MOOCS ON
campus

Rebecca Griffiths

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AGENDA

1. Background
2. Instructor feedback
3. What are the pros and cons vs. other kinds of online course materials?
4. Where are MOOCs headed?
Tested use of MOOCs on Coursera in 14 courses across University System of Maryland.

- 4 side-by-side comparisons with traditional instruction in introductory courses
- 10 case studies

Adapted local versions of MOOCs

Evaluated learning outcomes, student experience, instructor experience, and potential for cost savings
What components of the MOOC did you use in your course?

- Entire MOOC: 3
- Multiple components (videos, quizzes, forums): 11
- Videos only: 4
INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK: BENEFITS

• Professional development for instructors
• Exposure to different perspectives to students
• Raise level of class discussion, critical analysis
• Augment course with topics outside instructor’s own expertise
• “Flip” class and gain flexibility in use of face-to-face time
• Replace textbook
“I felt that the video lectures were brilliant. They fulfilled a need for course materials that integrated a lot of specialized information in accessible, fun way without having to buy or rent expensive DVDs or other textbooks... Using the MOOC raised the level of my class.”
INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK

Did using a MOOC in your course save time?

- Yes: 6
- No: 7
- Not this time, but might in the future: 5
INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK

Total Preparation Time in Hours (Preliminary)

Average: 176
Median: 178

Note: Includes data from 11 instructors who submitted time sheets for both summer and fall
Would you like to use a MOOC in your teaching again?

- Yes: 15
- No: 1
- Maybe (with certain conditions): 3
Would you recommend to your colleagues that they try teaching with a MOOC?

- Yes: 15
- No: 2
- Somewhere in between: 2
INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK: CHALLENGES

- Fit between MOOC and course syllabus
- Degree of difficulty too high or low
- Technical issues, especially integration with LMS
- Intellectual property concerns
- Ensuring students completed online tasks
ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

**Advantages**

• Intellectual quality

• Comprehensiveness

• Integration of multiple rich media components

• Replace expensive textbooks

• Have potential to be flexible (i.e. content not hard-wired together)

**Disadvantages**

• “Open” to students, but not for repurposing

• Comprehensiveness

• Not compatible with textbooks

• Publisher content designed to “plug and play”

• Features not designed for campus use

• Lack deep banks of practice problems

• Lack of future clarity – disincentive to invest time/energy in redesigning course with them
WHERE ARE MOOC PLATFORMS HEADED?

International growth

Focus on lifelong learners

Learning communities

More focus on learning design, modularity
WHERE ARE MOOC PARTNERS HEADED?

Experimenting with different ways to use MOOC content at home

Experimenting with different business models
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There are significant opportunities for institutions to use MOOCs to:

- create hybrid and flipped classes without creating all online materials from scratch
- add content that is otherwise impossible for institution to offer
- save faculty time

For these benefits to be realized:

- Providers must make implementation easier
- Conversation around MOOCs needs to shift from “faculty replacement” to “tools faculty can use to accomplish their teaching objectives”
Questions?
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