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**I.G.U. WORLD INVENTORY
OF KARST RESEARCHERS
1993**

Comitato scientifico

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FOREWORD

The International Geographical Union, Commission Environmental Changes and Conservation In Karst Areas, is promoting co-operation in environmental research between karstologists. The basis for co-operation is reciprocal knowledge. This inventory represents an effort to spread out information between persons working in different fields and belonging to different groups.

Karstology and Speleology are the two faces of an environmental science that deals not only with the analysis of a peculiar natural "geo-ecosystem" but also with the discovery of the more hidden parts of it. In fact the karst environment is characterised by the presence of a "world without sun," an underground network of cavities partly penetrable by man.

The discovery and exploration of this more hidden part of the underground karst environment are the hobbies of a small army of persons who dedicated a large part of their free time to the exploration activity, the so-called speleologists or cavers.

It is really difficult to say how many active cavers exist now worldwide: probably dozens of thousands. They have explored and surveyed hundreds of thousands of underground cavities both in vadose and in sature environment.

Some of these persons are interested not only in exploration but also in documentation and research and so they cooperate actively with karst scientists.

About karst scientists, they are mostly working on different environmental aspects and natural resources as: karst geology, karst geomorphology, karst hydrology, karst geochemistry, karst biology, karst geography, karst environmental dynamics, etc.

This is manifest if one considers the variety of the types of scientific institutions in the addresses of karst researchers in this inventory.

The polymorphism of karst research is also obvious if one considers the International Organizations either wholly devoted to karst activities or with an important component of karst activities (FINLAYSON & SAURO, 1991).

Between the main organizations the Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS) is mostly aimed by the research on karst caves and strongly supported by the regional and national speleological organizations. It is organised in five internal departments with commissions and groups.

The IGU Commission: "Environmental Changes and Conservation in Karst Areas" established in Washington in 1992 is mostly the expression of the research of geographers on geographical and environmental aspects of karst areas and on their susceptibility to human impact at local, national and global scales.

The "Karst Commission" of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) is supported by hydrogeologists and applied geologists and interested in research on karst water resources.

Some International Geological Correlation Programmes (IGCP), co-sponsored by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and UNESCO are promoting well-defined research programs about karst evolution and resources.

Also inside the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) there is a large number of geomorphologists working in karst environments especially interested in geomorphological evolution.

Even if many of the karst researchers are members of more than one group there is a really dispersion in karst research.

One of the primary objectives of the IGU Commission is to animate a larger co-operation between karst scientists and in this way to improve environmental research on these peculiar ecosystems.

These efforts have already brought to some joint meetings, the publication of some volumes and the promoting of common project.

We are sure that it is possible to promote an in the van interdisciplinary research inside a so various and so vital human and natural framework.

This inventory is not primerly addressed to the common speleologists (which are really too many) but to all the scientists working on karst.

In the first edition of this data base surely a lot of scientists have been missed and so its utility is limited. In any case we hope both that a lot of new compiled form will be send for the second edition and that this "directory" will help in improving an international co-operation in environmental research.

Ugo Sauro
Chairman

*Commission on Environmental
Changes and Conservation in Karst Areas*

I.G.U. WORLD INVENTORY OF KARST RESEARCHERS 1993

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INTRODUCTION

As already outlined in the preliminary report (Meneghel & Bondesan, 1991), this world inventory was at first proposed by the corresponding member of the IGU Study Group "Environmental changes in karst areas (S.88.6)" Catherine Coxon from Dublin. This suggestion was reported in a circular of the Study Group and encouraged the Japanese group, under the guidance of Kazuko Urushibara-Yoshino, to send a proposal form for the inventory.

Ugo Sauro, chairman of the Commission "Environmental Changes and Conservation in Karst Areas", on the occasion of the *International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst Areas* which took place in Italy in September 1991, sent a more complete form to all the members of the group.

To date 217 scientists have answered. This number is now sufficient to understand the identity of the group (which is composed of about 300 corresponding members).

DATA DISPLAY CRITERIA

The following 4 lists are hereby published:

- 1) List in researcher's name order (names alphabetically listed);
- 2) list in researcher's country order (countries alphabetically listed);
- 3) studied countries (countries alphabetically listed);
- 4) list in order according to the fields of study.

We reported the country names as we found them in the form. Some are not proper states, but we followed the compiler indication to distinguish them.

Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and U.S.S.R. may sometimes be incorrectly reported owing to the fact that the inventory was compiled during political and administrative changes.

The name accents are sometimes missing owing to computer editing difficulties.

