Fostering Self-Directed Learning in MOOCs: One Modest Little Study to Help Save the Planet

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Instructional Systems Technology Dept. Indiana University Bloomington Feb 26, 2019

Talk Outline

- 1. MOOC Weird Stuff
- 2. MOOC Systematic Literature Review
- 3. MOOC ID Considerations and Challenges
- 4. MOOC ID for Self-directed Learning
- 5. Others





Poll #1: Who in here has taken a MOOC? Poll #2: Are you happy or frustrated when you take a MOOC?





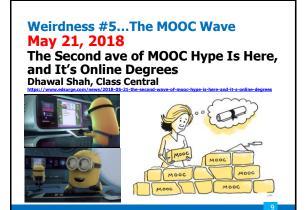
Weirdness #1...We're Teaching the World October, 2018 Sarah Fister Gale, CLO













October 12, 2018

Weirdness #6...Degrees Via the MOOC EdX: From MicroMasters to Online Master's Degrees Lindsey McKenzie, Inside Higher Ed

https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/10/12/edx-launches-nine-low-cost-onlin

Institution	edX Master's Degree	Online Cost (USD)	Duration
Curtin University, Australia	Marketing	\$22,366	1.5-3 years
Georgia Institute of Technology	Cybersecurity	\$9,920	2-3 years
Georgia Institute of Technology	Analytics	\$9,900	1-3 years
Indiana University	IT management	\$21,000	1.25-3 years
Indiana University	Accounting	\$21,000	1.25-3 years
University of California, San Diego	Data science	\$15,000	1-3 years
University of Queensland, AustraliaLe	adership: service innovatio	n \$18,156	2 years
University of Texas at Austin	Computer science	\$10,000	1.5-3 years

Weirdness #7...MOOCs in Wedding **Announcements** September 26, 2018 The Future of Professional Credentialing ... in an Engagement Announcement Joshua Kim, Inside Higher Ed INSIDE The future bride graduated from the University of Vermont with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public health. She is employed as 1 a care navigator with Apple. The future groom graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and is currently pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering. He has been accepted in the Harvard Business HBX CORe program and plans to start in November. He is currently working as a technical program manager at App They are planning on a summer wedding in 2020.

Weirdness #8...Master's of Accountancy MOOCs? Email inbox: June 11, 2018 Coursera June 11, 2018 Courseration The formation of the second state of

Weirdness #9...Discounted MOOC-based MBAs

August 7, 2017 FutureLearn and Coventry University to Roll Out 50 Online Degrees (Last year Deakin University announced a similar partnership with FutureLearn) Class Central, Dhawal Shah

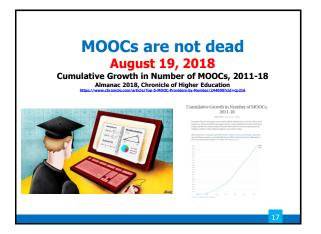
Degree	Provider	University	Cost
MS Computer Science	Udacity	Georgia Tech	\$6,600
//S Analytics	edX	Georgia Tech	\$10k
ИВА	Coursera	University of Illino	is\$22k
MS CS Data Science	Coursera	University of Illino	is\$19.2k
MS Accounting	Coursera	University of Illino	is\$27.2k
Masters in Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Coursera	HEC Paris	€20k
Jyber Security (Masters)	FutureLea	rnDeakin University	£24k
Development and Humanitarian Action (Masters)	FutureLea	rnDeakin University	£24k
Professional Practice: Information Technology (Maste	ers)FutureLea	rnDeakin University	£24k

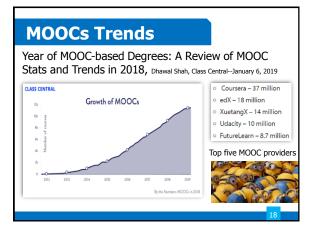
Weirdness #10...MOOC-based Pricing Charts December 30, 2018

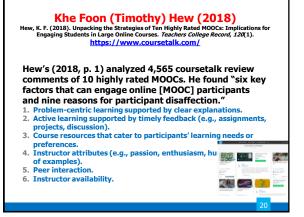
MOOC-Based Degrees, Pricing Chart IBL News

