

This is a presentation of the data from the learn Moodle basics MOOC.

There are three course completion reports from the three previous MOOCs 3.4 and 3.5 in January in June 2018 and 3.6 in January 2019. These course completion reports were downloaded from Moodle and edited and filtered in a

spreadsheet. There's also from the 3.6 January 2019

MOOC a Moodle feedback activity which was downloaded at the end of the first

week including questions to the participants about the reasons why they chose the groups that they did for accessing the course content. This report

was also downloaded into a spreadsheet.

Finally there's a pair discussion with the co-facilitator

which was recorded and will be dealt with separately.

So the course completion reports gave us three sets of information:

first of all of course how many participants completed the MOOC, each of the three MOOCs; however there's more than one definition of completion of

what completing a MOOC actually means. Here are two: first of all if we count

course completion as meaning out of those participants who signed up for the

course - how many went on to complete it? These are the figures we get for the

last three MOOCs and the percentages are quite low fourteen point one sixteen

seventeen point three percent and they're low partly because the total number of participants who signed up for the course can include participants who

never even logged into the course or had never accessed it at all.

Another way of

defining course completion is the number of participants who actually signed up

and then logged into the course when it started or afterwards and then went on

to complete it. The percentages here are slightly higher twenty two point five

twenty one and twenty percent so if we look at the three MOOCs as a whole we

can say that the mean completion rate as a percentage of those who signed up for

the course is fifteen point eight percent and the main completion rate as a percentage of those who logged in on or after the start date is twenty one

point four percent but what we are interested in is the percentages of completion of those in the two groups all at once or step-by-step. So all at

once is the group of participants who logged in and then chose to see the course materials over the four weeks all at once, accessing it when they wanted to.

The step by step group are the participants who logged in and chose to see the materials weekly so to have selective release each week at a time.

So if we look at the numbers from both groups who completed each of the three

MOOCs many more completed from the all at once group than from the step by step group twice as many almost. However this is misleading because it doesn't actually tell us how many opted for each of the groups so if we look at the groups we can see for example that in the all at once group there are quite large numbers of participants who opted for the all at once group and the percentages are fairly similar over the three MOOCs thirty four thirty two point eight thirty one point four. If we now look at the step by step group the total numbers who signed up for the group are slightly smaller and yet the percentages again are fairly similar to the all at once group - thirty five point four thirty to thirty two point two -so looking at the groups we can say that the mean percentage of the all at once group who completed the course is thirty two point eight percent and the mean percentage of the step-by-step group who completed the course is 33.3% - fairly similar. However it's not just about completing the course, doing all of the activities. There is a secondary certificate, a certificate of achievement and this is obtained by participants who do everything except one single activity, a peer assessment workshop with a deadline so anyone who misses the deadline but does everything else can obtain a certificate of achievement - and it is quite an achievement. So if we look at the people who obtain the certificate of achievement, that's who partially completed, so if we look at the total number of participants as against those who signed up for the course, the numbers are low eighty five ninety nine eighty two which means the percentage of participants who signed up for the course and then partially completed is very low: 1.14, 1.99. 2.28 percent. If we look at it from the other point of view, in other words, the total number of participants who signed up and then logged in, the percentage of participants is still very low: 1.82%, 2.62%, 2.72%. we can say that the mean partial completion rate as a percentage of those who signed up for the course is 1.80% and the mean partial completion rate as a percentage of those who logged in on or after the start date is 2.39% and this needs to be investigated why it's so low. So if we now break this up into the groups again - the number of all at once participants who obtained a certificate of

achievement, in other words partially completed is larger than the number of the step by step members. However as with those who completed, the all at once group is larger than the step by step group and so if we look at the percentages of the all at once group who obtained a certificate of achievement we see three, four point one, five percent. If we then go and look at the percentage of the step by step group who obtained a certificate of achievement even though the groups are smaller we see two point four percent for point one percent two point five percent, slightly lower figures but still fairly similar. So we can say that the mean percentage of the all at once group who obtained a certificate of achievement is four percent and the mean percentage of the step by step group who obtained a certificate of achievement is three percent.