DATA ANALYSIS

Considerations on the age of karst researchers

As can be seen in the chart in Fig. 1, the modal class of researchers is 41-45 years old; no researcher is younger than 26.

The diagram in Fig. 1 shows a pronounced asymmetry with a tail towards the older age groups.

This distribution is likely to be considered linked with the increase in the number of researchers noted in the last decades, due to the increase in number of university students.

Nationality of karst researchers

Researchers from 34 different countries sent the inventory form.

In Fig. 2 it is shown how in Africa we have just one researcher (from Morocco). More than 15 researchers answered from just four countries (Japan, Italy, Slovenia, U.S.A.).

The majority of European countries have scientists represented in the inventory.

Geographic areas of research

Most researchers work in their own country, but we observed a large number (36 percent) also studying in foreign countries (see Table 1). Only a few are used to working exclusively abroad.

Table 1- Domestic or foreign areas of research.

Age	Working only in own country	Working only in foreign countries	Working in own and foreign countries
< 35 years old	72%	2%	26%
35-50 years old	55%	3%	42%
>50 years old	65%	1%	34%
whole group	62%	2%	36%

Researchers in the 35-50 age group are used to work abroad more than the others; this is probably due to the availability of funds and the propensity to travel. On the other hand, younger and older people work more in their own country, the former because of lack of funds, the latter to avoid tiring journeys.

Studies are carried out in 76 countries. But we did not receive the inventory form from domestic researchers from 37 (49%) of them; those countries are: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Switzerland, Tadzhikistan, Thailand, Tunisie, Usbekistan.

