

# Gender matters in disasters: a literature review on women's disaster information behavior



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## Introduction

**Natural disasters** :“events resulting from an abnormal intensity of a natural agent”  
(Schwarze & Wagner, 2004).

- ✓ Acute
- ✓ Life-threatening
- ✓ Safety concerning events

earthquakes,  
floods, hurricanes,  
typhoons, fires,  
tsunamis, volcanic  
eruptions etc.



**Crisis** : “a catchall concept encompassing all types of un-ness events”, which are described as events or situations that are unwanted, unexpected, and almost unmanageable (Boin, Kofman-Bos & Overdijk).

# Method

## Databases & Search engines

- ✓ Web of Science
- ✓ PubMed
- ✓ Eric
- ✓ Doaj
- ✓ SSRN
- ✓ Science Direct
- ✓ Sage
- ✓ Google Scholar
- ✓ Sofia

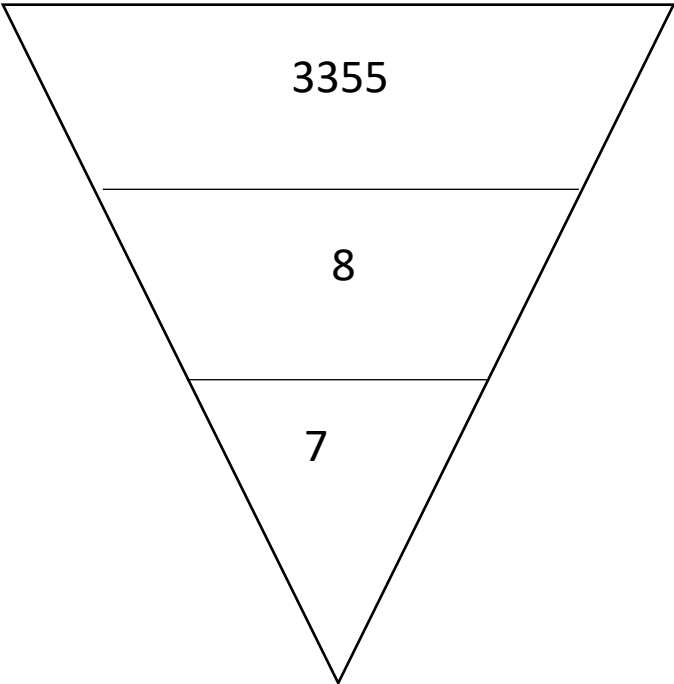
Database	Limits	Query	Retrieved res.	Relevant res.
Google Scholar	2013-2023, English	"information seeking behavior" disaster -covid women gender sex	905	6
		information seeking behavior earthquake -covid women gender sex	119	0
		"information needs" earthquake -covid women gender sex	817	0
Sofia	2013-2023, article English, in "University of Montreal" option	kw:("information seeking") ET kw:(disaster) ET kw:(women) SAUF kw:(covid)	5	0
		kw:("information behavior") ET kw:(disaster) ET kw:(women) SAUF kw:(covid)	0	0
		kw:("information need") ET kw:(disaster) ET kw:(women) SAUF kw:(covid)	5	0
Web of Science	2013-2023, English, article (abstract metadata field)	information seeking and disaster and women not covid	9	0
PubMed	2013-2023, English	PMC Search term (((information seeking) AND earthquake) AND women) AND gender NOT covid Clear inputSearch	1297	1
Eric	2013-2023, English	abstract(Information) AND abstract(disaster) AND abstract(gender)	13	0
Doaj	2013-2023, English	disaster information women	2	0
SSRN	English, "Title, Abstract & Keywords" option	information disaster gender	21	1
		information disaster women	14	0
Science Direct	2013-2023, English, "Title, abstract or author-specified keywords" option	information disaster women	51	0
		information disaster gender	37	0
Sage	2013-2023, English, "abstract" option	information disaster women	24	0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3355</b>	<b>8</b>

