

Evolution of MOOC designs, providers and learners and the related MOOC research and publications from 2008 to 2018

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What is a MOOC? How many MOOC types?

- **Massive Open Online Course**

- 2008: connectivist MOOCs
- 2011: extension MOOCs
- 2015: hybrid MOOCs

What has been promised? what has been told?

The New York Times | <https://nyti.ms/TTn1E6>

EDUCATION LIFE

The Year of the MOOC

By LAURA PAPPANO NOV. 2, 2012

IN late September, as workers applied joint compound to new office walls, hoodie-clad colleagues who had just met were working together on deadline. Film editors, code-writing interns and “edX fellows” — grad students and postdocs versed in online education — were translating videotaped lectures into MOOCs, or massive open online courses. As if anyone needed reminding, a row of aqua Post-its gave the dates the courses would “go live.”

The paint is barely dry, yet edX, the nonprofit start-up from Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has 370,000 students this fall in its first official courses. That’s nothing. Coursera, founded just last January, has reached more than 1.7 million — growing “faster than Facebook,” boasts Andrew Ng, on leave from Stanford to run his for-profit MOOC

What has been promised? what has been told?

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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COMMENTARY



MOOCs Are Dead. Long Live Online Higher Education.

By *Phil Hill*

AUGUST 26, 2016

PREMIUM CONTENT FOR SUBSCRIBERS. [SUBSCRIBE TODAY](#)

Last week marked five years since Stanford University introduced to the world the classes that would soon spark a frenzy over massive open online courses.

What has been promised? what has been told?

It turned out that MOOCs are not achieving such a high impact as expected in

the hypes

of the beginning but are continuously developed, offered and taken by an increasing number of MOOC providers respectively MOOC learners.

Purpose and Methodology

- As a review study, this paper focuses on the evolution of MOOC designs, providers and learners and the related MOOC research and publications from 2008 to 2018.
- Web of Science (n=1255; Articles = 1132; Editorial = 81; Review = 42)

The screenshot shows the Class Central website. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with "Courses" and "MOOC Report" dropdown menus on the left, the "CLASS CENTRAL" logo in the center, and "Sign in or Register" on the right. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads "Make Informed Online Learning Decisions." followed by a search bar containing the text "Search online courses" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, a line of text states "Millions of people have used Class Central to decide which online course to take. [Learn more about MOOCs](#)".

The "Browse Courses" section is titled "Browse Courses" and includes the text "Learn from the best. Discover thousands of free online courses from top universities around the world like MIT, Stanford, and Harvard." Below this, there are three main category cards:

- Computer Science** (1371 courses):
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Algorithms and Data Structures
 - Internet of Things
 - Information Technology
 - Cybersecurity
 - Computer Networking
 - Machine Learning
 - DevOps
 - Deep Learning
 - Blockchain and Cryptocurrency
 - Quantum Computing
- Business** (2312 courses):
 - Management & Leadership
 - Finance
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Marketing
 - Strategic Management
 - Industry Specific
 - Business Intelligence
 - Accounting
 - Human Resources
 - Project Management
 - Sales
 - Advertising
 - Business Software
- Humanities** (1256 courses):
 - History
 - Literature
 - Foreign Language
 - Grammar & Writing
 - Philosophy
 - Religion
 - ESL
 - Culture
 - Sports
 - Journalism

