

# **MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES (MOOCS):** BEST PRACTICES & PARTICIPATORY MODELS

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### INTRODUCTION



### MOOCS A RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

The term was coined

1st MOOC launched via Stanford University

New York Times' Year of the MOOC

Immense repercussions on the future of higher education: Especially in ODL, lifelong learning & work-based education

Early success enjoyed by North American providers, e.g. Coursera, edX, Udemy, Udacity & Khan Academy

### INTRODUCTION



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2009	2010	2011	20	112 2013	3 2014

A graphical depiction of the growing global interest in MOOCs since 2008. (Generated by Google Trends)

### **FUTURE EXPECTATIONS**

**CONTINUED** 

**GROWTH & NEW** 

**INITIATIVES** 



speaking countries, e.g. Coursera Zone

#### Corporate MOOCs: scalable, ondemand & self-paced training programmes

**Consumption beyond English-**

Interactive components, e.g. HarvardX

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

To what extent will MOOCs disrupt higher education? MOOCs are different to OER: MOOCs are fully packaged courses OER are freely accessible educational materials

# EXPLORING BEST PRACTICES

#### SUCCESSFUL NORTH AMERICAN PROVIDERS:

Association with top-ranked Ivy League universities High quality courses & learning materials

**Effective branding** 

#### **BENEFIT FROM THE 'OPEN KNOWLEDGE' CULTURE:**

OER, OCW & free distribution of learning materials

FUTURE DERIVATIVES OF MOOCs:

#### DEMOCRATISATION OF EDUCATION:

Massiveness, openness & connectivism

Promise of greater accessibility, reach & engagement

CREATIVE & INNOVATIVE USE OF VARIOUS ICT

#### cMOOCs, POOCs, SPOCs & meta-MOOCs



### PARTICIPATORY MODELS



#### **PARTICIPATORY MODEL:**

"A collaborative process that places learners at the centre of instruction" (Fingeret, 1989)

#### **LEARNER-CENTRED APPROACH**

#### RELATES TO THE CONCEPT OF COLLABORATION:

Many contributors involved in one provider

Learner input in collaborative research & curriculum design

Use of the Wiki approach to democratise teaching, learning & the innovation process

#### WORLD'S FIRST META-MOOC



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#### DukeUNIVERSITY

#### History and Future of (Mostly) Higher Education

In this course we will learn about the features of higher education that were designed specifically to prepare workers and leaders for the Industrial Age, and we'll strategize ways that, together, we can change learning--inside of school and out--for the world we live in now--and even to help improve our world. #FutureEd



Offered by Duke University via Coursera Launched January 2014 Learners encouraged to contribute to the ultimate objective of redesigning higher education

Unique course format with peer assessment, participatory assignments & wiki postings Considered a movement, not just an online course

### MAKING MOOCs A SUCCESS



## Important to consider academic & pedagogical elements in MOOCs:

CONSTANT ACCESSIBILITY

Store learning materials in cloud/virtual storage or multiple servers

Must consider different speeds of Internet connection EXCELLENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Can leverage on artificial intelligence

Reduce demand on human support without neglecting learner needs ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Develop a system suited to the content of each MOOC

Use MCQs & other easily graded formats

Provide local support where possible

### POTENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICES MODELS





### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**



MOOCs still in the early stages of development, although North American providers have enjoyed early success

A collaborative spirit is crucial in developing a participatory approach in MOOCs & paving the way for POOCs to take shape in the future

Talks of technology should not undermine the importance of academic & pedagogical issues in MOOCs