**Inclusion criteria:** last 10 years, English articles

**Exclusion criteria:** No COVID

**Selection criteria :** titles + abstract

# Method



Created with mapchart.net

year	ref
2020	Hapsari, E. D., Jayanti, R. D., Nugraheni, D., & Panuntun, R. A. (2020). Information needs in pregnant women living in disaster prone area. <i>Enfermería Clínica</i> , 30, 80–86. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enfcli.2019.12.032">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enfcli.2019.12.032</a>
2021a	Lachlan, K. A., Hutter, E., Gilbert, C., & Spence, P. R. (2021a). Need for cognition and rumination: Alternate explanations for sex differences in disaster information seeking. In <i>Progress in Disaster Science</i> (Vol. 11, p. 100180). Elsevier BV. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pdisas.2021.100180">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pdisas.2021.100180</a>
2021b	Lachlan, PhD, K. A., Spence, PhD, P., Hutter, MA, E., & Gilbert, MA, C. (2021b). Exploring sex differences in information needs, media dependencies, and attention allocation during Hurricane Dorian. In <i>Journal of Emergency Management</i> (Vol. 19, Issue 5, pp. 439–449). Weston Medical Publishing. <a href="https://doi.org/10.5055/jem.0652">https://doi.org/10.5055/jem.0652</a>
2022	Lachlan, PhD, K. A., Gilbert, MA, C., Hutter, PhD, E., Rainear, PhD, A., & Spence, PhD, P. R. (2022). Sex differences in informational needs and media dependencies during the 2018 California wildfires. In <i>Journal of Emergency Management</i> (Vol. 20, Issue 4, pp. 341–350). Weston Medical Publishing. <a href="https://doi.org/10.5055/jem.0588">https://doi.org/10.5055/jem.0588</a>
2023	Lachlan, K. A., Gilbert, C., Hutter, E., & Spence, P. R. (2023). The 2018 California wildfires: examining sex differences in response to crisis communication and underlying processes. In <i>Atlantic Journal of Communication</i> (Vol. 31, Issue 2, pp. 85–96). Informa UK Limited. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/15456870.2023.2173363">https://doi.org/10.1080/15456870.2023.2173363</a>
2020	Setyastuti, Y., Hanief, L., & Mahmudi, N. (2021). Disaster Communication and Information Literacy of Mothers in Facing Flood Disasters in Banjar Regency. <i>Library Philosophy and Practice (ejournal)</i> . 6559. <a href="https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6559">https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6559</a>
2018	Samouei, R., & Hajari, S. (2018). Women's information needs in mental health in disasters. <i>Journal of education and health promotion</i> , 7, 170. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4103/jehp.jehp_103_18">https://doi.org/10.4103/jehp.jehp_103_18</a>

## Results

### Context

- ✓ 4 studies : comparative (men / women)
- ✓ Information science concepts: Secondary function
- ✓ NO information science perspective or model

3 main informational dimensions are explored:

- information seeking
- information needs
- information literacy

## Results

### Demographic structure of research participants

- ✓ Lachlan et al.(2021a, 2021b, 2022, 2023): People whose residence is affected by Hurricane Dorian, the Camp Wildfire and Woolsey Wildfire.
- ✓ Samouei & Hajari (2018): managers, planners, and faculty members of psychology or psychotherapy departments who worked with Iranian women after earthquake in Iran in 2018
- ✓ Setyastuti et al. (2020): Mothers. “Key informant in this study were a mother whose house was affected by floods ... (...) In addition, observations were made to observe the communication behavior of mothers (...)”
- ✓ Hapsari et al. (2020) : Pregnant women living in disaster prone area in Indonesia (2010 – 2015 → 56 disasters occurred in Bantul district)



## Results

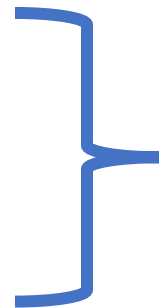
### Disaster information needs of women

- ✓ Primary needs : physiological needs → information about food, hygiene, hormonal health  
→ non-physiological needs which cover information about cloths and shelter.
- ✓ Secondary needs : psychological needs. ALSO information about education, consultation, culture (i.e. spiritual, value-respecting), support-relief, policymaking (i.e. legislation, planning), media-informing (i.e. news about the disaster) and environment (i.e. ecology and geography) .