DOC-based Degrees	CLASS CENTRAL	Maniter of Computer Interna in Data Interna University of Neuroscience	U.A.200 plan her
•	Tio.	Muster of Sciences in Annuarting UNIAL University of Read-we Social	-04.80
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a University on a dir		Master of Upter Security Destruction() of Advances	AND 52,000
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er's Degree in Marketing Interviewent	AUD 531,475	Brailuate Cartificate al Staliottea Miscation (Inder Deservity on Naturalizer	A80 11,100
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r's Degree in Oata Brience	\$15,000	Mite Naming County informity information	17,000
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's Degree in Computer Science	\$15,080	Rasters in Radress Administration (MRI) Control Investor Administration	11,40
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ete Certificate in One Health	AUD \$7,200	Books (many) of histogram	Auto 10,000









Quotes: Veletsianos et al. (2015-2016)

"To gain a deeper and more diverse understanding of the MOOC phenomenon, researchers need to use multiple research approaches (e.g., ethnography, phenomenology, discourse analysis) add content to them." (p. 583)

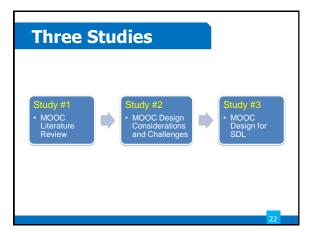


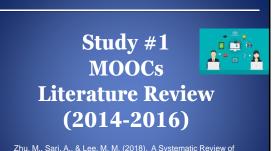
Veletsianos, Collier, & Schneider (2015, May), Digging deeper into learners' experiences in MOOCs: Participation in social networks outside of MOOCs, notetaking and contexts surrounding content consumption. *BJET*, *46*(3), 570-587.

"Dependence on Particular Research Methods May Restrict our Understanding of MOOCs."

George Veletsianos & Peter Shepherdson's Study (2016). Systematic Analysis and Synthesis of the Empirical MOOC Literature Published in 2013-2015. *IRRODL* http://www.irrdd.org/index.php/irrod/article/view/2448/3655







Zhu, M., Sari, A., & Lee, M. M. (2018). A Systematic Review of Research Methods and Topics of the Empirical MOOC Literature (2014-2016). *The Internet and Higher Education*, 37, 31-39.

Research Purposes & Questions

The purpose was to gain a deeper and more diverse understanding of the current MOOC phenomenon and identify the gap in MOOC empirical studies.

- 1. What are the research methods researchers employed in empirical MOOC studies?
- 2. What are the research topics or focuses in MOOC studies?
- 3. How are researchers of empirical MOOC studies
- geographically distributed?
- 4. In terms of the delivery of the MOOC, what are the countries which are attracting the most research?

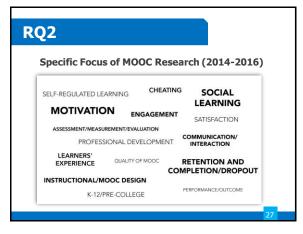
Journals of the Articles

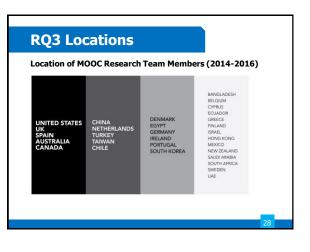
No.	Journal	Total
1	International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning (IRRODL)	31
2	Computers & Education	12
3	British Journal of Educational Technology	9
4	Online Learning	7
5	Distance Education	5
6	Educational Media International	5
7	Internet and Higher Education	5
8	Journal of Computer Assisted Learning	5
9	Computers in Human Behavior	4
10	Open Learning	4
11	Journal of Online Learning and Teaching	3
12	Journal of Asynchronous Learning Network	3

RQ1 & RQ2

MOOC research focuses and methods

	Quantitative	Qualitative	Mixed methods
Student-focused	39	9	26
Design-focused	19	12	17
Context and impact	9	6	5
Instructor-focused	0	3	2
			26





Implications

- A continuous expansion of methodological approaches in MOOCs research is needed.
- More empirical MOOC research focusing on instructors' perspective might provide more comprehensive picture of MOOC phenomenon.

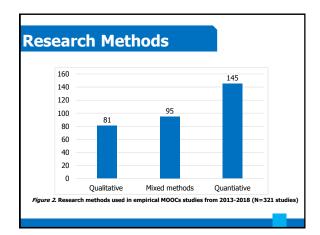
(Note: Data collection is continuing...)

