

# Promotion and Reform of the Library Through MOOC Courses

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## Abstract

**This paper describes the position and innovation of libraries in the MOOC environment in detail from various perspectives by introducing MOOC and its influence. It concludes that libraries might be further innovated and developed from the aspects such as information literacy training.**

## Keywords

**MOOC; library; positioning.**

## 1. Introduction

In the context of MOOC teaching, most libraries in China's colleges and universities become resource guarantee agencies that can achieve openness and large scale. In such conditions, the role of the libraries needs to reposition. In order to make more rational and scientific allocation and utilization of teaching resources, it is necessary for the library to make innovative exploration while repositioning itself.

## 2. Development of MOOC and Its Influence

### 2.1. Developing Process of MOOC

MOOC originated from web-based cognitive psychology, firstly proposed by the University of Prince Edward Island in Canada in 2008. Buckminster Fuller referred MOOC vaguely in a lecture on educational technology in the 1960s. In 1962, the American inventor Douglas C. Engelbart reinforced this claim again and ascertained the possibility of computer-aided learning, which provides strong theoretical support for the widespread recognition of MOOC. With the continuous development of scientific technology, the idea that taking computer as a tool for study actually attracted our attention in 2011, while the real explosion and rapid development came in 2012. There was also a lot of open source movement in the early days like the open courses for MIT, which is an educational project completed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Microsoft Institute. It took 10 years for the massive project to achieve openness of the materials of over two thousand courses, making them available on the Internet and free for anyone who wants to study anywhere in the world. But the recent explosion of MOOC in 2012 was the result of multiple MOOC projects at the same time. 2012 was called the Year of MOOC when many colleges and universities chose this model. By 2013, more and more colleges and universities have chosen MOOC teaching model. Tsinghua University and Peking University in China are also involved.

### 2.2. The Current Status of MOOC's International Development

The continuous and rapid development of MOOC has given birth to the Big Three of platform-edX, Udacity and Coursera. In 2011, more than 160,000 scholars passed Udacity, a new knowledge laboratory set up by Sebastian Thorne. As a result, this new learning model has been widely used internationally. In 2012, the United States has improved the construction of free online courses. The US takes top universities as a bridge to provide possibility for the

development of the network and the systematic and comprehensive learning for students and related scholars. In 2013, drawing lessons from the practices of Coursera, an American company, Singapore increased the construction of open online courses and promoted the perfect and effective development of education. And Singapore also launched its own courses (quantum physics and classical music creation) through the platform in 2014, which promotes the innovation of education methods.

### **2.3. Features and Advantages of MOOC**

Nowadays, the biggest problem that prohibits the development of education is the insufficient exchange of education resources. The incompleteness of information leads to the unfair development of education. However, with the wide establishment of MOOC, this problem will be effectively solved. MOOC's outstanding feature is that it is free or low in cost, so universities have advantages in library construction. Compared with purchase of books, MOOC can not only make the scope from which students acquire knowledge beyond the limitation of libraries, but also acquire more advanced technologies, such as timely education news of famous universities at home and abroad. Another feature is that MOOC can strengthen students' autonomous learning awareness. It has higher entry barriers. Unqualified students are eliminated directly, which increases the autonomy of learners. The learning initiative of scholars is regulated with certain conditions to promote the autonomy of students and scholars and make them know about the pleasure of study deeply. Compared with certain software, MOOC has another indelible advantage. It can meet the needs of massive study on the platform of Internet and break the limitation of space layout of libraries. Scholars can break through the traditional bondage of time and space. It means that the way of learning has more freedom and scholars can arrange their own learning time and space according to their characteristics of learning efficiency.

## **3. The Redefined Role of Library in the New Era**

### **3.1. The Development Direction of Library in MOOC Context**

Internet Era has brought great changes to the economy and technology, but for the coming of the Internet storm, it also has a strong influence on the development of education. In some developed countries in North America, nearly half of the universities have adopted MOOC model. Librarians have a state of fear and panic. However, from view of the current development situation of university libraries, they have taken an active response.

When it comes to measures of library development trend, scholars from all walks of life have made detailed discussion and analysis on theoretical construction. Only in 2013, the world's famous universities organized discussion nearly five or six times on relevant issues including how to make harmonious mutual promotion between libraries and MOOC, which are the challenges led by MOOC; how to adjust the position and direction of library in the wave of MOOC and how will libraries learn from MOOC model and so on, thus laid a theoretical foundation for the development direction of library.

