



MOOCs4D: Potential at the Bottom of the Pyramid

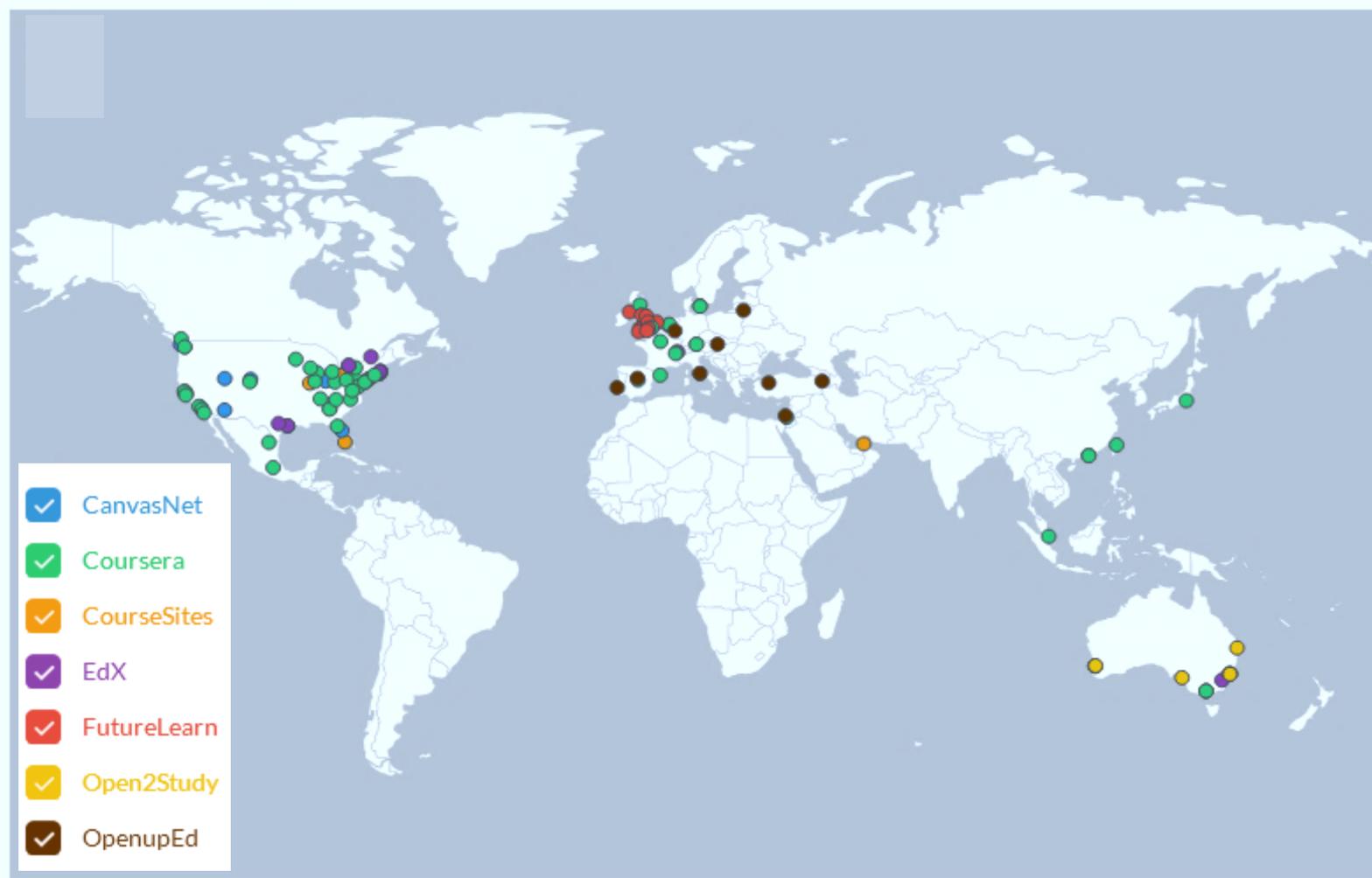


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Presentation by
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MOOCs and Development: Perspectives from Higher Education in Africa

