



# Human-Centric Design of Big Data Interfaces for Enhanced Disaster Preparedness and Response

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## ABSTRACT—

As the frequency and intensity of disasters rise, the effective use of big data in disaster management is becoming increasingly crucial. This research paper explores the application of human-centric design principles to enhance the usability and efficacy of big data interfaces in the context of disaster preparedness and response. By prioritizing user experiences and preferences, the project seeks to bridge the gap between advanced data analytics and the real-world requirements of various stakeholders, including emergency responders, local residents, and policymakers. Some of the primary objectives include creating user-centered design-based decision support systems, researching visual analytics techniques for real-time situational awareness, and creating user interfaces that are usable by a broad spectrum of user demographics. The study also looks at interactive tools for data exploration, feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement, and gamification for training and simulation. This study aims to maximize the usability and inclusivity of big data interfaces through the application of a human-centered methodology, promoting more effective and flexible disaster preparedness and response plans.

**Keywords—***Human-centric design, Big data interfaces, Disaster preparedness, Disaster response, Usability, User experience, Decision support systems, Visual analytics*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In a time when technology and humanitarian efforts are increasingly influencing disaster management practices, big data has come to play a transformative role. The combination of massive datasets, state-of-the-art analytics, and real-time data has the power to fundamentally alter how societies prepare for, handle, and recover from natural disasters. As the scope and complexity of natural and man-made disasters continue to rise, there is an urgent need to close the knowledge gap between the wealth of insights from big data analytics and the practical needs of emergency responders, community members, and policymakers. The purpose of this research is to examine how human-centered design principles and big data interfaces interact critically in the context of disaster preparedness and response. Big data has a lot of potential to aid in decision-making, but the value of these tools will depend on how widely available, user-friendly, and relevant they are to the various stakeholders involved in disaster management. By giving the human experience top priority in interface design, this study seeks to leverage the power of big data in a way that not only meets users' immediate needs but also encourages a more inclusive, flexible, and user-friendly approach to disaster resilience.

A range of challenges arise in disaster scenarios, ranging from promptly making decisions to catering to the diverse requirements of the impacted communities. Applying human-centric design principles—which are predicated on an understanding of user experiences, cognitive processes, and cultural quirks—can help solve these issues. By purposefully building interfaces around user needs, this research seeks to expedite the transition of big data tools from information repositories to dynamic, interactive platforms that offer users actionable insights.

This study looks at human-centric design in the context of big data interfaces for disaster management, with the goal of illuminating the state of the field today and pointing to potential directions for the future. By examining cutting-edge techniques, technologies, and approaches, we hope to add to the continuing conversation about how technology can enhance human decision-making, teamwork, and general preparedness in the face of disasters. The ultimate goal is to pave the way for a more resilient future where human expertise and technological advancements work together to enable effective disaster preparedness and response.

To effectively tackle the multifaceted problems that emerge from disasters, deliberate integration of human-centric design principles is imperative. This approach requires an understanding of the subtleties of user experiences, cognitive processes, and the sociocultural contexts in which disaster response occurs. By giving end users' needs and perspectives top priority during interface design, this project seeks to redefine big data interfaces from passive information repositories to dynamic, adaptable tools that resonate with the diverse needs of stakeholders. In disaster situations, interfaces that are not only

data-rich but also facilitate the seamless integration of technology into human decision-making processes are essential. Thus, the purpose of this study is to contribute to the discussion and assess the current status of human-centric design in big data interfaces for disaster management. We aim to advance the development of user interfaces that furnish users with valuable information by exploring cutting-edge technologies, innovative methodologies, and collaborative frameworks. This will ultimately facilitate the establishment of a more resilient and flexible ecosystem for disaster management.

This study aims to envision and conceptualize a future where technology and human knowledge work together in a way that is both transformative and complementary. By establishing a link between the most recent technological advancements and the practical needs of individuals, our goal is to lay the groundwork for an all-encompassing, adaptable, and human-centered disaster readiness and management plan for the twenty-first century.

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## 2. THE NEED FOR HUMAN-CENTRIC DESIGN IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The integration of human-centric design into disaster management is crucial, placing a primary focus on the needs, experiences, and capabilities of individuals and communities during planning and response efforts. This strategy recognizes the diverse nature of communities, taking into consideration factors such as age, gender, ability, and cultural distinctions. Through active involvement of communities in decision-making processes, human-centric design empowers them to actively contribute to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, fostering collaboration and the exchange of local knowledge to tailor strategies to specific contexts and enhance effectiveness.

