

Interactive comment on “Data expansion: the potential of grey literature for understanding floods” by S. Uhlemann et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper demonstrates that the largest part of documentation on large scale flood events in Germany is "grey literature", i.e., not controlled by commercial publishers and therefore not as easy to detect and access. The value of this work is, on top of the data (documents) collected, in the description of how this collection has been achieved. It is true that, because of the search criteria, part of the grey literature is missing and some conclusions could be biased, as pointed out by one reviewer. Some more discussion on this is needed in the paper (maybe a sensitivity analysis on the searching criteria could be added). Anyway the paper is very valuable in that it shows what's the detectable/accessible literature with tools that everyone has (i.e., internet) and in a relatively short time.

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I enjoyed reading the paper, which is well written and clear. Maybe introduction and discussion could be shortened a little bit (or stratified by subsections) but this is just a matter of taste. I am therefore supportive for the publication of the paper in HESS.

One minor comment:

page 11050, line 20: what is the "grey literature"? You may want to define it briefly in the abstract as well.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 9, 11049, 2012.

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