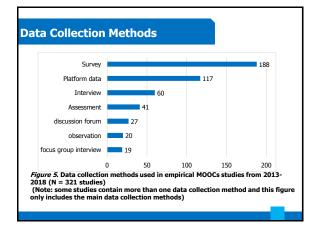
The study expanded!



Total Number of Empirical MOOC Studies Published in Different Journals from 2013-2018

and Distributed Learning Computers & Education
International Review of Research and Distributed Learning Computers & Education British Journal of Educational Tec
Computers & Education
British Journal of Educational Tec
Online Learning
Distance Education
Journal of Online Learning and Te
The Internet and Higher Educatio
Computers in Human Behavior
Open Learning





Study #2 MOOCs Design Considerations and Challenges

Zhu, M., Bonk, C. J., & Sari, A. (2018). Instructor experiences designing MOOCs in higher education: Pedagogical, resource, and logistical considerations and challenges. *Online Learning*, 22(4), 203-241

Research Background

- MOOCs can be beneficial to both learners and instructors
 (Hew & Cheung, 2014).
- Instructional design is critical for online learning (Johnson & Aragon, 2003; Phipps & Merisotis, 1999).
- Instructors are one of the five main components of

MOOCs (Kop, 2011).

Few studies have examined instructional design from

MOOC instructors' perspectives (Margaryan et al., 2015; Watson et al., 2016).

Research Purpose

The purpose of this study is to provide suggestions for future MOOC instructors and instructional designers in higher education through exploring MOOC design considerations and challenges from the instructor's perspective.

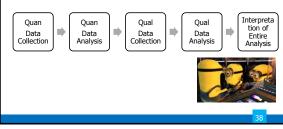
Research Questions

- 1. What are the design considerations of instructors when designing MOOCs?
- 2. What challenges do instructors perceive when designing MOOCs?
- 3. How do instructors address the challenges that they perceive related to MOOCs?

Research Design

Sequential mixed methods design (Creswell &

Clark, 2017)



Data Collection

• Data Collection:

 $_{\odot}$ Survey, interview, and course review

• Participants:

143 survey participants (10% response rate)

 \circ 12 interviewees



Data analysis

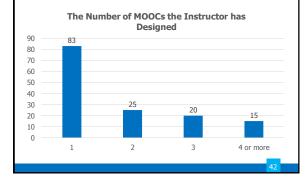
12 Interviewees

No.	Countries	Subject areas	Platforms
1.	The U.S.	Language and Literacy	Coursera
2.	The U.S.	Education	Coursera
3.	The U.S.	Education	Canvas
4.	The U.S.	Chemistry	Coursera
5.	UK	Medicine and Health	FutureLearn
6.	UK	Language and Literacy	FutureLearn
7.	Hong Kong (China)	Math	Coursera
8.	Mainland China	Math	Coursera
9.	Canada	Psychology	Coursera
10.	Australia	Medicine and Health	Open2Study
11.	Sweden	Computer Science	edX
12.	India	Management	edX

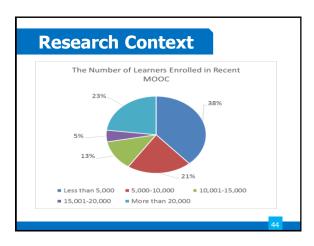
Data Analysis RQs Data Sources

Survey-multiple-choice questions	Descriptive statistics
Survey-open-ended questions	Content analysis (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008)
Interview	Content analysis
MOOC review	Content analysis
Survey-multiple-choice questions	Descriptive statistics
Survey-open-ended questions	Content analysis
Interview	Content analysis
Survey-multiple-choice questions	Descriptive statistics
Interview	Content analysis
	Survey-open-ended questions Interview MOOC review Survey-multiple-choice questions Survey-open-ended questions Interview Survey-multiple-choice questions

Research Context



MOOC Subject Areas						
Medicine and Health					23	
Computer Science	-			20		
Education			15			
Languages and Literacy		11				
Business		9				
Engineering and Technology		8				
Math		7				
Communication		6				
History		6				
Physics	- 4					
Sociology	4					
Psychology	- 4					
Law	4					
Philosophy	4					
Biology	3					
Political Science	3					
Performing Arts	3					
Chemistry	2					
Economics	2					
Geography	2					
Visual arts Agriculture	2					



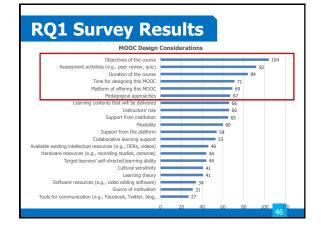
Findings RQ1

RQ #1. What are the design considerations of

instructors when designing MOOCs?