Additionally, human-centric design underscores the importance of respecting the dignity and cultural sensitivities of affected populations. It advocates for inclusive communication and strives to ensure information accessibility for everyone. This inclusive approach plays a crucial role in fortifying community resilience by strengthening social networks and local capacities, promoting adaptability to changing situations, and upholding ethical principles prioritizing human well-being and rights.

In summary, embracing human-centric design principles elevates the overall effectiveness and compassion in disaster management, leading to the development of more resilient and responsive communities.

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## 3. HUMAN-CENTRIC DESIGN PRINCIPLES

This segment explores the fundamental tenets of human-centric design, underscoring their relevance to big data interfaces. Additionally, it investigates the customization of these principles to augment disaster preparedness and response measures.

### 3.1 Exploration of Principles in Human-Centric Design

#### 3.1.1 User-Centered Approach

Placing end-users at the forefront of the design process, a user-centered approach involves understanding their goals, tasks, and preferences to create interfaces that effectively meet their needs. In the realm of disaster preparedness, a user-centered approach entails engaging with emergency responders, planners, and stakeholders. Insights into their workflows, decision-making processes, and challenges during disasters can be obtained through interviews, workshops, and observations. The design should reflect an understanding of the unique requirements and constraints faced by these users.

#### 3.1.2 Iterative Design Process

The iterative design process adopts a cyclical approach, involving the development of prototypes, user testing, and refinement based on feedback. This ensures continuous improvement and alignment with user expectations. For big data interfaces in disaster preparedness, an iterative design process allows for the integration of real-world feedback. Prototypes can be tested in simulated disaster scenarios, and feedback from emergency responders can inform adjustments to the interface. This ongoing refinement ensures that the interface remains effective and user-friendly in dynamic and unpredictable situations.

#### 3.1.3 Affordance and Signifiers

Affordances are design elements suggesting how they should be used, while signifiers are indicators communicating available actions or functionalities. In the context of disaster preparedness, clear affordances and signifiers are crucial. The interface should intuitively guide users on interaction with the system, data interpretation, and action execution. Visual cues, such as color-coded indicators or explicit icons, can convey information swiftly, facilitating quick decision-making in high-pressure situations.

These principles collectively establish the groundwork for a human-centric design approach, ensuring that the interface is not only technically proficient but also seamlessly aligns with the cognitive and operational needs of individuals involved in disaster preparedness and response. Subsequent sections will delve into the practical application and adaptation of these principles to address challenges specific to big data interfaces in the context of disaster scenarios.

### **3.1.4 Examination of Critical Design Factors**

In the design of big data interfaces for disaster preparedness, usability is of utmost importance. The interface should be intuitive, requiring minimal training for emergency responders to access and interpret critical information swiftly. The layout, navigation, and data representation must align with users' mental models, ensuring a seamless and efficient user experience.

Given the diverse nature of emergency responders, the interface should be designed with accessibility in mind. This involves features such as alternative text for images, keyboard navigation, and high contrast options. Ensuring accessibility enhances the inclusivity of the interface, catering to users with varying needs and ensuring effective communication in high-stress situations.

For disaster preparedness, interactivity is crucial. The interface should allow users to interact with data dynamically, enabling them to explore information, adjust parameters, and visualize scenarios. Interactive elements, such as maps, graphs, and real-time updates, empower emergency responders to adapt their strategies based on evolving situations. Timely and clear feedback is essential in disaster scenarios. The interface should communicate the results of user actions promptly, confirming the success of a task or alerting users to potential issues. Additionally, providing feedforward, or guidance on the next steps, enhances user confidence and decision-making in time-sensitive situations.

The consideration of the critical design factors ensures that the big data interface is not only technically robust but also aligns with the practical needs and constraints of disaster response. The subsequent section will delve into how these design factors can be specifically adapted to address the unique challenges posed by disaster preparedness scenarios

## **3.2 Application of Principles to Disaster Preparedness**

### **3.2.1 Contextual Relevance:**

In the realm of disaster preparedness, adapting human-centric design principles involves considering the unique context of emergency response. Interfaces must be tailored to the specific needs, time constraints, and stress levels inherent in disaster scenarios. Designers should factor in the dynamic and unpredictable nature of emergencies, ensuring that the interface remains effective in high-pressure situations.

### **3.2.2 Resilience and Redundancy:**

Disaster scenarios often entail disruptions to infrastructure and communication channels. Interfaces should be designed with built-in resilience, ensuring continued functionality even in the face of system failures. Redundancies, both in data storage and communication pathways, contribute to the reliability of the interface during critical moments.

