WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MOOC?

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SO, WHAT IS A MOOC?

A MOOC (massive open online course) is a type of online course aimed at large-scale participation and open access via the web.

In general, MOOCs have two common characteristics:

- **Open access.** MOOC participants do not need to be a registered student in a school to "take" a MOOC, and are not required to pay a fee.

- **Scalability.** Many traditional courses depend upon a small ratio of students to teacher, but the "massive" in MOOC suggests that the course is designed to support an indefinite number of participants.
MOOCs rising

Over little more than a year, Coursera in Mountain View, California — the largest of three companies developing and hosting massive open online courses (MOOCs) — has introduced 328 different courses from 62 universities in 17 countries (left). The platform’s 2.9 million registered users come from more than 220 countries (centre). And courses span subjects as diverse as pre-calculus, equine nutrition and introductory jazz improvisation (right).

Supply and demand

- Number of courses available on the platform
- Number of user accounts on the platform (millions)

Student origins

- 27.7% United States
- 8.8% India
- 5.1% Brazil
- 4.4% United Kingdom
- 4% Spain
- 3.6% Canada
- 2.3% Australia
- 2.2% Russia
- 41.9% Rest of world

Courses offered

- 6% Mathematics
- 30% Science
- 23% Information technology
- 28% Arts and humanities
FLASH IN THE PAN OR SOMETHING ELSE?

Yang, Dennis (March 14, 2013). "Are We MOOC'd Out?". Huffington Post. Retrieved April 5, 2013. Dennis is the President of Udemy
BENEFITS OF A MOOC

• You can organize a MOOC in any setting that has connectivity
• You can organize it in any language you like
• You can use any online tools that are relevant to your target region or that are already being used by the participants
• You can move beyond time zones and physical boundaries
• It can be organized as quickly as you can inform the participants (which makes it a powerful format for priority learning in aid relief)
• Contextualized content can be shared by all
• Learning happens in a more informal setting
BENEFITS OF A MOOC CONTINUED

• Learning can also happen incidentally thanks to the unknown knowledge that pops up as the course participants start to exchange notes on the course’s study

• You can connect across disciplines and corporate/institutional walls

• You don’t need a degree to follow the course, only the willingness to learn (at high speed)

• You add to your own personal learning environment and/or network by participating in a MOOC

• You will improve your lifelong learning skills, for participating in a MOOC forces you to think about your own learning and knowledge absorption
MOOC CHALLENGES

• It feels chaotic as participants create their own content
• It demands digital literacy
• It demands time and effort from the participants
• It is organic, which means the course will take on its own trajectory (as an instructor, you have got to let go).
• As a participant you need to be able to self-regulate your learning and possibly give yourself a learning goal to achieve.

http://moocguide.wikispaces.com/2.+Benefits+and+challenges+of+a+MOOC
CMOOCs AND XMOOCs

cMOOCs –
  • C for Connectivist
  • the learner is expected to discuss, debate, discover, share and co-create new knowledge with his or her fellow learners.

xMOOCs
  • Involving little more than knowledge transmission and perhaps a quiz at the end, the xMOOC is widely seen as replicating old-fashioned lectures and exams and is the direction that many institutions are taking.
CHARACTERISTICS OF CMOOCS

• **Aggregation.** The whole point of a connectivist MOOC is to provide a starting point for a massive amount of content to be produced in different places online, which is later aggregated as a newsletter or a web page accessible to participants on a regular basis. This is in contrast to traditional courses, where the content is prepared ahead of time.

• **Remixing.** The second principle is associating materials created within the course with each other and with materials elsewhere.

• **Re-purposing** of aggregated and remixed materials to suit the goals of each participant.

• **Feeding forward,** sharing of re-purposed ideas and content with other participants and the rest of the world.
CHARACTERISTICS OF XMOOCs

- MOOC format on the rise at universities (both those with expertise in online learning and more traditional institutions)
- More behaviorist and cognitivist in learning approach (more aimed at teacher-student delivery)
- More formal (teacher oriented, assignments based on content provided), most of the time with a credit option based on classic education formats.
- Teacher coordinated assessments and quizzes. In order to cope with high learner numbers, semi to full automated assessments are frequently used.
- Organized group work.
- Less networking; trust in content, teacher and institution delivering the content
- Fixed LMS: Coursera, Udacity
MAJOR MOOCS

- Coursera - partners with the top universities and organizations in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free.
- edX - created by founding partners Harvard and MIT
- Udacity - was born out of a Stanford University experiment in which they offered their "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence" course online to anyone, for free
COURSERA'S NEWEST PARTNERS

State University of New York
Tennessee Board of Regents
University of Tennessee System
University of Colorado System
University of Houston System
University of Kentucky
University of Nebraska System
University of New Mexico system
University System of Georgia
West Virginia University

https://www.coursera.org/partners
MOOCS AND TRANSFER CREDIT

• Georgia State University to grant credit for MOOCs
• Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences does not give credit by policy even if the MOOC is offered by Rutgers
• Cleveland State, Florida International, Lamar and Utah State Universities and the Universities of Arkansas, Cincinnati, Texas at Arlington and West Florida. Via company called Academic Partnerships
• Excelsior College not to give transfer credit for MOOCs
MOOCS AND PRIOR LEARNING

- MOOCS are ideally suited as a part of the Prior Learning process

- American Council on Education (ACE), which advises 1,800 schools on matters of accreditation, recommended that five MOOCs be approved for college credit at its member institutions. The courses include:
  - Pre-Calculus and Algebra, from University of California, Irvine;
  - Calculus: Single Variable from the University of Pennsylvania;
  - Introduction to Genetics and Evolution and Bioelectricity: A Quantitative Approach from Duke University,
AT MY INSTITUTION

• MOOC and Poetry
• Transfer Credit
• Individualized assessments (CPL at LaGuardia)
  • ePortfolio
  • Essays
  • Certificates
PROACTIVELY MOOC

• Refer students with the need to brush up in certain areas prior to enrolling – especially good for adult learners

• Identify MOOCs that are equivalent to college courses; refer students, and develop assessment measures for students; this is especially good for courses that do not run due to low enrollment

• Enroll in a MOOC to learn what colleagues in leading institutions are teaching; for course development information; to learn something new from your own discipline or in a new course you would like to teach
BUILD YOU OWN NOW

Google Course Builder
  • ( http://code.google.com/p/course-builder/ )

Class2Go Class2Go
  • (http://class.stanford.edu/) from Stanford is another option. This software platform developed by MIT and Stanford roll out scheduled for June 1, 2013, but didn’t happen.
WHAT’S COMING...

Eliademy (https://eliademy.com/) This initiative offers free courses with a Moodle-adapted user interface.

Iversity (http://www.iversary.org/) MOOC platform that uses video, feedback options and peer-to-peer learning. They will go live in September/October 2013.

Google Course Builder (http://code.google.com/p/course-builder/) requires some IT or programming knowledge; customizable; general checklists to help you set up a course (assessment guidelines, teacher assistant checklists).

FutureLearn (http://futurelearn.com/) will start with public beta courses in September 2013; their approach is based on mobile design and mobile online pedagogy,

Thank you!