

During past era, Kladno and its surrounding area was an industrial district. Local development started at the end of the 18th century in connection with the discovery of coal seams. With the establishment of steelworks, massive growth of the entire region began in second half of 19th century. An increase in the population brought the need for an effective means of communication and this in turn resulted in this development of local media.

Although local development had started late, Kladno quickly caught up with rest of the country and became really important nationally. During what was called „First Republic,“ there were many types of media but the most important was the labour-press. It was most evident with the social riots and general strike in 1920.

World War II interrupted media publishing and the future situation in Czechoslovakia was not positive. After communist control of the country in 1948, media development stagnated. All officially published titles were leftist. The local media scene also produced some national mass-media that promoted political authorities.

Another opportunity for media growth came following the “Velvet Revolution“ in November 1989. Small and private publishers launched their own media projects but at the end of 20th century, most of the influential print media were owned by international media groups. To the present, there is no definitive scientific publication surveying this interesting development.

This work attempts to describe the evolution of local media in Kladno and its situation in the last decade of 20th century. It studies not just published titles but also the social history and present population, which is important for a complete perspective of the media scene in the region of Kladno.