

I'm Mary Cooch, Moodle Community Educator.

One of my responsibilities is to facilitate the twice-yearly Learn Moodle Basics MOOC which is a four-week online course for anyone wishing to teach with Moodle. It's aimed at beginners, but everyone is welcome and the MOOC regularly attracts thousands of participants globally.

This study will use data from the last three MOOCs based on Moodle three four three five and three six. In these MOOCs participants were offered the choice of seeing the four weeks of materials 'all at once' or of having them selectively released each week, in other words 'step by step'. At the start of the MOOC participants make a choice and then are grouped accordingly. The All at once group has access to everything from the first day whereas the Step by step group uses restrict access conditions to only allow them to view the materials at the start of each week and onwards.

There are lots of research papers on MOOC completion rates but very little on the effect selective release of content has on participant success so this study will use the data from the last three MOOCs to discover if there is a pattern in completion and whether one group or path or another is more likely to complete, to partially complete, or even if one group or path is more likely than another to not complete at all.

Additionally, the study is looking at the reasons why people choose the path they do, and questions were added to a participant survey in the last MOOC the 3.6 MOOC in January 2019 to this end. Participants were asked if this was their first time doing the MOOC, which path they chose and why - and this is a free text box to explain why. They were also asked about their confidence in completing the MOOC and their proficiency in the English language. The aim is to identify patterns: is one group more likely than another to give a certain response? Can any of the findings be used to help improve the complete rate of future MOOCs? The study aims to find out.