

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Final Count on IJAGR's First Five Years and Post Turkey Reflections

*Donald P. Albert, Department of Geography and Geology, Sam Houston State University,
Huntsville, TX, USA*

INTRODUCTION

Last year I had the opportunity to return to Turkey for a second visit after some thirty years to attend the International Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers (June 4-6, 2014). During that long ago first stay I was an airman with the U.S. Air Force stationed for a one-year tour at Sahintepe, Turkey (near Gemlik). That remote assignment was perched on the "Top of the Mountain" called Sahintepe¹. The site consisted of radios, antennas, and power generators relaying radio signals to and from other remote sites, stations, and defense installations. Sahintepe translates into Falcon Crest, and coincidentally during that time, was the title of a popular television series running from 1981-1990 which the Turks found amusing.

This time, however, I was travelling as the editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* (IJAGR) with wife (Julie), and ten-year old daughter (Jamie) for an extended month-long visit of western Turkey. Our path encompassed a travelling salesperson

network beginning and ending in Istanbul. Other stops along the network, included visits to Bursa, Izmir, Selçuk-Ephesus, Muğla, Fethiye, Çıralı, Antalya, and Bursa (again); completing the itinerary were excursions along the route to the historic sites at Pamukkale, Hierapolis, Koycegiz Lake, Dalyan Strait, Kaunos Ruins, Priene, Miletus, and Didyma. Throughout our month-long visit we experienced the hospitality of the people and were mesmerized by the exotic cultural and physical landscapes.

The Congress convened at Muğla Sıtkı Koçman Üniversitesi (Figure 1) in Muğla, Turkey (southwestern Turkey) from June 4-6, 2014. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman Üniversitesi maintains a modern and vibrant campus commanding a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains (Figure 2). I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Yilmaz Ari, president of the Turkish Association of Geographers, and Dr. Karl Donert, president of the European Association of Geographers, as well as other participants attending the Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers (Figure 3). The Turkish Association of

Figure 1. The main gate of Muğla Sıtkı Koçman Üniversitesi in Muğla, Turkey, projects a modern and professional image (Photo Source: Donald Albert)



Figure 2. The Turkish flag centered across the surrounding mountains viewed from the entrance of Muğla Sıtkı Koçman Üniversitesi (Photo Source: Donald Albert)



Geographers also sponsored a post congress field trip to Koycegiz Lake, Dalyan Strait, and the Kaunos Ruins on June 7, 2014 (Figure 4).

On June 5, 2014, I delivered a paper titled “The First Five Years: *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*” at the Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers (Albert, 2014a). The presentation focused on IJAGR’s accomplishments over its first five volumes, and further, to recognize deficiencies to overcome during the upcoming next five years. This Congress allowed me an opportunity to showcase IJAGR at an international venue. The published congress proceedings are available online from the website of the Turkish Association of Geographers (Albert, 2014a). This note is a completely redrafted abridgment and update of

the original manuscript, but follows a similar organization. This piece mentions some of the tangible and intangible connections developed as a result of attending the Congress.

SYNOPSIS AND UPDATE

For a more thorough account of IJAGR’s accomplishments over its first five years (2010-2014) please see the original manuscript available online (Albert, 2014a). Here just bullet point statements recounting IJAGR statistics are given with numbers reflecting the final count as of December 31, 2014. This is necessary as the gathering occurred in June, 2014, with the abstract and manuscript submitted months be-

Figure 3. Dr. Donald Albert (right), professor of geography at Sam Houston State University and editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research, with Dr. Yilmaz Ari, president of the Turkish Association of Geographers (left), and Dr. Karl Donert (center), president of the European Association of Geographers, alongside signage announcing the International Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers, Muğla University, Muğla, Turkey, June 4-6, 2014 (Photo Source: Donald Albert)



Figure 4. Dr. Albert also participated in the post conference tour of Koycegiz Lake, Dalyan Strait, and Kaunos Ruins on June 7, 2014 (Photo Source: Donald Albert)



