography, tourism, demography, and the geographical foundations of spatial planning. An unsuccessful attempt was made to introduce tracks in spatial planning and tourism to Pristina besides general geography. In the course of these reforms, the study of geography at the university level were substantially changed. New majors were introduced, and the syllabi of many subjects were thoroughly revised and modernised. Tracks in tourism and spatial planning were subsequently introduced beside the option to major in geography teaching. All the courses were of four years' duration. The first two years were intended to be common for all the students of geography with diversification in the third year. An option of transferring between the various tracks, subject to examination, was also established.

The geography teacher-training programme had to supply staff for all types of schools in vocation-oriented schooling, as well as for secondary schools. The major in Tourism had to prepare professionals for the needs of the tourist industry, to serve primarily as planners of tourist routes and authors of detailed tourist booklets and highly-specialised tourist guides. The function of the Spatial Planning track was to produce professional geographers for specialised jobs in city offices, regional and municipal chambers of Commerce. The Introduction of a one-year specialist course in speleology was also envisaged, and it was reckoned that graduates from this track could be employed in environmental protection and tourist organisations, etc. (Archives of the Institute of Geography, 1979).

Though the geography courses at university level had positive features, they also had their shortcomings. While the usefulness of the basic science of geography was enhanced, geography courses at the university level required substantial financial and material resources, as well as an input of new qualified staff. In 1991, a new major in tourism was nevertheless introduced as a product of the proposed reform concept, in addition to the vocational major in geography teaching. Certain innovations were also introduced in both majoring tracks.

The concept of the common first two years was abandoned, and specialisation was introduced from the very first year of study. For those studying towards graduation as geography teachers, the vocational subjects were modernised along with the pedagogical papers. Some new auxiliary subjects were introduced, while teaching practice and field work were intensified. On the other hand, in the foundation courses on physical and social geography for the tourism students, the issue of assessment of tourist values was emphasised. Additionally, some training in economics was also introduced, the number of hours devoted to foreign languages increased, and courses in 'tourist practice' introduced. The most recent innovation in the curricula (1994) has brought about a more rational organisation of the subjects, as well as the introduction of innovations concerning new achievements around the world. Postgraduate studies in tourism have also been introduced.

It should be pointed out that more significant changes have been made in the curriculum for students majoring in tourism than in the curriculum for the future geography teachers. The initial assumption was that tourism takes place in time and space, which are both more closely related to the study of geography than to other scientific disciplines. Poles of attraction for tourism, such as mountains, caves, climatic resorts, thermo-mineral springs, national parks and hunting and fishing areas are basically subjects of geographical studies and interpretation. In view of the fact that the volume of tourist circulation is not very significant, and that poles of attraction for tourism are negligible, it is

obvious that tourism should come under the area of geographical studies (Stankovic, 1983). It has also been taken into account that tourism encompasses a number of economic activities - both in the field of production and services - regarding culture, history, sociology, statistics, mathematics, information technology, etc. A significant degree of attention has therefore been devoted to each of these scientific disciplines along with the study of geography. This integrated concept of studying tourism has been promoted particularly by the outstanding tourism expert, professor Slobodan Unkovic. He is convinced that *'it is essential to recognise the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to tourism, and that in this context, it is necessary to include the study of economics, psychology, sociology, labour organisation, statistics and mathematics, history, anthropology, medicine, technical sciences, etc.'* (Unkovic, 1978). In accordance with this approach, the students majoring in tourism have to follow courses on management, IT, labour organisation and business mathematics, which should give them a deep but also multilateral insight into the most important aspects of tourism. Taken together with the geography foundation, this has conferred an interdisciplinary character upon the study of tourism.

The principal tracks followed by the aspiring geography teachers have also been supplemented with several auxiliary disciplines. Thus, in addition to the revision of the existing programs on history, ethnology, and geology, some new subjects have been introduced, such as IT, tourist geography, geographical fundamentals of environmental protection, spatial planning, and the methodology of research work. All these subjects are closely involved in the training of competent professionals for teaching geography at secondary and high school levels. In the meantime, the Institute of Geography has strengthened its staff, so that the competence and reputation of its professors and associates practically guarantee their students' success.

