



Chronicles and newspapers for the study of droughts, floods and other extremes in South Moravia

Monika Běličnová (1), Lukáš Dolák (1,2), Rudolf Brázdil (1,2)

(1) Global Change Research Centre, AS CR, Brno, Czech Republic, (2) Institute of Geography, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Hydrometeorological extremes (HMEs) affected human society in all times of its development. Information about past droughts and floods as well as other HMEs can be obtained from various kinds of documentary evidence used as the basic source of data for historical climatology and historical hydrology. In this case, chronicles and newspapers for South Moravia (Czech Republic) were selected, because they contain a good description of HMEs, including their severity, extent, course, damage and impacts on society unlike other documentary sources. Different methodological problems associated with the use of information extracted from chronicles and newspapers are mentioned. While the first Moravian chronicles with HMEs reports are mainly from the 16th century, the oldest newspapers in South Moravia were published from the mid-18 century. On the basis of chronicles and newspaper various records were extracted and used for the creation of HMEs database for South Moravia. The obtained information concerns not only the period before systematic meteorological and hydrological measurements but it overlap also with the instrumental period. Data about floods, droughts and other extremes may be used, in combination with other documentary data and instrumental measurements, for the detail study of spatial and temporal variability of HMEs in South Moravia. Based on this evidence, the most disastrous floods and droughts may be further analysed in terms of their spatial extent, severity, synoptic causes and various impacts (loss of human lives, damage to property, socio-economic consequences etc.).