So what about those who left with nothing? If we leave out those who signed up and never logged in and if we focus on the all at once and step by step groups, then we can say that the percentage of the all at once group who failed to complete is sixty-two point nine sixty three point one sixty three point six; the percentage of the step by step group who failed to complete is sixty two point two sixty three point six sixty five point three. These figures are obtained by removing the percentage who completed and the percentage who partially completed and we can see that the mean percentage of the all at once group who failed to complete is 63.2% and the mean percentage of the step-by-step group who failed to complete is sixty three point seven percent, so slightly more failed to complete in the step by step group but again the figures are very similar.

The second data we have was the participant survey which was only done for the three point six MOOC in January of 2019 at the end of the first week, a feedback activity where participants were asked specific questions relating to this study.

1127 responded but it's important to realise that not all of these went on to complete the MOOC. So the first question they were asked: is this your first time doing the MOOC and we can see that 69% of the all at once group had were doing this for the first time and 85% of the step by step group so the majority of participants are still doing this for the first time even though we do have people who return to repeat the MOOC.

Second question: how confident are you of completing? the options were Very, Quite and Not at all but if you combine the Very confident and the Quite confident you see that both see all at once and the step by step

group are confident to the degree of 95 96 percent that they will complete.

Slightly more in the step by step group are confident they will complete than in the all at once group but it's still a very high percentage in both. The next question relates to their English. The MOOC is in English even though you are welcome to post in the forums in your own language. How confident are you in English? Ninety-five percent said they were very confident or quite confident in the all at once group. Slightly fewer ninety two point seven six percent said they were very or quite confident in English in the step by step group but both groups were confident.

An interesting part of the feedback activity, the participant survey, were the free text responses where we asked them why did you choose the path you chose? Why did you choose the step by step? Why did you choose the all at once? Now 8.5% of the free text answers were actually in a language other than English because participants were told they could reply in their own language so when I got that figure in that percentage I then translated those responses and included them in the English responses for the analysis. So first of all I took the free text responses and I ran them through the first online text analyser that I found but this wasn't particularly useful because although it could give me the number of instances of words or phrases of three four or five numbers of words it couldn't differentiate between responses that had different words but had the same meanings for example someone who said I chose this because I thought it was easier is the same as someone saying this was going to be simpler for me but this online text analyser couldn't do that. So instead I manually went through all of the responses and categorised them into various kind of umbrella topics and here is what they are. So the category on the right is my name for a general topic that these numbers of instances came to. So we can see here for example that there were 91 instances of people saying something along the lines of they simply chose this step by step or the all at once group because they wanted to and of those more were from the step by step group more from the step by step chose it out on a whim because they wanted to in terms of the MOOC being easier we can see again that more from the step by step group chose it because they thought it would be easier and experienced Moodlers or Moodlers who participants who categorise themselves as experts used it a long time

experienced more were in the all at once group and for categorising themselves as new Moodllers, new to Moodle more from the step by step group. Flexibility was very much something for the all at once group and own pace ,wanting to work at my own pace, my own speed, again, more from the all at once group with quite a lot of instances of this. Other categories I used - time constraints - this was one of the largest number of instances and again significantly more from the all at once group. However those who said in however and whatever phrases that they had more time there were there were few and not many not either from the all at once group or the step by step group. However those who said they wanted a full overview they wanted a detailed overview ,in other words, they wanted to be able to see all of the four weeks materials all at once again more were from the all at once group than the step-by-step group, whereas those who said they wanted to see the MOOC in manageable bits, some chunking, to be able to see it a bit at a time were more from the step by step group. And the term overwhelming was in fact only used by participants from the step by step group and no one in the all at once groups said this. Then I made a final category other which basically included free text responses which didn't really fit into any other categories. And these were responses such as one participant who said "I rolled the dice ",a completely random choice for all at once or step-by-step; another one who said the choice of group was recommended by our IT consultant, and someone who responded in Spanish "No idea that's the truth". And there was one final participant who unfortunately from their response "I wasn't prepared for this Moodle learning I thought I would be learning bookkeeping and accounting" perhaps had joined the wrong MOOC. And so that's the data for the learn Moodle basics MOOC: the completion report and the feedback activity.