Findings

- MOOCs are not dead

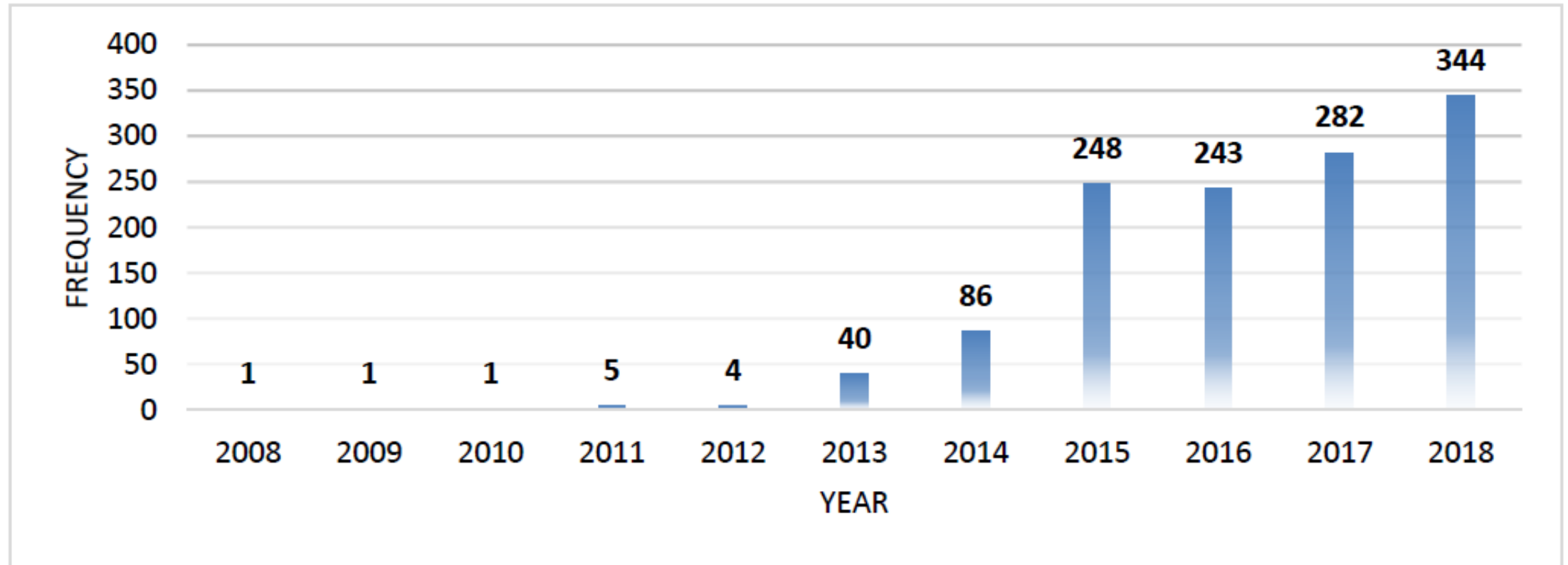


Figure 1. The number of the MOOC research publications per year.

Findings

- MOOC designs refer to the number of provided MOOCs while
- MOOC providers refer the number of institutions offering them
- MOOC learners refer to all learners who signed up for at least one MOOC.

Table 1. Evolution of MOOC designs, providers and learners (according to Class Central)

Dimensions	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MOOC designs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,200	6,850	9,400	11,400
MOOC providers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	500+	700+	800+	900+
MOOC learners	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	58	81	101

Findings

- MOOCs are not dead

Research Area	f	%
Education / Educational Research	779	52.00
Computer Science	193	12.88
Engineering	63	4.21
Business Economics	45	3.00
Information Science Library Science	42	2.80
Psychology	34	2.27
Communication	31	2.07
Science Technology	31	2.07
Other	280	18.69
Total	1498	100.00

Figure 2. Research areas of MOOC publications (2008-2018).

Findings

- MOOCs are not dead

Region/Country	f	%
USA	324	20
Spain	201	12
England	128	8
China	96	6
Australia	83	5
Canada	67	4
Netherlands	47	3
Germany	40	2
Scotland	36	2
France	34	2
Other	556	34
Total	1642	100

Figure 3. The regional interest of MOOC research (2008-2018).

Findings

- MOOCs are not dead

Organizations	f	%
Universidad Nacional De Educacion a Distancia	30	1.6
Open University UK	26	1.4
Pennsylvania Commonwealth System of Higher Education	24	1.3
University of California System	24	1.3
Universidad Carlos III De Madrid	23	1.2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	21	1.1
Harvard University	19	1.0
Open University Netherlands	19	1.0
Penn State University	18	1.0
University of London	18	1.0
University of Edinburgh	17	0.9
Other	1653	87.40
Total	1892	100

Figure 4. Organizational interest in MOOC research (2008-2018).

Conclusion

- MOOC research is still a trending topic and scholarly MOOC literature grows.
- it can be claimed that MOOC research is moving from Slope of Enlightenment where the phenomenon is understood widely to Plateau of Productivity where the phenomenon mainstreams and is accepted by a wider audience.