- · Learning objectives
- Assessment
- Time for designing MOOC
- Engaging learners

		ectives:
Learnin	g Objectives	
Discuss	he reason for sampling in scientific inve	stigations.
Describe	the types of sampling techniques availa	ble.
Review I	easons why randomization is needed.	
Identity t	e kinds of errors that can arise in samp	ling.
Summar	ze the ways one can evaluate the qualit	y of survey data.
Discuss	he consequences of randomization such	as computing quantities I
Provide	xamples of the kinds of objects that are	sampled
~ Let		



RQ1 Interview Results

Engage learners

One instructor from US mentioned:

"I engaged people in the forum. So each week I would write a message that would be the new welcome page for the week that would say, 'hey come to the forum and ask questions about this or come to the forum introduce yourself... Of course, I tried to get students to feel like I was engaged with them during the videos by asking them questions and telling them to do things during the video."



Findings RQ2

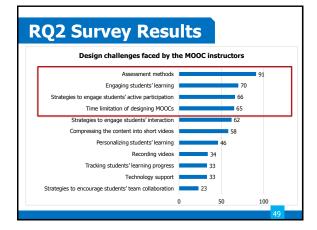
RQ #2. What challenges do instructors perceive

when designing MOOCs?

Assessment methods

- Engaging students' learning
- Time limitation

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RQ2 Interview Results

Time limitation

One instructor from education subject mentioned:

 $\ensuremath{^\circ}\xspace$ I think one of the challenges is time. It does take a lot of time to get the

videos done. I did not get a course release when I was doing, and

it was a side project at the same time as my regular load."

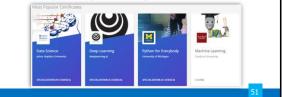


Findings RQ3

RQ #3. How do instructors address the challenges that they

perceive related to MOOCs?

- Explore other MOOC examples
- Seek help from the platform/colleagues/institutions



<section-header><section-header><figure><figure><figure>

RQ3 Interview Results

Explore other MOOC examples

One MOOC instructor from the US mentioned:

"When I started making the MOOC, I could see MOOCs that other

people had made. So I could see what other people did in terms of having

videos with questions embedded in the videos, which I really liked."



Discussion

- The **time limitation** of creating MOOCs was the primary logistical consideration (Hew & Chung, 2014; Watson et al., 2016) and challenges.
- The pedagogical factors were the primary design considerations (Watson et al., 2016) and challenges in MOOC design.
- The **assessment and engagement strategies** are the main considerations as well as challenges.

Implications

• For MOOC instructors

 May inform them about what other instructors are most concerned with and tend to target in MOOC design as well as their efforts in addressing the possible design challenges.

For instructional designers

 Guide attention to ID in the areas that MOOC instructors might need them to help in consultation. Study #3 MOOCs Instructional Design to Facilitate Participants' Selfdirected Learning

(Dissertation)

Key Terms

Self-directed learning (SDL) (Garrison, 1997)

(1) self-management

(2) self-monitoring

(3) motivation



Research Background

- Learners need self-directed learning skills and strategies to be successful in MOOCs (Halawa, Greene, & Mitchell, 2014; Littlejohn & Milligan, 2016), as there is a lack of personalized interaction with teachers.
- Self-directness of a learner might vary in different learning environments which means that the learners could be more self-directed in one learning environment than another (Hiemstra, 1994).

Research Background

- Instructional design can greatly influence students' interaction and engagement (Garrison & Cleveland-Innes, 2005) and success in online learning (Song, Singleton, Hill, & Koh, 2004; Swan, 2001).
- However, few studies have examined instructional design and the delivery of instruction using MOOCs from instructor perspectives (Margaryan et al., 2015; Watson et al., 2016); especially lacking is research on instructors' perception of SDL and how they design MOOCs to facilitate students' SDL.

