

Interactive comment on “Social media as an information source for rapid flood inundation mapping” by J. Fohringer et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 1 September 2015

SPECIFIC REVISION COMMENTS

The paper is well written and the proposed approach is interesting and illustrating a complete process of data extraction and management for rapid flood inundation that introduces a practical. However, some key points are not adequately explained and should be detailed in order to make comprehensible the entire process. In particular,

1) The description of the intermediate phase between the “retrieval of the posts” and their storage where the authors say “After retrieval the posts are pre-processed” indicating the steps of such actions is not clear. It would be useful to make clearer the following aspects: Which are the criteria/instruments that are used in order to clean this collected set of posts? Is it automatic or not?

C1595

2) When the authors speak about “standardization” of posts “the appropriate attributes are individually parsed and converted to a common format” which are these attributes and what kind of common format is chosen (and why)? More details should be presented of the harmonization activities.

3) A more detailed explanation should be presented regarding the database structure used in the PostStorage. What is the design adopted for the organization of the posts? I suggest presenting a description of the Database and the post characterization.

4) The description of the methodological part in the components section should be presented in a way it clarifies better the design choices that are developed later in the implementation one. I also suggest connecting the descriptions in these two sections by referring not only to the components names but also to their ‘behaviour’ organizing in a more structured way the descriptions in the implementation part.

5) When the authors describe the visual interface, it is not very clear which kind of data the user may add (not only from a technological point of view but also of the phenomena). I suggest to illustrate better also this section giving more details about the attributes of the images, how they permit to the user to estimate characteristics of the flood (automatically/which instruments) and how the authors suggest the reliability of these estimates may be rated ?

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 3, 4231, 2015.

C1596