Figure 5. Dr. Sermin Tagil, Balıkesir Üniversitesi, Turkey, with Donald Albert, editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research, at the 2014 Congress of Turkish Association of Geographers, Muğla Sıtkı Koçman Üniversitesi. Dr. Tagil is a recent addition to IJAGR's international editorial review board. She specializes in Landscape Ecology, Remote Sensing, GIS, and Geostatistics (Photo Source: Donald Albert)



fore. Therefore, to finalize the count, an update is made available here, and a link provides access to the parent manuscript, “The First Five Years: *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*,” published in *The Proceedings of the International Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers* (Albert, 2014a). Updates are shown in bold text to emphasize changes that have occurred since February, 2014, when the “First Five Years” was submitted to the Congress. IJAGR finished the first five years with four more members (Table 1) including one from Turkey (Figure 5). One of the most promising changes is that the number of citations increased from 50 to 87 between February 8, 2014, and December 15, 2014. Sustaining this trend is important if IJAGR is to secure entrance into the prestigious Web of Knowledge database (Table 2). It is disappointing, however, that the number of subscriptions has remained at about 26 in nine countries. It is important that the number of subscriptions increase if IJAGR is to enjoy more citations; however, the purchase of individual articles from IGI-Global would also spur more citations, and this information is unknown to the author. IJAGR has been successful developing partnerships with organizations including the Applied Geography Conferences, Inc., Applied Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, AfricaGIS, and Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (Table 3).

TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE CONNECTIONS

IJAGR’s participation at the 2014 Congress of the Turkish Association has already had a positive impact. First the conference provided a venue for documenting and disseminating

information on IJAGR’s first five years (Albert, 2014a). Second, the Congress provided an opportunity for the editor-in-chief to network, face-to-face, with geographers from academic and practitioner communities from both Europe and Asia. Third, and a tangible result, is the addition of Dr. Sermin Tagil, Balikesir University, Turkey, to IJAGR’s international editorial review board (Table 1). I also enjoyed meeting and conversing with numerous participants including professors, elected officials, students, and other conference guests.

CONCLUSION

So this synopsis and update of “The First Five Years: *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*” reflects changes in statistics from early in 2014 (Albert, 2014). The changes are current as of December 31, 2014, and offer an accounting of the first five volumes. While there are numerous challenges that IJAGR must overcome, this piece provides a baseline for judging the next five years. This self-assessment spurred a rewriting of our call-for-papers (CFPs). The revised CFPs is one that encourages submissions from scholars representing a wider topical breadth, including those from the underrepresented physical and environmental subfields of geography. Therefore, the revised CFPs is given as a conclusion to this self-assessment. Please feel free to distribute this to potential authors, reviewers, and editors that might contribute toward to the next five years.

The editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research (IJAGR) is encouraging manuscript submissions for regular issues from across the physical, environmental, and human geographies.

Table 1. IJAGR’s Editorial Board and International Review Board, December 3, 2014

- 10 associate editors
- **33 editorial review board members**
- 11 indices including Scopus

Table 2. IJAGR Statistics, 2010-2014

- Table of content items (133)
 - 97 research articles and corresponding authors
 - 36 other (editorial prefaces and reports)
 - 7 continents (see Albert, 2014a & Chasteen, 2014, for explanation)
 - Corresponding authors (28% outside of USA)
 - 70 USA
 - 9 Canada
 - 18 Other countries
- **Acceptance rates of regular submissions**
 - **2010 (37%)**
 - **2011 (48%)**
 - **2012 (47%)**
 - **2013 (40%)**
 - **2014 (47%)**
- **1,785 pages (total)**
 - Volume 1 = 324 pages
 - Volume 2 = 325 pages
 - Volume 3 = 366 pages
 - Volume 4 = 410 pages
 - **Volume 5 = 360 pages**
- 10 special issues
 - geographic education
 - medical geography
 - historical GIS
 - urban geography
 - urban and regional development
 - sustainable development
 - service chaining
 - open source software
 - spatial intelligence
- 9 articles on philosophical approaches to geospatial facilities
 - learning community
 - teaching lab
 - service and education center for faculty and staff
 - virtual map room
 - incident command post for simulation training
 - forward mapping centers
 - community engagement
 - entrepreneurial university model
- 12% articles on physical or environmental applications
- Keywords listed with abstracts (N=624)
 - overall: geographic information systems (44), spatial (30), land use (15)
 - technology: geographic information systems (44), remote sensing (7), and cartography (4)
 - geostatistics: spatial autocorrelation techniques(12)
 - education: education (5), jobs (2)
- Library/university subscriptions
 - Worldwide (26 subscriptions)
 - USA (15 subscriptions)
 - Eight other countries (11)
 - Universities with *bona fide* applied geography degrees (2)
- **87 Google Scholar²**(excludes self-citations for related versions)
 - **2010 (30)**
 - **2011 (20)**
 - **2012 (14)**
 - **2013 (22)**
 - **2014 (1)**