Research Purpose

 The purpose is to inform instructors or instructional designers and MOOC providers of the current practices of designing MOOCs to facilitate learners' SDL.



Research Questions

- 1. How do MOOC instructors perceive participant SDL skills?
- 2. How do MOOC instructors perceive their facilitation of participant SDL skills?
- 3. How do instructors design and deliver MOOCs to facilitate participant SDL skills?

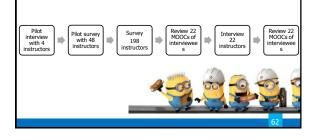
a. How is technology being used by MOOC instructors to support the development of participant SDL skills?

b. What technology features or functions do MOOC instructors want to have to improve their facilitation of MOOC participant SDL skills?

Research Design

Explanatory sequential mixed methods design

(Creswell & Clark, 2017)



Data Collections

Survey:

- Volunteer sampling (Creswell & Clark, 2017)
- 198 instructors responded to the survey (10% response rate)
- Interview:
- Homogeneous purposeful sampling (Creswell & Clark, 2017; Patton, 2002)
- Maximal variation sampling (Creswell & Clark, 2017)

22 interviewees

MOOC review:

· Reviewed 22 interviewees' MOOCs



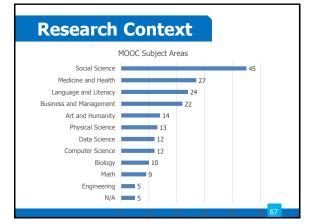
Pseudonym	Country	Subject area	Platform	Gender	No. of O/B	No. of M	Mode of the M
Lucas	US	Social science	edX	м	0	1	I without T
Branden	US	Education	Udacity	м	0	5 or more	Self-paced
Logan	US	Literacy and Language	Coursera	м	5 or more	5 or more	I with T
Emma	US	Literacy and Language	Coursera	F	2	1	Self-paced
Jason	US	Science	edX	м	1	1	I with T
Jackson	US	Medicine and health	Coursera	м	5 or more	1	Self-paced
Samuel	US	Education	FutureLearn	м	4	3	Self-paced
Hannah	US	Education	Blackboard	F	5 or more	1	I with T
Ashley	US	Education	EdX	F	0	5 or more	I with T
Andrew	UK	Art	FutureLearn	м	0	3	I with T
Emily	UK	Medicine and health	FutureLearn	F	2	2	I with T
Aiden	UK	Social science	FutureLearn	м	0	1	Self-paced
Henry	UK	Social science	FutureLearn	м	0	1	Self-paced
Joseph	UK	Medicine and health	FutureLearn	м	1	1	Self-paced
Joshua	UK	Literacy and language	FutureLearn	м	2	2	I with T
Mason	Australia	Education	Coursera	м	5 or more	1	I with T
Ethan	Australia	Business	Coursera	м	3	1	I without T
Ben	Australia	Social science	edX	м	1	1	I with T
Paul	France	Computer Science	Coursera	м	1	1	I with T
Fernando	Belgium	Research methods	Blackboard	м	5 or more	3	I with T
Jacob	Netherland	Science	Coursera	м	0	1	I with T
Dylan	Israel	Science	Coursera	м	5 or more	3	I without T

Data Analysis

	Survey	Descriptive statistics	SPSS
RQ1	Interview	Content analysis (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008)	NVivo
RQ2	Survey	Descriptive statistics	SPSS
Interview		Content analysis	NVivo
DO 2	Interview	Content analysis	NVivo
RQ3	Course review	Content analysis	NVivo

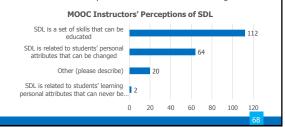
Trustworthiness

- 1. Validity survey: Experts review, think-aloud interview, and pilot test (EFA)
- 2. Reliability survey: Pilot test and internal consistency reliability (Cronbach alpha)
- 3. Triangulation: Data sources, researchers, and methods
- 4. Member checks: Interview transcriptions
- 5. Peer debriefing: Committee and colleagues
- Researcher reflexivity: Constant reflection and be forthright with our positions
- Thick description: Report the context, data sources, and analyses in detail
- 8. Prolonged engagement: Immerse in instructors' MOOCs before the interview and continue reviewing the MOOCs after the interview



RQ1 Perceptions of SDL

 A majority of the MOOC instructors thought that these skills or attributes are not static, and that SDL as a set of skills can be educated or students' personal attributes that can be changed.