University libraries have made achievements in practice drawing on relevant theories and experience. In the relevant literature review, the author found that MOOC platforms have been widely accepted by universities at home and abroad. They construct more detailed and complete information resources based on the former library resources. Librarians begin to get rid of traditional model gradually from inner hearts and accept the advanced library model step by step. For example, Britain's famous university libraries have started to build large-scale cultural platforms together to promote the development of MOOC. At the same time, every university library has begun to set up technology and network platform based on what they have owned and combined the teaching design model of each university to achieve the purpose

of resource information sharing. The preparation and design in The University of Chicago is better in this aspect. The concrete measure is to provide students with richer course resources by combining the website of the library with the course practice. Some universities, such as Tsinghua and Peking University, have set an international online education platform and made use of rich foreign resources to set up MOOC in combination with the actual situation at home. That has made the vast number of scholars benefit a lot.

## **3.2. Role of Library in MOOC Context**

### **3.2.1. As the Supporter of MOOC Context**

From the perspective of practice, generally, people think that MOOC is the result of advancement of modern technology in education, but when considering deeply, libraries are the supporters of MOOC. The best part of education chain is library information. However, the attitude of scholars and the public towards library is blurred gradually in MOOC process which has increasingly underlined the importance of MOOC. But never forget that library is the key part in education chain and the direct way to know about knowledge. Therefore, we can see that the library is the supporter of MOOC.

### **3.2.2. As the Promoter of of MOOC Context**

The purpose of library in education is to spread information and to let information flow among scholars. In the concept of modern library construction, people try to use modern technology to promote the full flow of information, and the development of MOOC is the best elaboration and inheritance. Traditional library's function is to share resources with scholars who need it, to satisfy their demand for knowledge to the greatest extent through their own conditions, and to construct detailed book resources, which is exactly the same as MOOC's responsibilities. The establishment of MOOC only expands the scope of knowledge on the original basis, which is consistent with the development direction of library. Therefore, we can see that the library is the advocate of MOOC.

### **3.2.3. As the Shared User of MOOC Context**

Sharing here refers to that of resources. MOOC aims to set an open and shared education model for scholars, but on current occasions, it is almost impossible to achieve such a high level of resource sharing through traditional education model. Therefore, it is necessary to attach importance to the mutual cooperation and promotion between library and MOOC resources, to use visible and operational practical mode, namely library mode, to make resources move from static state to dynamic state, and to solve the current urgent problems by understanding the real problems and questions of scholars. Therefore, we can see that the library is the sharer of MOOC who enjoy the development brought by MOOC and make up for the deficiencies in its development process, so as to achieve the goal of harmonious co-development.

### **3.2.4. As the Provider of MOOC Environment**

One of the biggest advantages of MOOC environment is that it breaks the limitation of time and space for study. Of course, it is only one of the goals that MOOC aims to. However, from the perspective of cost and realizability, it is almost impossible to break the study space, so it needs the assistance of libraries. For example, libraries can regularly prepare some fashionable topics or a novel method to promote the development of learning mode online and offline, from which can provide perfect service space for MOOC movement and greatly reduce development costs, at the same time, achieve certain economic benefits by the centralized learning environment.

## 4. Strategies of Innovating Library Service in MOOC Context

### 4.1. Accelerating the Development of Auxiliary Service

MOOC movement has been applied in colleges and universities in a large scale, but we can see that MOOC still has some deficiencies in its development. We should find the developing direction of the library in this kind of insufficient space. Compared with the foreign famous universities, there is still a certain gap between our country and the foreign famous universities in the construction of library resources, so it is necessary for us to do well in the construction of the auxiliary function of the library and actively popularize and construct the development of the MOOC, improve the library function through development of MOOC and actively learn from some advanced technology or establish cooperation opportunities with libraries with more perfect service system so as to promote MOOC education.

### 4.2. Accelerating the Development of Supportive Service

MOOC education model can attract many scholars in a short time, which has a lot to do with its convenience. However, when using MOOC education model, different scholars have different needs. For example, students with excellent academic performance pay more attention to the level of knowledge. This differentiated demand may be ignored in the MOOC teaching model. Therefore, the library can meet such personalized requirements through certain measures. According to the understanding ability of different scholars, the library can strengthen the book matching system to provide differentiated supporting materials for different learning purposes every day so that it can let MOOC education model make better development.

### 4.3. Enhancing the Training of Librarians on Information Literacy

The construction of modern libraries requires librarians to have more perfect information literacy. When applying different science and technology, firstly, we should train librarians to have good professional literacy. Only in this way can we find and solve the problems existing in scholars' learning process. Secondly, we should train students to identify information, speed up the quick improvement of students with low information literacy and develop the basic skills of students and teachers in MOOC learning by organizing some learning activities or communication activities regularly.

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