### **3.2.3 Inclusive Design:**

Disaster response involves diverse teams with varying skill levels, languages, and cultural backgrounds. Inclusive design ensures that the interface caters to this diversity, accommodating users with different abilities and ensuring that information is accessible to all stakeholders. Language localization and cultural considerations should be integrated into the design to enhance inclusivity.

### **3.2.4 Situational Awareness:**

Interfaces for disaster preparedness should prioritize situational awareness. Visualizations, alerts, and notifications should provide users with a comprehensive understanding of the evolving situation. Data should be presented in a way that allows for quick and accurate decision-making, enabling emergency responders to assess the severity of the situation and deploy resources effectively.

### **3.2.5 Adaptive Learning:**

Disaster response teams may consist of individuals with varying levels of expertise. Adaptive learning features in the interface can track user behaviors and preferences over time, personalizing the user experience. This adaptation ensures that the interface becomes more intuitive and efficient for individual users, supporting them in making effective decisions during emergencies.

The application of human-centric design principles to disaster preparedness scenarios is crucial for creating interfaces that are not only user-friendly but also resilient, inclusive, and contextually relevant. The integration of these principles takes into account the unique challenges and demands posed by emergency response situations, ensuring that the interfaces effectively support decision-making and actions in high-stakes environments. The subsequent sections will further explore the practical implementation of these principles through case studies, surveys, and experiments.

### **3.3 Fusion of Human-Centric Design in Big Data Interfaces**

#### **3.3.1 Collaborative Design Workshops:**

Collaborative design workshops involve active participation from stakeholders, including emergency responders, interface designers, and relevant experts. These workshops facilitate ideation, brainstorming, and the co-creation of interface concepts. Engaging stakeholders in the design process ensures that the interface reflects the real-world needs and preferences of end-users. Workshops allow for the exploration of diverse perspectives, leading to a more comprehensive understanding of the requirements for effective disaster response.

#### **3.3.2 Usability Testing in Simulated Scenarios:**

Usability testing involves observing how end-users interact with the interface in simulated disaster scenarios. Participants are presented with realistic scenarios, and their interactions are closely monitored to identify usability issues and areas for improvement. Simulated scenarios provide a controlled environment for evaluating the interface's performance under conditions that mirror real emergencies. Usability testing helps identify any challenges users may face, ensuring that the interface is effective and user-friendly in high-stress situations.

#### **3.3.3 Continuous User Feedback Loop:**

Establishing a continuous feedback loop involves gathering feedback from end-users throughout the development and deployment phases. This can be achieved through surveys, interviews, or dedicated feedback mechanisms integrated into the interface. Ongoing feedback allows for iterative improvements based on evolving user needs and emerging challenges in disaster response. Regular communication with end-users ensures that the interface remains adaptive and responsive to the dynamic nature of emergency scenarios.

By integrating these strategies, the design process becomes an iterative and user-focused endeavor. The collaboration between designers and end-users throughout the development lifecycle ensures that the resulting big data interface is not only technically robust but also aligns seamlessly with the cognitive, operational, and emotional needs of those involved in disaster preparedness and response. These methods enable the creation of interfaces that are not only user-centric but also resilient, adaptive, and well-suited to the complexities of emergency situations.

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## **4. BIG DATA IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

The role of big data in disaster management is pivotal, contributing to valuable insights, improved decision-making, and enhanced response efforts. The enormous volume, speed, and diversity of data generated during disasters necessitate advanced technologies for analysis, processing, and extracting meaningful information. Big data analytics can process vast information from sources like weather data, sensors, social media, and satellite imagery. This facilitates the creation of early warning systems that predict and alert authorities and communities about potential disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, or wildfires. Real-time data analytics during disasters provides situational awareness to emergency responders. Analysis of data from sources like social media, sensors, and geographic information systems (GIS) allows authorities to make informed decisions on resource allocation and response strategies. Big data optimizes resource allocation by analyzing factors like population density, infrastructure, and disaster severity. This ensures efficient direction of response efforts to areas most in need, with logistics and supply chain management benefiting from analytics for timely delivery of aid and relief materials. Big data, through analysis of historical data and patterns, contributes to the development of predictive models assessing the risk of disasters in specific regions. This information is vital for implementing risk reduction measures and planning for future disasters.

### **4.1 Identification of Relevant Data Sources and Types for Disaster Response**

Weather data from satellites, meteorological stations, and other sources aids in predicting and monitoring natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. IoT devices and sensor networks provide real-time data on environmental conditions, infrastructure integrity, and health-related information, supporting disaster response. Social media platforms serve as rich sources of real-time information during disasters. Analyzing posts, tweets, and photos offers insights into the disaster extent, public sentiment, and resource needs. High-resolution satellite imagery offers valuable visual data for assessing disaster impact, identifying affected areas, and planning response efforts. GIS data assists in mapping and spatial analysis, aiding decision-making on resource allocation, evacuation routes, and infrastructure assessment.