Fig. 1 - Number of researchers per age range

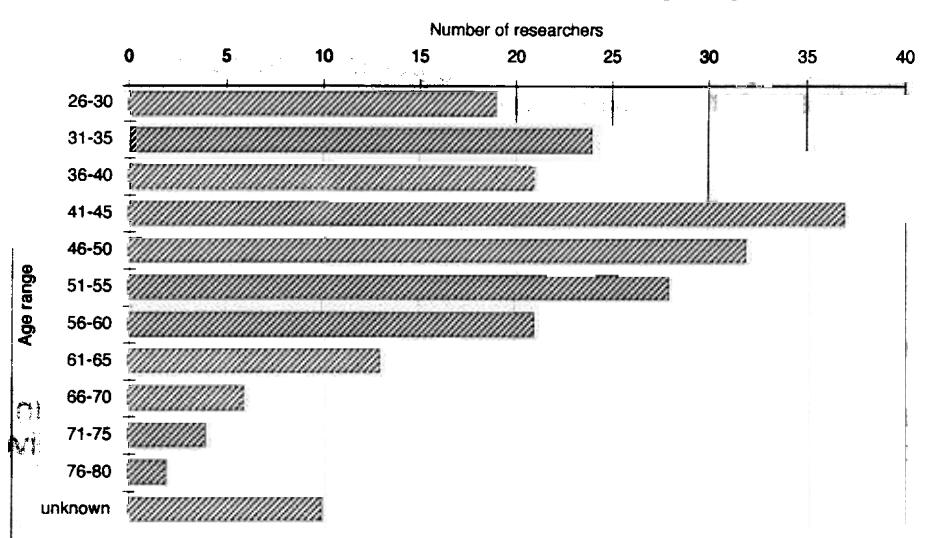


Fig. 3 - Number of preferences per fields of research

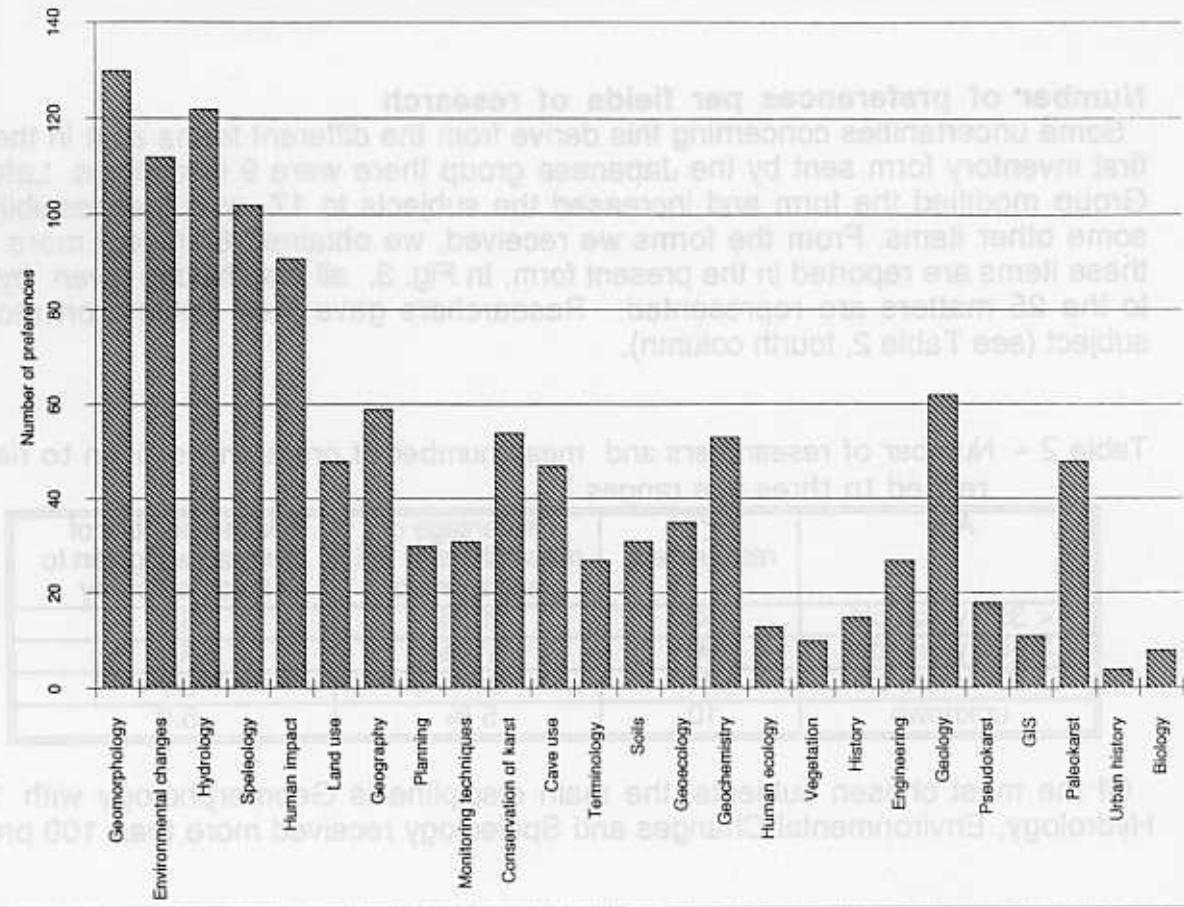
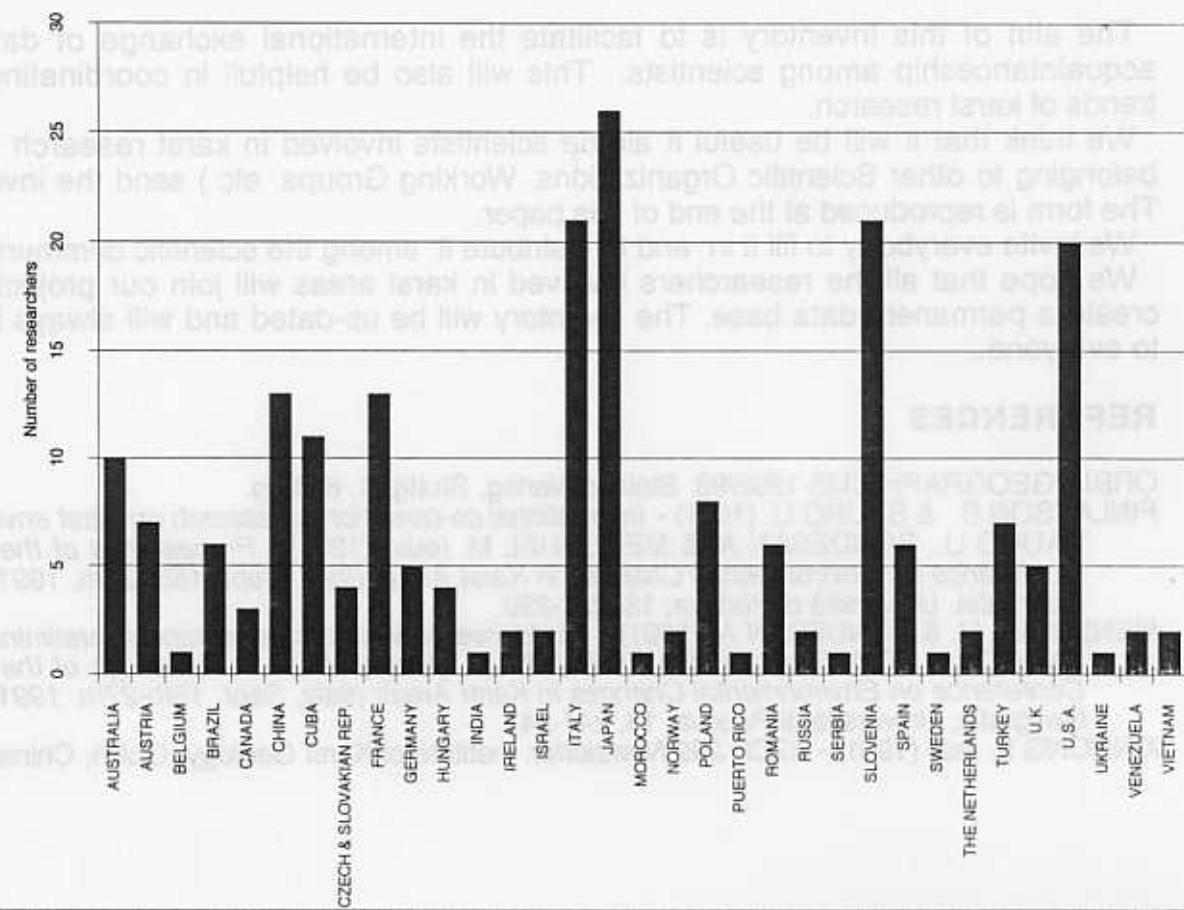