## Results

### Disaster information seeking

- ✓ higher levels of information seeking
- ✓ higher levels of rumination tendency
- ✓ higher levels of cognition
  
- ✓ BUT also non-seeking



regardless of its ineffectiveness in reducing their anxiety

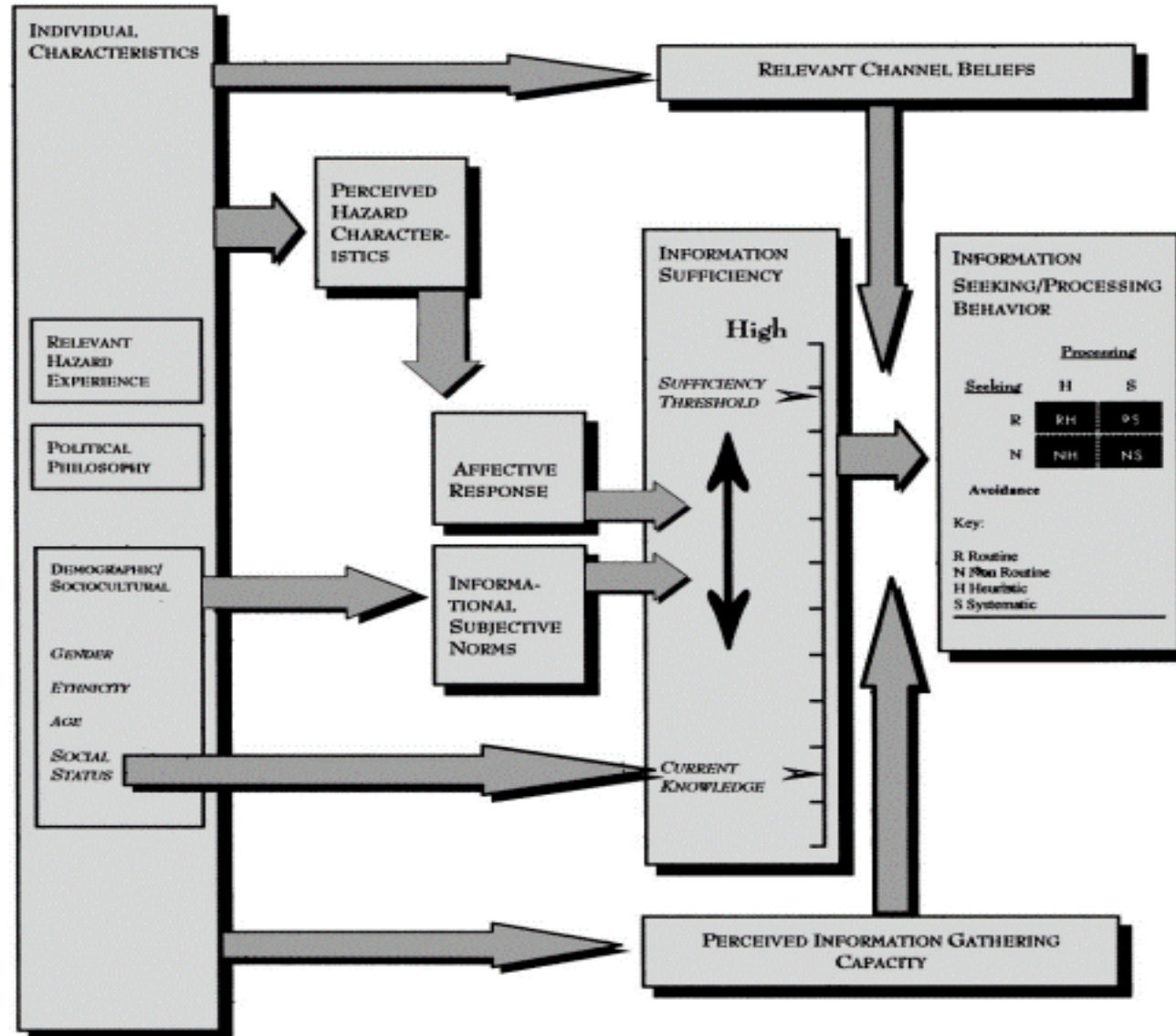
## Results

### Information use and information sources

- ✓ Television
- ✓ face-to-face communication
- ✓ Radio
- ✓ phone
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ personal observation
- ✓ official communication
- ✓ Internet



# Model



Model of risk information seeking and processing (Griffin et al., 1999)

## Recommendations for information professionals

- ✓ More studies are needed
- ✓ Comparative studies on information seeking behavior / disaster types & stages
- ✓ More theoretical basis on information science
- ✓ Other telecommunication possibilities should be considered (due to potential damage on infrastructure)

## Conclusion

Although the information seeking studies that exist in this area are not based on a theoretical framework:

Women have higher information seeking behavior + rumination & cognition tendency

Women need information about food, hygiene, hormonal health, cloths and shelter.  
+ information about education, consultation, culture

More studies are needed

## References

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