

Interactive comment on “A new web-based system to improve the monitoring of snow avalanche hazard in France” by E. Bourova et al.

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Summary:

The paper reports the development of a web-based snow avalanche information system. It merges different avalanche datasets like avalanche chronicle (EPA), avalanche maps (CLPA) and a classification of inhabited sites exposed to avalanches (SSA) into one common database. The system enables to operate between these different types of data like maps, tables, photos and descriptive parameters. With modular components it can be used for data entry, data search and offers a public open access to avalanche data.

Key elements of judgment:

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The presented web-based system is an innovative approach to bring all sorts of avalanche data together and also to use it for data entry and as avalanche management tool among avalanche paths. What is different to existing web-based systems in other countries is, that it focuses on avalanche paths and combines observations with avalanche hazard maps as well as avalanche occurrence. A great advantage is that photos and documents of avalanche events can be stored and are available in the digital library. Further choosing an open source solutions as much as possible makes the platform adaptable. I also think it is a great benefit that a lot of data and information is available to the public. Nevertheless the paper does not really present novel concepts in management of avalanche data. In my opinion the paper is not really scientific. It is more a description on how different avalanche data are implemented into a web-based system to monitor and evaluate avalanche paths.

Data collection and modification of the avalanche map needs clear guidelines. The authors do not really explain how collected data is peer-reviewed. Further they mention a requirement analysis but the paper does not explain to what kind of users this new platform mainly focuses.

Working through the webpage is not so intuitive and need some introduction. Looking at specific avalanche path on the map, I could not find any further description of past avalanches or specific object data. It seems obvious to click on an avalanche path to get more information, but nothing happens there, at least on the public access.

Overall, I think the authors' work is a worthwhile contribution and should be published.

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