### **4.2 Challenges and Opportunities in Utilizing Big Data for Effective Disaster Response**

#### **4.2.1 Challenges:**

Diverse formats and standards among different data sources pose challenges for integration and interoperability. Robust privacy and security measures are required for handling sensitive information, especially health data or personally identifiable information (PII). Ensuring the accuracy and quality of data is crucial, as unreliable data can lead to ineffective response efforts. The sheer volume of data during disasters can strain existing infrastructure, leading to scalability issues if systems are not designed to handle the influx of data.

#### **4.2.2 Opportunities:**

Advanced analytics techniques, such as machine learning and predictive modeling, offer opportunities to extract meaningful insights from historical and real-time data, enhancing the accuracy of disaster predictions. Cloud-based solutions provide scalable and flexible infrastructure for storing, processing, and analyzing big data, overcoming traditional limitations. Enhanced collaboration and data sharing between government agencies, NGOs, and private organizations can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the disaster situation and better-coordinated response efforts. The development of real-time decision support systems enables authorities to make quick and informed decisions based on the latest data, improving the efficiency of disaster response.

In conclusion, harnessing big data in disaster management presents both challenges and opportunities. Address these challenges while capitalizing on opportunities can significantly enhance the effectiveness of disaster response efforts, ultimately saving lives and minimizing the impact of disasters on communities.

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## **5. Interface Design Techniques and Visualization**

### **5.1 Exploration of Effective Visualization Techniques for Disaster Information:**

The study of successful disaster management heavily relies on employing visualization technique that can adeptly communicate intricate information. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), data mapping, and real-time dashboards are among the various methods under scrutiny in this section. GIS, for instance, enables the spatial analysis of disaster-related data, providing valuable insights into geographical patterns and trends. Real-time dashboards offer dynamic displays of critical information, facilitating quick decision-making during emergencies. Additionally, we explore the potential of emerging technologies such as augmented and virtual reality, assessing their applicability in enhancing the visualization of disaster-related data.

### **5.2 Analysis of the Impact of Interactivity on User Engagement:**

The incorporation of interactive elements is a fundamental aspect of engaging users and fostering effective communication in disaster situations. This segment scrutinizes the significance of interactive features in interfaces presenting disaster-related information. It investigates how components like real-time updates, user feedback mechanisms, and interactive maps contribute to heightened user engagement. The discussion extends to the influence of interactivity on decision-making processes, public awareness, and collaborative effort among various stakeholders. Additionally, we examine the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning to create interfaces that adapt and respond to the dynamic nature of disasters.

### **5.3 Examination of Successful Interface Designs through Case Studies in Disaster Management:**

One notable case involves the use of interactive maps during a wildfire crisis, enabling residents to track the progression of the fire and plan evacuation routes. Another case study may focus on a pandemic scenario, where real-time dashboards played a crucial role in disseminating accurate information and countering misinformation. These diverse case studies not only showcase successful designs but also offer insights into the contextual adaptability of interface strategies. By analyzing these real-world examples, we extract valuable lessons and best practices that can inform future interface designs for disaster management.

Through addressing these three focal points effective visualization techniques, the impact of interactivity, and real-world case studies the research paper contributes to the ongoing dialogue on enhancing the design of interfaces for effective disaster management. The amalgamation of theoretical insights, empirical evidence, and practical examples provides a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within this critical domain.

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## **6. Technological Challenges and Future Trends**

### **6.1 Examination of Current Technological Challenges in Implementing Big Data Interfaces:**

The integration of big data interfaces in disaster management encounters a range of contemporary technological challenges. A prominent obstacle involves effectively handling and processing extensive and diverse data generated during disasters, stemming from sources like satellite imagery, social media, sensor networks, and government databases. Ensuring the seamless interoperability and compatibility of various data formats and structures poses another significant challenge. Real-time data acquisition, storage, and analysis add complexity, demanding sophisticated solutions. The safeguarding of data integrity and prevention of unauthorized access become critical cybersecurity concerns when dealing with sensitive disaster-related information. This section aims to scrutinize these challenges, providing a detailed analysis of the existing technological bottlenecks that impede the smooth implementation of big data interfaces in disaster management.