Teaching, practical and research work are carried out in a comfortable hi-tech ambience of classrooms and laboratories, equipped with Internet-linked PCs with Geographic Information System (GIS) software installed. There are also laser printers, scanners, TV sets with satellite programmes, etc., and a rich modem library equipped also with PC's at the disposal of students for the purpose of their regular study and research.

Climate in the Vojvodina

The climate of the investigated communes is determined by their geographical position. The communes in the Banat are influenced mainly by Eurasian factors, whereas the Backa communes are more under the influence of air currents from the west. This brings about small differences between particular values of climatic elements. The influence of micro-climatic elements In the case of the majority of communes has also been established by means of a twenty-year analysis of all climatic elements i.e. air temperature, winds, air moisture, cloudiness, insolation and precipitation.

The present hydrographic state of Vojvodina was formed when the Pannonian Sea began to drain off via the future Iron Gates Pass, depositing a thick layer of alluvium on its departure. Geo-tectonic processes, changes in geological structures and in climate were principal factors in its formation. The climatic changes influenced the formation of surface water channels and especially the abundance of phreatic water. Studies of the hydrographic characteristics of the communes of Banat and Backa encompassed groundwaters (phreatic, sub-artesian, artesian, and thermo-mineral waters) and surface waters (the Danube, Tamis and Begej rivers, streams on the Fruska Gora and the Vrsac Mountains, canals, lakes, swamps and marshes). These studies were also concerned with the pedological characteristics, with the analyses of physical and chemical properties, as well as with the potential productivity of the different soils, their extent and evaluation.

Great geological, geomorphological, climatological and hydrographic changes that occurred in times past were of crucial importance for the nature of the flora and fauna species that developed and the and the population that could be supported.

The population of the Vojvodina - the number of inhabitants, their distribution, origins, migrations, structure (biological, socio-economic, educational), households, etc. has been studied in detail.

Also, natural and social conditions for economic activities have been studied in all the branches of economic activities (primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities). The analyses encompassed their shares in the commune income, raw material basis, production structure, working power, market, energy basis and contemporary problems. As for the settlements, the subjects of their study were the characteristics of topographic and regional position, their origin and development, morphologic characteristics and functions. The final results of these studies have been presented in the monographs of the particular communes. The monographs consist of two parts, the first dealing with natural and social characteristics of the commune as a whole, the second providing in a unified way the geographical characteristic of each settlement of the commune, so that these monographs represent detailed analytical studies

Sub-Project 'Geomorphologic Map of Vojvodina'

Within the context of the sub-project 'Geomorphological Map of Vojvodina', the geomorphological map of Vojvodina forms the basis for further investigation of surface geology, neotectonics and contemporary tectonic activities. It also underlies research on irrigation and drainage, land consolidation, soil erosion and damage, environmental protection and spatial planning as well as serving the needs of the Armed forces of Yugoslavia. The morphological map additionally provides data for the construction of special maps of the terrain surface. The geomorphological map of Vojvodina contains five categories of data. These are data on the geological structure of the terrain, then morphogenetic, morphographic, morphometric, and morphochronological data.

The data on morphological composition define the environment in which the relief has developed. The geo-morphological map contains data on lithologic composition and structure of the terrain. The map contains data relevant for the development of the relief. Biological and structural elements are given either in detail or generalised, depending on the specific features of the terrain being mapped.

The geological elements in the area of study are gneiss rocks of the Palaeozoic era (crystalline schists, phyllites, serpentinites, etc.) and the Mesozoic era (sandstone, clay, slates, etc.). The Palaeozoic rocks are found at a depth of 1,000-3,000m, whereas the Mesozoic formations are at the depths of about 2000 m. The neogenic formations are most often composed of many-coloured sandy, more rarely marl, clays with intercalated sand, gravel, sandstone, conglomerate and breccia. The thickness of the neogenic formations is very variable and depends on palaeographic, tectonic and other conditions. The youngest geological formations appear in the form of clays, loess re-deposited from solid land and of marshy origin, as well as sand and recent sediments. The morphogenetic data define the relief in accordance with the process by which the relief was formed. A separation of genetic types in the relief has also permitted the classification of land forms. Within one genetic type, further identification has been carried out according to the mechanisms of land-form formation, whereby patterns of erosion and accumulation were identified in respect of the genetic types of relief in the area of study. It is possible to distinguish both endogenic and exogenic forms. The endogenic forms are the depressions (Alibunar, Vrsac, and Potporanj) which have appeared as a result of neotectonic processes. The exogenic forms appear as fluvial elements (smaller and larger riverbeds, dead meanders, whether marshy or filled with sediments). Morphological data show the development and magnitude of, together with the relationships between, particular land forms, i.e. of the form groups within a particular relief genetic type. On the geomorphological map, each form has been singled out, provided it could be presented at