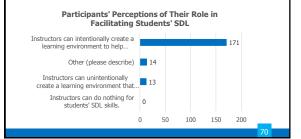


RQ1 Interview Results

 Emma's understanding of SDL is more related to selfmanagement and motivation. She said:
 When I think about self-directed learning, I think about students managing their time and managing the coursework on their own, and how it fits into their schedules and their lives, how they interact with materials, what's going to keep them engaged.

RQ2 Perceptions of Facilitation of SDL Most of MOOC instructors thought that they can

intentionally or unintentionally facilitate students' SDL.



RQ2 Interview Results

 Ashely emphasized the importance of both instructors'
facilitation and students' SDL skills. She said:
The participant has a lot of flexibility on how they approach
the content. I mean, obviously, we have things like
assignments. We have things like online forums. And there're
ways that we scaffold the learning experience. But there still
is a lot of choice for the learner.

RQ3 Strategies to Facilitate SDL

 Students' intrinsic motivation plays an important role. However, extrinsic motivation provided by the MOOCs might help transfer extrinsic motivation to intrinsic motivation.

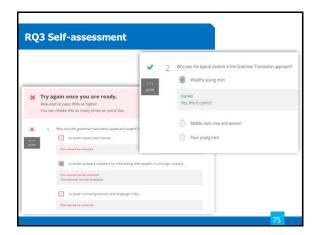
	Motivations	Strategies
achievement. Task motivation MOOC instructors motivated students through instruction, learning materials, feedback, and	Entering	MOOC instructors helped students identify the
Task motivation MOOC instructors motivated students through instruction, learning materials, feedback, and	motivation	needs and goals of learning and sense of
instruction, learning materials, feedback, and		achievement.
, , , ,	Task motivation	MOOC instructors motivated students through
learning community.		instruction, learning materials, feedback, and
		learning community.

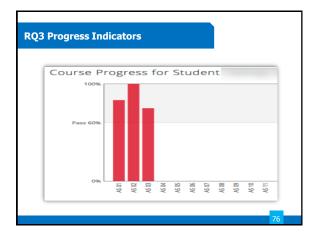


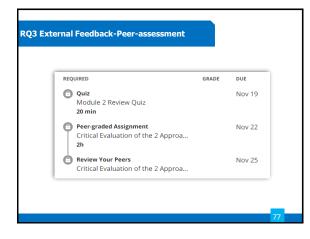
RQ3 Strategies to Facilitate SDL

Both internal feedback and external feedback were
provided to help students' self-monitoring.

Internal	Cognition	MOOC instructors provided quizzes for self-assessment, tutorial
feedback		on technology use, learning advice, navigation of the course,
		progress indicators, resources, and instructional modeling, etc.
	Meta-cog	MOOC instructors encouraged students to reflect and think
		critically by providing reflection questions and building learning
		community.
External		MOOC instructors, teaching assistants, and peers were involved
feedback		in providing external feedback.







RQ3 Strategies to Facilitate SDL

 They helped students' self-management concerning setting learning goals, time management, resources and support management although among the three elements of SDL, MOOC instructors had less control over students' management.

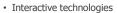
Self-management	Strategies
Enactment of learning goals	Providing discussion questions, reflections, survey, and appreciation students' learning goals.
Time management	Providing time frame, progress indicator, short learning units, and flexible timeline.
Management of resources and support	Providing flexible learning resources, peer-assessment, accessibilities, clear expectations, and short learning units.
	78

		0	0	0	_
START	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	
RESUME					
Don't let the great	u left off things you learned fade away! Re	iet your deadlines and	d complete your assignment	Reset my deadlin S overy	nes
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Don't let the great week.	things you learned fade away! Re	History REQUIRED O Quit Mot	s dule 1 Review Quiz	Estimated Time: 1h 7m	•

RQ3-a Tech Use for SDL	
Synchronous communication technologies Google Hangouts YouTube Live Touge YouTube YouTube	
Asynchronous communication technologies	
Discussion forum Blog Slackbot Flickr	
Multimedia (e.g., video and graphics)	
Feedback technologies	_
	80

RQ3-b Tech Expectations for SDL

- Adaptive learning systems
- Artificial intelligent systems
- Learning analytics



- Interaction between learners and content
- o Interaction among learners and other participants
- Tools embedded in platforms

Discussion

- SDL can be Changed
- MOOC Instructors can Facilitate SDL
- Strategies to Facilitate SDL: A variety of strategies can be used to facilitate student SDL skills in terms of motivation, self-monitor, and self-management.
- Tech for SDL: Tech plays an important role in facilitating SDL skills.
- Tech expectations: Adaptive learning systems, artificial intelligent systems, and learning analytics were expected to have to support SDL.