Table 3. Outreach Activities, 2010-2014

- Conference Linkages
 - Applied Geography Specialty Group (Association of American Geographers)
 - Anderson Lectures
- 1994 Anderson Medal, William L. Garrison
- 2003 Anderson Medal, Barry Wellar
- 2010 Anderson Medal, Michael N. DeMers
- 2011 Anderson Medal, Robert B. Honea
 - Class Exercise Award Competition
- 2009 Timothy Hawthorne
- 2010 Brandon Vogt
- 2011 Lara M. P. Byrant
 - Applied Geography Conferences, Inc. 2010-present
 - Dr. Jay Lee, Kent State University, USA
 - Africa GIS 2010-present
 - Dr. Shuaib Lawasa, Makerere University, Uganda
 - Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers/ Mid-South ASPRS 2013 (Silver Level Sponsor)
- Dr. Darrel McDonald, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, USA
- Award
 - IGI Global Awards the 2013 InfoSci®-Journals Distinguished Fellowship to Dr. Donald Albert (IGI-Global, 2013, Albert; 2014b)

IJAGR is a double blind peer-reviewed journal specializing in studies from applied geography that interface with geographic information science and technology (GIS&T). IJAGR is indexed by Elsevier's Scopus, the world's largest citation and abstract database. This journal offers policy analysts, geospatial practitioners, and academicians with studies exemplifying various application domains within applied geospatial research. Manuscripts can be uploaded to IGI Global's Journal Online Submission System available from <http://www.igi-global.com/calls-for-papers/international-journal-applied-geospatial-research/1138>. Those considering proposing a special issue should send a one-page single-spaced prospectus along with resume(s) to the editor-in-chief. Selection decisions will be made by the editor-in-chief in consultation with the associate editors. For more information visit IJAGR's website: www.igi-global.com/IJAGR.

Donald P. Albert
Editor-in-Chief
IJAGR

REFERENCES

- Albert, D. P. (2014a). The first five years: International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research. In M. Ertürk, A. Uzun, & Ş. Danacıoğlu (Eds.), *The Proceedings of the International Congress of the Turkish Association of Geographers* (pp 818-830). Mugla, Turkey: Turkish Association of Geographers Press. Retrieved on December 15, 2014, from <http://www.cd.org.tr/?proceedings&changelang=EN>
- Albert, D. P. (2014b). Interview with Dr. Don Albert, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research (IJAGR) Retrieved on November, 20, 2014, from <http://www.igi-global.com/newsroom/archive/interview-don-albert-editor-chief/1764/>
- Chasteen, T. G. (2014). In search of metalloid-resistant microbes in Antarctica. *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*, 5(3), 93–94.
- Global, I. G. I. (2013). IGI Global Awards the 2013 InfoSci®-Journals Distinguished Fellowship to Dr. Donald Albert. Retrieved on November 20, 2014 from <http://www.igi-global.com/newsroom/archive/igi-global-awards-2013-infosci/1744/>

ENDNOTES

¹ See <http://www.bluejeansplace.com/tuslogdetachment150menu.html> for an account of The United States Logistics Group (TUSLOG), Detachment 150, U.S. Air Force, at Sahin-

tepe, Turkey. This installation has since been dismantled with just ruins (foundations and rock walls) remaining.

² Citations using Advance Search option of Google Scholar. Retrieved December 15, 2014 from <http://scholar.google.com/>.

Donald Patrick Albert is a professor of geography in the Department of Geography and Geology at Sam Houston State University (Texas, U.S.A.). He earned geography degrees from Salem State College (B.S.), Appalachian State University (M.A.), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Ph.D.).