the scale employed. Forms which, though important for the processes, could not be thus presented were represented by a corresponding symbol.

Morphometric data give the size parameters of the relief, i.e. of the processes by which the relief was formed. The basic data on the dimensions of particular land-forms provides the topographic base of the geo-morphological map. In addition to these data, the geomorphological map contains the necessary data on the relief slope expressed through the slope angle.

Morphochronological data are concerned with the chronological relations of particular forms, i.e. with the time relationships between particular genetic relief types and processes. In this way, these data permit us to reconstruct the morphological evolution of the terrain thus studied and mapped. Each map has its legend, comprising textual and graphical supplements and necessary explanations of the geomorphological map. The legend contains data which by their nature could not be presented graphically, or whose representation would overburden the map and made it unintelligible.

Sub-project 'Regional atlas of Vojvodina'

The sub-project 'Regional Atlas of Vojvodina' represents a collection of maps which have not been prepared before either in Vojvodina or Yugoslavia, though they represent common practice world-wide, and almost no country lacks such maps. It was envisaged that particular

map groups were to be prepared according to their thematic character, and thus enable their successive publishing before completion of the whole Atlas. The Regional Atlas of Vojvodina could have a wide range of potential users and would become the basis for all sorts of planning. Further, it would be a very useful auxiliary means to studying the Vojvodina for those sciences represented by maps in the Atlas, as well as for some related branches of science in which reference to spatial relationships is required. To date, three groups of maps have been completed: locational maps, climate maps and demographic maps. The locational maps (two sheets with 5 maps) have had to be partially corrected because of the recent political changes in Yugoslavia. The climate maps (7 sheets with 54 maps) have been completely finished. The maps were prepared by conventional cartographic methods (contour lines, meridians). The author's original versions were prepared at a scale of 1:400,000 and they will be printed at 1:1,000,000. The preparation of thematic maps has not, however, been the only aim of this work. After finishing each thematic set, it is planned to write the corresponding academic commentary. Thus, for example, a 153-page work on the Vojvodina population has been written to accompany the first group of demographic maps, and will be printed by the Section for Social Sciences of *Matica Srpska*. Recently, a book has been published on the post-war colonisation of Vojvodina. These works have been largely based on the cartographic method, for which the maps from the Atlas have been of the utmost help. The commentaries accompanying the Atlas will serve as a check of the complexity of map groups, which can initiate some additions or changes to the original plan of the Atlas. At present, a possibility is being considered of transferring all the maps to computer, as recording on diskettes is incomparably cheaper than printing the Atlas in traditional manner.

The 'Regional Geographic Study of Banat' project is a more recent undertaking which has been carried out during the last three years. It represents an international project between Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary concerned with the study of the Banat in its *geographical*-historical boundaries - i.e. between the Cerna, Danube, Tisa, and Moris rivers. To date, three conferences have been held, and as a result of the three-year project a geographical monograph has been published.

Works in Physical Geography

Of the 163 published papers in all the volumes (except Volume 15) of the Review of Research of the institute of Geography, 58 (or 36%) belong to the field of physical geography. In these papers, the authors took on and attempted to solve, with varying success, a number of scientific problems. The most numerous are articles from hydrology (29) and then come those concerning geomorphology (24). There have been only three papers devoted to climate. Two papers were of a general character and could not be included in the above groups. Other disciplines within physical geography have not been represented at all among the published papers.