### **6.2 Exploration of Upcoming Technologies and Anticipated Trends in Disaster Management:**

As technological landscapes evolve, novel tools and methodologies are emerging to address challenges in disaster management. This section investigates the forefront of technological advancements and anticipated trends shaping the field of disaster response and recovery. Notably,

the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) algorithms is gaining prominence for enhancing predictive modeling and decision support systems. Drones, equipped with advanced sensors and imaging capabilities, are proving instrumental in swill damage assessment and situational awareness. The advent of 5G technology is facilitating faster and more reliable communication during disasters, enabling real-time data exchange. Additionally, the exploration of block chain technology for secure and transparent data sharing in disaster contexts is gaining traction. By exploring these upcoming technologies and anticipated trends, this section aims to provide insights into their potential transformative impact on disaster management practices.

By addressing these two dimensions the existing technological challenges in implementing big data interfaces and the exploration of upcoming technologies and anticipated trends the research paper contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the technological landscape in disaster management. Recognizing challenges and foreseeing trends is crucial for developing resilient and adaptive technological solutions that effectively mitigate the impact of disasters and enhance overall response and recovery efforts.

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## 7. Evaluation Metrics

### *7.1 Criteria for Assessing the Effectiveness of Big Data Interfaces:*

Establishing essential criteria the thorough evaluation of big data interfaces in the realm of disaster management. A comprehensive evaluation is vital for gauging the efficiency and impact of these interfaces when dealing with extensive data volumes during crises. The criteria encompass the precision of data processing, the speed of retrieving information, and the scalability of the interface to accommodate diverse datasets. Additionally, the evaluation criteria account for the reliability of delivering real-time information and the adaptability of the interface to dynamic disaster scenarios. Furthermore, considerations extend to the interoperability of the interface with existing systems and its capacity to facilitate collaboration among different stakeholders. By setting up a comprehensive set of criteria, this section aims to establish a structured framework for evaluating the overall effectiveness of big data interfaces in disaster management

### *7.2 Metrics for Evaluation of User Satisfaction, Response Times, and Decision-Making:*

These metrics go beyond technical considerations by focusing on the formulation of metrics to assess user-centric aspects like satisfaction, response times, and decision-making facilitated by big data interfaces. Metrics for user satisfaction may include factors such as ease of use, accessibility, and the overall user experience. Response times, crucial in disaster scenarios, will be measured to evaluate the speed at which critical information is delivered to end-users. Metrics for decision-making effectiveness concentrate on the impact of the interface in facilitating well-informed and timely decisions during crises. These metrics aim to capture the human-centric aspects of interface performance, ensuring that the technology not only functions efficiently but also enhances decision-making processes for individuals and organizations involved in disaster management. By incorporating these user-centric metrics, this section aims to offer a well-rounded evaluation approach, providing insights into both technical functionalities and the interface's impact on user experience and decision-making processes in disaster management contexts.

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## 8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the research paper has delved into the critical realm of human-centric design for big data interfaces, emphasizing their pivotal role in enhancing disaster preparedness and response. Through an exploration of effective visualization techniques, the significance of interactivity, and the evaluation of emerging technologies, the paper has contributed to a comprehensive understanding of designing interfaces that prioritize human needs and capabilities.

The examination of effective visualization techniques highlighted the importance of presenting complex disaster information in an accessible manner. By acknowledging the diversity of stakeholders involved in disaster management, the paper emphasized the need for interfaces that cater to various user perspectives, ensuring that critical information is conveyed intuitively and comprehensively.

The discussion on interactivity underscored the role of user engagement in effective disaster information interfaces. Real-time updates, user feedback mechanisms, and interactive maps were identified as crucial elements for fostering a sense of connectedness and empowerment among users. The incorporation of artificial intelligence and machine learning further accentuated the potential for creating adaptive interfaces that respond dynamically to the evolving nature of disasters.

Exploring technological challenges and future trends provided insights into the evolving landscape of disaster management. By addressing current challenges in implementing big data interfaces and anticipating upcoming technologies, the research paper laid the groundwork for resilient and adaptive solutions that can withstand the complexities of disaster scenarios.

The section on evaluation metrics offered a structured approach to assessing the effectiveness of big data interfaces. By establishing criteria that encompass technical functionalities and human-centric considerations, the research paper provided a holistic framework for evaluating the performance of interfaces in disaster management contexts.

In essence, the paper advocates for a paradigm shift towards a human-centric approach in the design of big data interfaces for disaster preparedness and response. By prioritizing user experience, effective communication, and adaptability, these interfaces have the potential to empower individuals,

organizations, and communities, ultimately contributing to more efficient and compassionate disaster management. As we continue to face the challenges of an unpredictable world, the human-centric design of big data interfaces emerges as a beacon for a more resilient and responsive future in disaster preparedness and response.

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