Fig. 2 - Researchers per country



Number of preferences per fields of research

Some uncertainties concerning this derive from the different forms sent in the past. In the first inventory form sent by the Japanese group there were 9 disciplines. Later, the Study Group modified the form and increased the subjects to 17 with the possibility of adding some other items. From the forms we received, we obtained 8 subject more (25 in total); these items are reported in the present form. In Fig. 3, all the choices given by researchers to the 25 matters are represented. Researchers gave their options on more than one subject (see Table 2, fourth column).

Table 2 - Number of researchers and mean number of preferences given to fields of study related to three age ranges .

Age	N° of researchers	Percentage of researchers of the entire group	Mean number of preferences given to fields od study
< 35 years old	43	20 %	5.1
35-50 years old	90	41 %	4.4
>50 years old	74	34 %	5.7
unknown	10	5 %	5.9

Of the most chosen subjects, the main discipline is Geomorphology with 130 options. Hydrology, Environmental Changes and Speleology received more than 100 preferences.

FINAL REMARKS

The aim of this inventory is to facilitate the international exchange of data and the acquaintanceship among scientists. This will also be helpfull in coordinating the future trends of karst research.

We think that it will be useful if all the scientists involved in karst research (also those belonging to other Scientific Organizations, Working Groups, etc.) send the inventory form. The form is reproduced at the end of this paper.

We invite everybody to fill it in and to distribute it among the scientific community.

We hope that all the researchers involved in karst areas will join our project in order to create a permanent data base. The inventory will be up-dated and will always be available to everyone.

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MENEGHEL M. & BONDESAN A. (1991) - *World inventory of karst researchers: preliminary report*. In: SAURO U., BONDESAN A. & MENEGHEL M. (eds) (1991) - *Proceedings of the International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst Areas (Italy, Sept. 15th-27th, 1991)*. Quad. Dip. Geografia, Università di Padova, 13, 241-247.
XINHONG L. (ed) (1991) - *I GCP 299 Newsletter*. Institute of Karst Geology, Guilin, China, 139 pp.

Legend

Fields of study

- a** Geomorphology of karst regions
- b** Environmental changes in karst areas
- c** Hydrology in karst areas
- d** Speleology
- e** Human impact in karst areas
- f** Land use in karst areas
- g** Geography of karst regions
- h** Planning of karst regions
 - Monitoring techniques
- j** Conservation of landscapes, natural monuments and resources
- k** Cave use and management
 - Terminology of karst
- m** Soils in karst areas
- n** Geoecology in karst areas
- o** Geochemistry in karst areas
- p** Human ecology in karst areas
- q** Vegetation in karst areas
 - History of research in karst
- s** Engineering in karst areas
- t** Geology in karst areas
- u** Pseudokarst and parakarst
- v** GIS applications in karst areas
- w** Paleokarst
- x** Urban history in karst areas
- y** Biology in karst areas

Affiliations

- IGU** International Geographical Union
- UIS** Union International de Spéléologie
- IAH** International Association of Hydrogeologists
- IGCP** International Geological Correlation Program
- IAG** International Association of Geomorphologists

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Fields of study: A, b, c, d, e, i, j, k.

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Fields of study: c, e, o, p.

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