

1 **Reply to Anonymous Referee #2**

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

12 We thank the referee for his/her positive feedback and revision of our paper.

13 Regarding the discussion of the search criteria presented we will include a subsection in the
14 results chapter dedicated to the discussion of the completeness of the search. We have
15 compiled a detailed answer to this point of concern that was similarly raised by Ref. #1 and
16 would therefore kindly ask the referee and editor to refer to our reply to referee #1 (comment
17 1).

18 *Maybe introduction and discussion could be shortened a little bit (or stratified by*
19 *subsections) but this is just a matter of taste. I am therefore supportive for the publication of*
20 *the paper in HESS.*

21 According to Ref. #1 comments we will restructure the introduction slightly including some
22 aspects currently presented under Methods. In the course of adapting the manuscript we will
23 also consider the suggestion of Ref #2 and include subsections in order to stratify the content
24 and will shorten the introduction and discussion where appropriate. Please see also our reply
25 to technical comment 1 of Referee #1.

26 *One minor comment:*

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

29 We will include a short definition of grey literature in the abstract as well. Thank you for the
30 hint.