Using Moodle for MOOCs with researchers in Low and Middle Income Countries

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AuthorAID:
A global network supporting researchers in lower and middle income countries to publish and communicate their research

For more information:
www.authoraid.info
Low bandwidth, mobile friendly
Research Writing MOOCs

- Moodle 3.5
- Text-based, interactive lessons
- Weekly quizzes
- Active discussion forums
- Peer assessment activities
- Pop up downloadable lessons created using eXe Learning (HTML)
Upscaling to a MOOC

• Can Moodle handle 1000s of participants?
• How do you provide a learning experience and deal with technical/content questions?
• Team of guest facilitators needed to answer questions and moderate forums
Online course ‘pinboard’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Pop. 2019</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Pop. 2019</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
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Feedback - what were the most useful parts of the course?

- Lessons: 584 (91.82%)
- Peer assessment activities: 291 (46.76%)
- The weekly quizzes: 192 (77.36%)
- Discussion forums: 238 (87.42%)
- Pre and post assessment quizzes: 288 (85.28%)
- No part of the course was useful: 6 (0.94%)
Peer assessment

- Moodle ‘workshop’ activity
- Positive feedback (higher level learning through co-learning)
- Almost all participants receive feedback on their work
- Hard deadlines can be difficult for some users.
- Often some confusion about how the exercise works
Other important elements

- Weekly quizzes
- Structured discussion forums
- ‘Database’ activity for collaborative sharing and introduction

Alternative approach:
- Moodle ‘book’ activities, with embedded exercises
- H5P and javascript additional interaction
Interaction in Moodle ‘Book’
Key stats

- Over 16,000 participants trained from LMICs across 8 MOOCs
- 50% completion rate
- Women more likely to complete than men
- Those who participated in the forums were more likely to complete the course
Sustainability

• Our courses are Creative Commons (CC-BY) and shareable

• Courses adapted and run successfully by Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria, Open University of Tanzania, Tanzanian Fisheries Institute (TAFIRI), University of Beua, Cameroon, Colombo University Faculty of Medicine (Sri Lanka)
Find out more

• AuthorAID www.authoraid.info
• INASP www.inasp.info
• eMerge Africa webinar on AuthorAID MOOCs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nRVdQI UdZk
• A MOOC approach for training researchers in developing countries (open access paper) https://openpraxis.org/index.php/OpenPraxis/article/view/476
• Driving knowledge and supporting researchers through online courses - Funmilayo Doherty (Yaba Tech, Nigeria)

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