IS FORUM FULLY USED IN TEACHING OF MOOCS

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Introduction

- Rapid Development of MOOCs
- More focus on students rather than teaching staffs
- The role of forum
Related Work

- Concern about MOOCs
- Related data analysis on MOOCs
Data Source

- Data provided by Coursera
- One real MOOC “Traditional Chinese Medicine and Culture”
- Data includes all the operations and content on forum
Analysis on workload

Weekly Workload

Workload

Instructor  TA

Highcharts.com
Analysis on workload (Cont.)

Workload of Different Actions

- Instructor:
  - Upvoting: 662
  - Viewing Forum: 84
  - Viewing Threads: 324

- TAs:
  - Upvoting: 509
  - Viewing Forum: 264
  - Viewing Threads: 227

Highcharts.com
Analysis Result

• Instructor
  – Did more work than TAs
  – Different workload with the time going
  – Focus more on content

• TAs
  – Do not share instructor’s workload
  – Enthusiasm and interest for the course did not last
  – Just take forum maintenance as part of their responsibilities and they do not put emphasis on it
## Analysis on posts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Inferred Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Problem and notation about quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Problem about certification gaining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Problem of given material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank</td>
<td>Usually thank for suggestion and cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notify</td>
<td>Content about notification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video</td>
<td>Problem about videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorry</td>
<td>Sorry for problems met in the course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis on posts (Cont.)

Teaching Staff Posts

- **course_info**: 79.0%
- **other**: 21.0%
Analysis on posts (Cont.)

Teaching Staff Posts

- course_info: 25.0%
- other: 75.0%
Analysis Result

- TAs
  - Most about the course information and notice
- Instructor
  - Most about the course topics and contents
- Both the TAs and instructor never start a new thread
Reputation and resolution analysis

- The average reputation point of the students are 2.6
- TAs have an average reputation point of 21
- Instructor has 24 reputation point
- 303 threads shown unresolved
• The students in the course is not very active
• The instructor is more active than the teaching staff and the teaching staffs are far more active than the students
• Many of the students’ questions cannot be answered
• Cause the inaction of the students in the forum
Analysis Conclusion

• Instructors
  – Do more work and take the forum more seriously
  – Post more about course content and topics
  – Never start a new thread
  – Cannot handle so many information on forum

• TAs
  – Do not share instructor’s workload
  – Post more about course information and notice
  – Never start a new thread
  – Posts on forum is not so valuable as the instructor
• More emphasis of the teaching staff can be put on forum
  – Assign more TAs to take responsibility of forum
  – TAs should share as much workload from the instructor as possible

• TAs should be put into full use in forum management and monitoring
  – TAs should filter the information
  – TAs should be more professional
  – TAs should be able to answer some simple questions and do professional comments

• More divergent questions can be raised in forum to activate students’ enthusiasm and guide them to think
Conclusion

• MOOC is a very good way to spread knowledge
• Forum is very important in MOOCs learning
• There are some problems in the teaching staff’s work on forum
• Some suggestions are put forward
Q&A

Thank You!