

МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ: ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ И ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ РАЗВИТИЯ

E.A. Genke, N.A. Tumakova
Tomsk Polytechnic University

Massive open online course as the next stage in evolution of education

Education has a very long history, since the prehistoric and ancient times till nowadays. People always teach each other something new, share their own experience, develop their skills, and improve their knowledge. Of course, methods of teaching have changed since the antiquity because of social and technological improvements. And now in the Digital Age we have a lot of exciting educational methods: blended education, online education, gamification and so on. But the object of our investigation is Massive open online courses (MOOC).

What is MOOC? Massive open online course is an online course available for an unlimited number of people, usually it includes some video lectures, quizzes, a homework and a final exam. Also, the MOOCs include communication between students and a professor or assistants provided by a forum. Usually it takes 8-10 weeks to complete the course. MOOCs, based on the idea of education, are available for anyone, anywhere.

MOOCs already have 7 million students worldwide. And the number of people, taking part in these courses, is constantly increasing. The first MOOC was launched in 2008. It was called “Connectivism and connective knowledge”. There were 2300 subscribers who signed up for this course. Nowadays 50000 people is a typical number of students enrolled in a course, although some popular ones have 250000 students.

These courses give you a perfect opportunity to supplement your educational program, because sometimes we want to know subjects which are not included in our syllabus. We have a great opportunity to take courses from the best universities of the world, such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University, Princeton University, Stanford University and so on. You can find a field you want to study or to work in. You can even make your own syllabus. Some universities in Europe and in the USA allow students to take credits from these courses. You can gain specific skills to do your job better or to find a new job. You can satisfy your curiosity. And what’s more, you don’t have to sit in a classroom – study anywhere you want anytime you like.

No doubt, these courses have their drawbacks. The MOOCs can’t provide the same experience as classroom education. Sometimes it’s more interesting to study in small groups, where a teacher can control the level of material understanding. Also you should always motivate yourself, because you are the only person who cares about it. There is one more drawback: you need a computer, or something like this.

Why do we think that improving of MOOC is so important? Well, because free courses completely change the face of higher education. You can easily learn new things, communicate with students and teachers all over the world, and take courses from the best universities just sitting comfortably at home. We think it's fascinating. It's making education more affordable. Now 40% of students come from developing countries, in our opinion, it's really important. And it's vital to improve online education and develop massive open online courses to change our education system and the world.

References

1. Pappano, Laura. "The Year of the Mooc". The New York Times. 29 November 2012.
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massive_open_online_course (дата обращения 20.04.2014).

K.V. Timkina, T.S. Mylnikova
Tomsk Polytechnic University

Mental maps as a method to train specialists of different profiles

The technology of mental maps nowadays is one of the most innovative and effective methods to work with information.

The majority of people, whether students or workers, use notes, however, mind mapping technique is getting increasingly popular throughout the world.

The most important feature of the mental maps is the fact that this technique enables us to energize both hemispheres of the brain and makes it possible to synchronize their activities. This way it unleashes human mental potential. As a result, the efficiency of generation of new ideas increases several times as much, and problems previously treated as a challenge appear to be a piece of a cake.

A mental map is an easy to use tool to display the process of thinking and structuring information in a visual form.

The mental map is used to:

- take down in shorthand thoughts and ideas while thinking over a problem;
- arrange information so that the brain perceives it easily since the information is recorded in the "language of the brain";

Mental maps (original Mind maps ®) were developed by Tony Buzan, a well-known writer, lecturer and consultant on intelligence, psychology of learning and thinking problems [2. P. 147-151].

Mental maps are easy to perceive, often indispensable to fix the trends in the process of brainstorming, generating ideas, finding the right information while planning projects, resources, finance, and time using mental map technique it is possible to effectively learn and make presentations [4].