We shall here enumerate some of the problems which have been faced with varying degrees of success and completeness. Hydrological studies have encompassed questions relating to potamology, limnology, ground waters, and problems related to large springs. The potamological studies have been concentrated on the problems related to four rivers and one canal, indicating especially the importance of a number of the Banat rivers for water resource management. Two papers dealing with the problem of floods also belong to this group. The works concerning the lakes represent scientific contributions to the limnology' of Vojvodina (four natural lakes and artificial accumulations on the Fruska Gora).

As for ground waters, the most important contributions are the papers concerning the hydrography of the Banat. They have assisted in the solving of problems of water resource management (Sozina, Lusci Polje, Cetinje...). In one of these papers, a new theory was presented concerning water circulation in the karst, relating to the height of the lake sediments. In the papers devoted to artesian wells, a special emphasis has been on irrational water exploitation, whereas the papers dealing with the problem of springs have been devoted to solving their typology and functioning.

The most numerous papers have been those concerning the problems of relief. Geomorphological works have mainly concerned fluvial and karst relief. The different works on fluvial relief provided new knowledge on the genesis of valleys, the effect of conglomerates on the course of rivers, the spread of newly-discovered epigenesis, the origins of river-islands and the explanation of the recent changes in the course of the Tisa river, as well as classification of river valleys (on the Fruska Gora).

The papers on karst relief have posed scientific problems of the genesis of 'polje'. These have been solved through a theoretical work, '*The Polje Genesis*' and through an applied work, '*The Genesis of the Lusci Poije*'. The works on karst were concerned with the problem of relief reconstruction, and a partial solution found. Speleological works contributed to a better knowing of the karst underground through a study of about ten caves from different parts of our country, presented in 6 papers. The works from the field of climatology have been less numerous. These works have made a contribution to a complex knowledge of the climate of a Polje, whereas one other paper has been concerned with the climate evaluation from the point of view of tourism.

Finally, there is a group of works with a more or less complete description of the problems of physical geography or only one its segments. These works include the hydrology of the Vrsac Mountains, Miseluk, pollution of the Vojvodina waters, the Srem relief, geomorphological mapping, physical geography of the Coka area and the Bukovac stream. These works, to a certain extent, concentrated on a particular scientific problem, but the emphasis throughout has been on all-inclusive physical geographical description of a given object region, town, stream, etc.

Works on Human Geography

Over a thirty-year period, the teachers and associates of the Institute of Geography in Novi Sad have published a large number of scientific papers from this field and presented many contributions at numerous academic and professional meetings. The majority of the results have been published in the Review of Research of the Institute of Geography and reviews of the *Matica Srpska* for Natural and Social Sciences.

A number of papers have also been published in the journals concerning education and educational methods and multidisciplinary studies ('Scientific Review'), demography ('Population'), separate editions of the Serbian Geographic Society ('Earth and People' and 'The Globe') and of the Institute of Geography in Novi Sad.

A significant activity has been observed in participation of the members of our staff in organising scientific-professional meetings, such as geographical congresses of general Yugoslav character and specialised meetings in the field of some disciplines of human geography, or similar disciplines. The majority of these works have been concerned with the problems of geography of settlements and population. This has been the research interest especially of Branislav Bukurov, Nebojsa Caric Slobodan Curtic, Kornel Dere, Branislav Durdev, Jovan Duntit and Sasa Kicosev.

The thematic orientation of the research on settlements has dealt equally pragmatically with theoretical and with concrete problems. The authors have addressed the morphology and functional classification of the Vojvodina settlements, criteria for distinguishing between rural and urban settlements, size and structure of settlements and the position and classification of settlements in respect of their physical geographical predisposition. All aspects of structuring in the Novi Sad municipality have been undertaken, such as the differentiation of the Novi Sad conurbation into city and suburban zone and definition of gravitational spheres of different hierarchical levels. Methods of introducing hierarchical central places have been worked out and the processes of secondary urbanisation in Vojvodina have also been studied.

