What are the advantages and disadvantages of MOOCs?

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Introduction

The growth of the Internet and digital resources has opened a world of doors for the digital learning. Name informative videos, interactive software, multimedia apps and in recent years the so-called MOOCs, Massive Online Open Courses, have gained popularity.

In 2011, a free artificial-intelligence course was offered by Standford University and attracted 160,000 students from around the world. From that moment, many universities are interested in introducing these internet-based teaching programs[1].

Nowadays, in platforms like Cousera or EdX we can find courses from the top universities in the world, as Harvard, the MIT or TU Delft. These courses comprise a wide range of subjects. From science, engineering and technology courses, that are the most popular, to management, humanities and arts that have been growing in recent years. The courses count with a coarse number of resources as documents, video lectures, and discussion forums. Most of the courses are free and a single lecture can have a very large impact around the world. This way of teaching allows the instructor to increase his experience, reputation and teaching skills.

However, the interaction between the instructor and the students is very poor, there is rarely education credit offered in this courses. Sometimes it is very time consuming to produce the lectures and the return costs are limited, and the completion rates are very low[2].

In this essay I will give a close view to the pros and cons of this learning method.

Body

Pros/cons +examples.

Conclusions

Bibliography

[1] M Waldrop. Campus 2.0. *Nature*, 495(7440):160–163, 2013.

[2] Christina M Stark and Jamie Pope. Massive open online courses: how registered dietitians use moocs for nutrition education. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 114(8):1147–1155, 2014.