Implications

- For MOOC instructors and Instructional Designers
 - $_{\odot}$ Build learning community
 - $_{\odot}$ Inspire intrinsic motivation
 - $_{\odot}$ Personalize learning
- For MOOC providers
 - $_{\odot}$ Create a personalized learning environment
 - $_{\odot}$ Provide learning analytics to support learning and teaching

Top 10 Strategies to Facilitate SDL in MOOCS 1. Helping students set their own learning goals; 2. Building learning community; 3. Offering immediate feedback; 4. Embedding quizzes for self-assessment; 5. Providing progress indicators; 6. Providing reflection questions; 7. Designing short learning units; 8. Providing flexible timelines; 9. Highlighting estimated time frames; 10. Making available optional learning materials.

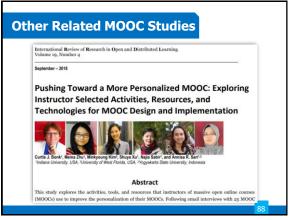
Other Related MOOC Studies

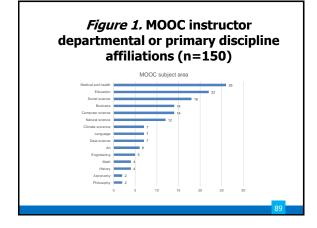
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Tired of MOOCs...?









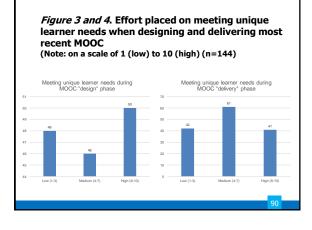


Figure 6. Number of MOOCs that offer different types of learning system automation and adaptation (n=127)

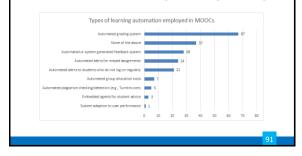


Figure 9: MOOC instructors (n=133) instructional practices to address cultural diversity

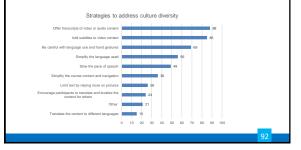


Table 1. Instructional Practices of MOOC Instructors to Address the Variety of Student Competencies and Needs (n=142)

nstructional practices of MOOC instructors to address weds (N=142)		
Items	Response percent	Response count
Establish learner-based discussion forums	81.0%	115
imbed supplementary course materials	78.2%	111
ost timely course announcements and emails	63.4%	90
Record video tutorials or walkthroughs	40.8%	58
Emphasize project-based learning over exams	34.5%	49
Using preexisting online videos (e.g., Lynda.com, TED talks, YouTube, etc.)	32.4%	46
Other	26.1%	37
Hold synchronous lectures, meetings, and events (e.g., Skype, Google Hangouts, Zoom, etc.)	23.9%	34
Establish study groups	19.0%	27
Establish learner reflection journals or blogs	16.2%	23
Schedule virtual office hours and meetings	14.1%	20
Offer face-to-face meet-up opportunities	7.0%	10

Table 2: Items instructors provided in their most recent MOOC (n = 126)

Items the current MOOC covered		Count
Optional readings, videos, or other materials	74.6%	94
Learner selected incentives (e.g., certificates, badges, course credit, etc., options)	64.29%	81
Options with course tasks and assignments	38.10%	48
Learner discussion and negotiation of content	36.51%	46
Two or more media elements to learn the same content	31.75%	40
Learner determined or contributed content	30.16%	38
Learner selected learning pathways (i.e., different routes to learn the same content)		24
Learner portfolios of course accomplishments	16.67%	21
Choice in team or collaborative partners (i.e., self-formed teams)	12.70%	16

Discussion, Significance, and Conclusion