The works in the field of population geography are concerned with demographic and demographic-geographical elements, either of the entire Vojvodina territory, or of smaller entities, or particular places in a narrower sense. They are also concerned with the complex of natural population increase statistics, or with particular aspects of them, and with trends in the number of inhabitants disclosed by official censuses, with the origins of populations, migrations, national, economic structures, etc.. In their research the authors (S Curcic, B Durdev, and others) have applied modern methodologies and principles currently used in geographical science in the world at large. In the mid-1980s, N. Caric in the 'Review of Research of the Institute of Geography' published several papers oriented towards the development of computer packages for studies of particular components of natural increase and the sex/age structure of population. Integrated and systematised results from research in the fields of settlements and population have been presented in the form of special theoretical (S Curtic 'Geography of Settlements'), or concrete (J Duricic 'Population of Backa) publications.

Research in the field of economic geography has been of interest of Branislav Bukurov, Nebojsa Caric, Dragojub Bugarski, Pavle Tomic, Rade Davidovic and others. Their studies have been concerned with economic development and structural changes, the physical geographical and human geographical aspects of the development of elements of agriculture and geographical bases of distribution combined with the development of particular branches of industry, or spatial entities.

The introduction of the subjects of tourist geography and foundation of the majoring direction in tourism has been accompanied with research activities in the field of tourist-geographical and tourism research in general. This was an occasional research subject for Dragojub Bugarski and a permanent orientation for Miroslava Laskov. Their works have been concerned with spas and hunting in

Vojvodina, tourist evaluation of the Korcula climate, tourist river traffic on the Danube, activities and accommodation capacities in Vojvodina, etc. Apart from the above activities, the Institute of Geography has offered services to other Institutions in the field of sociographic research for the needs of spatial planning and projects of the development of tourism in Vojvodina.

Works in Regional Geography

Over the course of the thirty-year period, the teachers and associates of the Institute of Geography have published a large number of scientific and professional papers from the disciplines of regional geography. The majority of them, the more voluminous ones, have been published as special editions either of the Institute of Geography, *Matica Srpska*, or the Vojvodina Academy of Sciences and Arts, or the Belgrade Literary Papers. The most of the papers from the field of regional geography are of a monograph character.

Among these, the majority are represented by geographical monographs of the Vojvodina communes, published by the Institute of Geography. To date, 40 such monographs have been published. These monographs represent very extensive geographical studies prepared according to a unified methodology.

They consist of two main parts - general and specific. In the general part, the results of research on physical geography (geology, geomorphology, climate, pedology, biogeography) and human geography (demography, economy) of the commune as a separate entity are presented. The special part is devoted to the regional and geographical survey of each settlement. Faculty from the Institute of Geography gave their contributions to the fourth volume (devoted to Vojvodina) of the five-volume publication 'SR Serbia', issued by the Belgrade Literary Papers. These contributions represent shorter regional geography studies of the Vojvodina communes.

The Library

The foundation and operation of the Geographic Library is related to the setting-up of the Chair of Geography. The Library had a modest beginning in 1964. It had 716 books. Today, it has a stock of 13,090 books, 215 journal titles, 2450 annual volumes of journals, and 5120 topographic sections, albums, maps, geography logical sections and wall maps, as well as 1,066 BSc. theses. The structure of the book stocks is such that enables effective and updated monitoring of the development of all geographical disciplines. Particularly valuable data can be found in the censuses, complete sets of the Yugoslav Yearbook (1954-1991) and complete sets of the Statistical Yearbooks of Vojvodina (1974-1989). The library also houses the complete sets of hydrological and climatological yearbooks. All BSc., MSc. and PhD theses defended in the institute are also stored in the Library. The Library (78 m²) is divided into three sections. The first section (about 55 m²) is the reading room with 10 seats and with freely accessible bookshelves: the second section (12 m²) is the librarian's room with the catalogue and reference books. The third room (11m²) houses topographical section maps, climatological and hydrological statistics, population censuses, geographical atlases and wall charts.

Over the last thirty-five years, the Institute has achieved important results in the fields of both teaching and research and thus attained its place among the recognised institutes of geography in Europe. Let us mention some of the results. To date, 1,066 students have graduated, while 26 MSc. and 23 PhD degrees have been awarded. The number of monographs and research reviews attest to extremely important results in scientific research: 49 published books - mainly of geographical monographs of the Vojvodina communes, 26 scientific papers, and 35 university textbooks. Researchers of the Institute have furthermore produced about 1500 bibliographic units and been contributing participants in the work of over 100 academic meetings both in-country and abroad.

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