

Interactive comment on “HydroViz: evaluation of a web-based tool for improving hydrology education” by E. Habib et al.

J. Seibert (Editor)

This manuscript presents an interesting tool for online learning called HydroViz. We have now received two very good reviews on this contribution, which both express major concerns in their evaluation. Both reviewers highlight the issue that while dissemination of this tool can be one valuable aspect, for publication in HESS the contribution should go beyond this. As also indicated by both referees the manuscript in its present form has overlaps with material published on the HydroViz website and in previous publications. This should be avoided. Please add the reference to Habib, E., Y. Ma, and D. Williams (2011) and make sure to avoid overlap. Most importantly, it has to be clear in which aspects this manuscript provides additional information, which has not yet been published previously.

Author response: At the time this manuscript was submitted to HESS, the authors' website contained outdated information about our publication plans; in fact, the manuscripts listed in our website as (Habib, E., Y. Ma, and D. Williams (2011) in AEE journal) are not actually published, or considered for review by any other journals. As such, the HESS doesn't contain any overlap with the authors' own publications. We apologize for any misunderstanding that may have occurred because of the outdated information listed on our own website under the “Publication” tab. The reviewers and the Editor also indicated possible overlap with material on the authors' own website. We point out that the website was intended to be as an early preview of our development since the publication process usually takes significant amount of time. We also point out that our website went through a major revision in which only the main highlights of the HydroViz are now included and proper reference to the current HESS manuscript is listed.

Please address all review comments carefully. A main question that should be addressed in the revised version is the following: What can be learnt in more general aspects from the development of HydroViz? In other words, how might similar projects in hydrology education benefit from experiences with HydroViz?

Author response: We have made a major revision to our manuscript to address this important comment that was raised by the reviewers and the Editor. We revised several sections in the manuscript to indicate how our development can be useful to other similar future efforts in this field. We also included a new section called “Design Principles” to highlight the overall lessons drawn from our work and which can guide and contribute to the enhancement and development of other active hydrology educational systems.