Conclusion

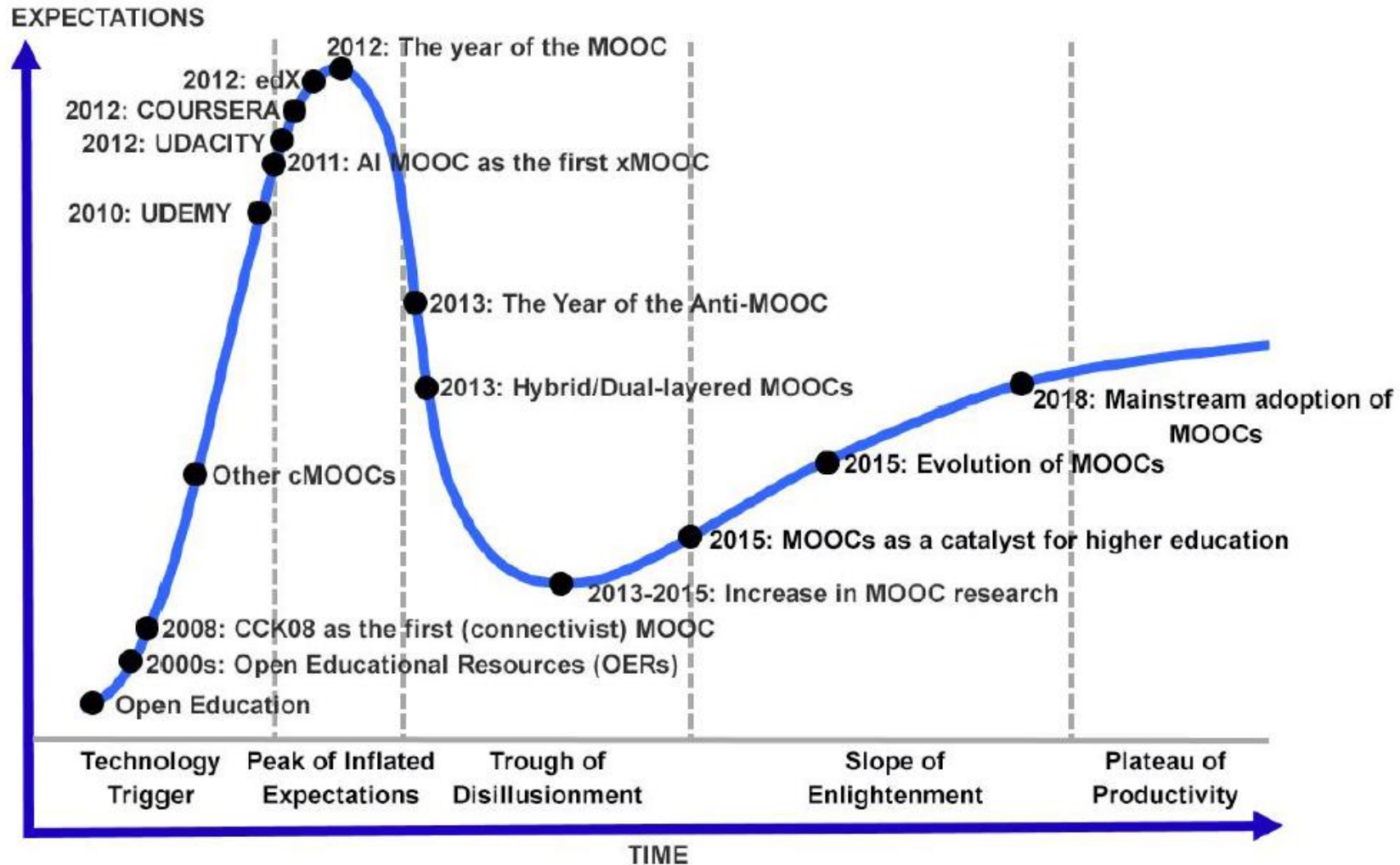


Figure 6. Progress of MOOCs on Gartner's Hype Cycle (Adopted from Bozkurt, Özdamar Keskin, & de Waard, 2016)

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