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Web-based data acquisition of flood affected people

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Detailed documentations and assessments of the consequences of floods as well as flood risk analyses are essential for improvements of the flood risk management. However, flood documentation and flood damage collections are difficult and expensive, especially for frequent, small flood events. This results in a lack of data for flood management and research. Therefore, the Internet shall be used for the collection of flood loss information. To make use of the knowledge of the people affected by floods, a user-friendly interface is provided that allows them to communicate their estimation of flood event parameters like flood depth and flow velocity as well as flood damage. The data input is followed by an automatic quality control and analysis step with a direct feedback to the person providing the information. At the end of the process, general flood and flood mitigation information is given. On the one hand, these data collected via the web are stored in a flood damage data base, which supports damage assessments. On the other hand, the data is used to create community based flood maps for the improvement of risk awareness and communication. We aim to present our concept for a community-based data acquisition and map creation process in the context of flood damage estimation.