

Information Value of the Avalanche Bulletin for snowsports

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1 INTRODUCTION

In the Ski Touring Study carried out between 2003 and 2005, 78% of the ski tourers observed exhibited inadequate behaviour in dangerous spots. 90% of the ski tourers expressed feeling a positive sense of safety. One cause for this discrepancy is the lack of an objective information base. Only 7% are able to render the information offered by the Avalanche Bulletin fully.

2 METHODE

Several possibilities of effective information communication regarding the Avalanche Bulletin were evaluated in the study. Four test groups (N = 40 persons) were confronted with various Avalanche Bulletin versions.

- 1) pure text form
- 2) text form with key information highlighted
- 3) text form and key information visualised with pictograms
- 4) text form highlighted and pictograms

Extraction and rendition performance of relevant information were assessed in a subsequent interview.

The evaluation took place with a multivariate variance analysis. The two independent variables are 1. Typeface (normal typeface –vs- highlighted typeface) and 2. Visualisation (no pictograms –vs- pictograms). The three dependent variables are 1. the specific value of the spontaneous answers given during the interview, 2. the specific value of spontaneous as well as requested answers, and 3. the specific value of quality assessment in the terrain test.

3 RESULTS

The specific values regarding the rendition of relevant information in the spontaneous interview are depicted in chart 1 with „0“ = nothing and „1“ = complete. The specific values regarding requested answers during the interview are depicted in chart 2.

Chart 1. specific value of rendering with spontaneous answers

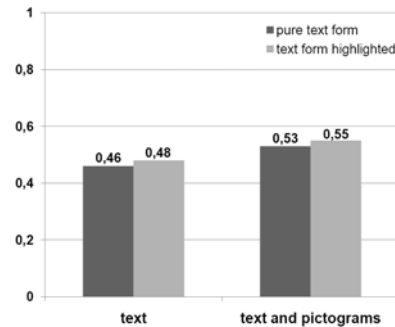
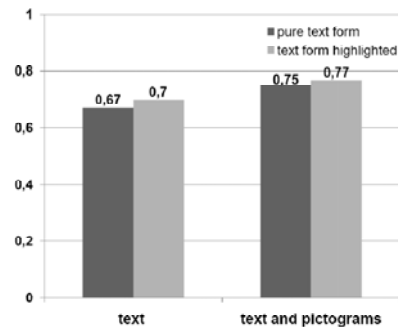


Chart 2. specific value of rendering with requested answers



There is no significant difference in the independent variables in regards to the spontaneous interview. The rendering of information when answers were requested was clearly higher than the ones given spontaneously and significantly highest ($p=.005$) in regards to the visualised Avalanche Bulletin. There were no significant differences in regards to the assessment values in the terrain test.

4 DISKUSSION

The proper structuring and depiction of the information made available in the Avalanche Bulletin will enhance extraction and rendition capabilities. This conclusion offers starting points for the design and strategy of the Avalanche Bulletin in order to improve the processing of information.

10 REFERENCES

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