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SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THE REPORTING OF DISASTERS

Gambo Shehu Nababa
&
Hassan Alhaji Ya'u

Abstract:

This study examined the use of social networks in sharing information about the 2012 floods disaster in the Nigeria. It examined the social networking sites the youth used in sharing information and the type of information shared. The flooding affected over seven million people, displacing 2.3 million and resulting in the death of 363 persons. Using a structured questionnaire, the study surveyed 107 users of social networking sites. The findings indicated that youth played a very significant role in quick dissemination of information about the floods through the social networks. It also indicated that the social networks hold great potential in disseminating relevant information during mass emergencies.

Keywords: *social networks, reporting, disasters*