



An analysis of the evolution of hydrometeorological extremes in newspapers

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In the past few years there has been a growing interest in climate change and its consequences in the form of natural hazards. Until now not enough evidence has been gathered to confirm a general and significant increase in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards. However, it seems that the societal impact of natural disasters is indeed higher now. This fact has been linked to a higher vulnerability, a lower tolerance threshold and a higher social perception. The mass media are one of the main sources of information about natural hazards and they have a decisive influence on the general public's perception and, occasionally also on the decisions taken by politicians in this field.

This contribution analyzes the evolution of news about natural hazards and climate change over the past 25 years. An ACCESS database has been built and all the information about these topics published by one particular Spanish journal has been included. The database includes data such as the location of each specific article in the newspaper, its length, the number of pictures and figures, the headlines and a synthesis of the published information, including all the instrumental data. The study has focused on hydrometeorological extremes, mainly floods, droughts, and hail, in the Northeast of the Iberian Peninsula. The number of headlines per event, trends and other data have been analyzed and compared with hydrometeorological information, in order to identify any bias that could lead to an erroneous perception of the phenomenon.