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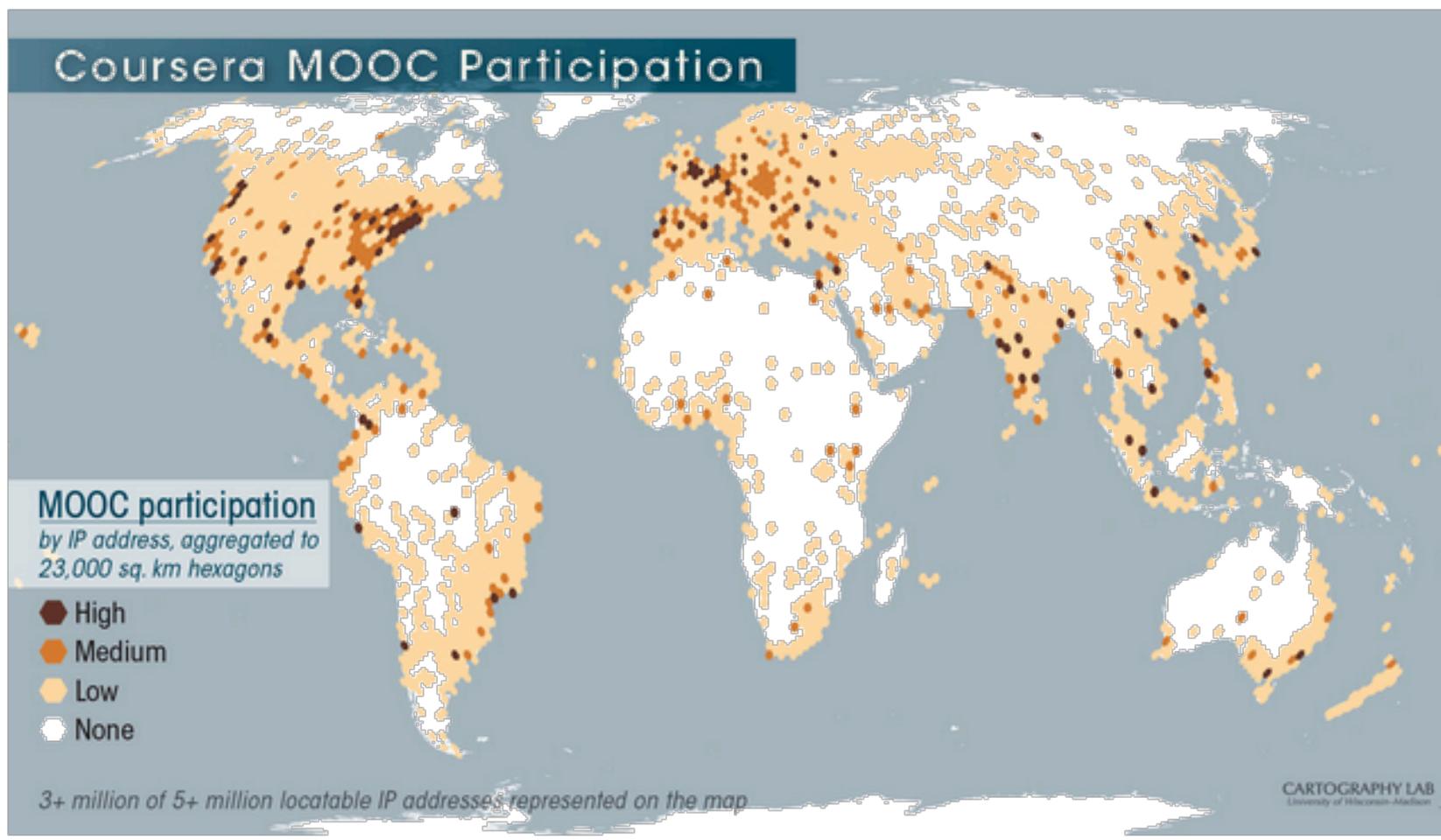


April 2013



October 2013

Participants



MOOCs and Development Challenges in Africa

Competing markets and constituencies:

- Showcase African Knowledge and Expertise
- Resource social and economic development initiatives in Africa
- Local and national imperative: narrowing the gap between secondary and tertiary institutions through ‘college readiness or bridging courses’

Educational Mission of the University of Cape Town

These three challenges a perfect 'fit' given proactive 'social responsive' mission of the University of Cape Town:

- Pro Vice Chancellors in Poverty and Inequality, and Climate Change
- Commitment to improving transition from school to University

Problem of Resources

Workload involved in planning and developing content

- Preparation before MOOC began (excluding filming): 83% of respondents spent at least 10 hours a week, the remainder working 5-10 hours each week on preparation. Once their MOOC started, majority of teams (66%) spent at least 10 hours a week managing their MOOC

University of London 2013 report on MOOCs

- Professional production staff: high quality video content, pedagogical and other issues, including copyright

Governance and Strategy

MOOC Strategy Advisory Committee established
Urbana-Campaign has met almost weekly since
its establishment in April 2013

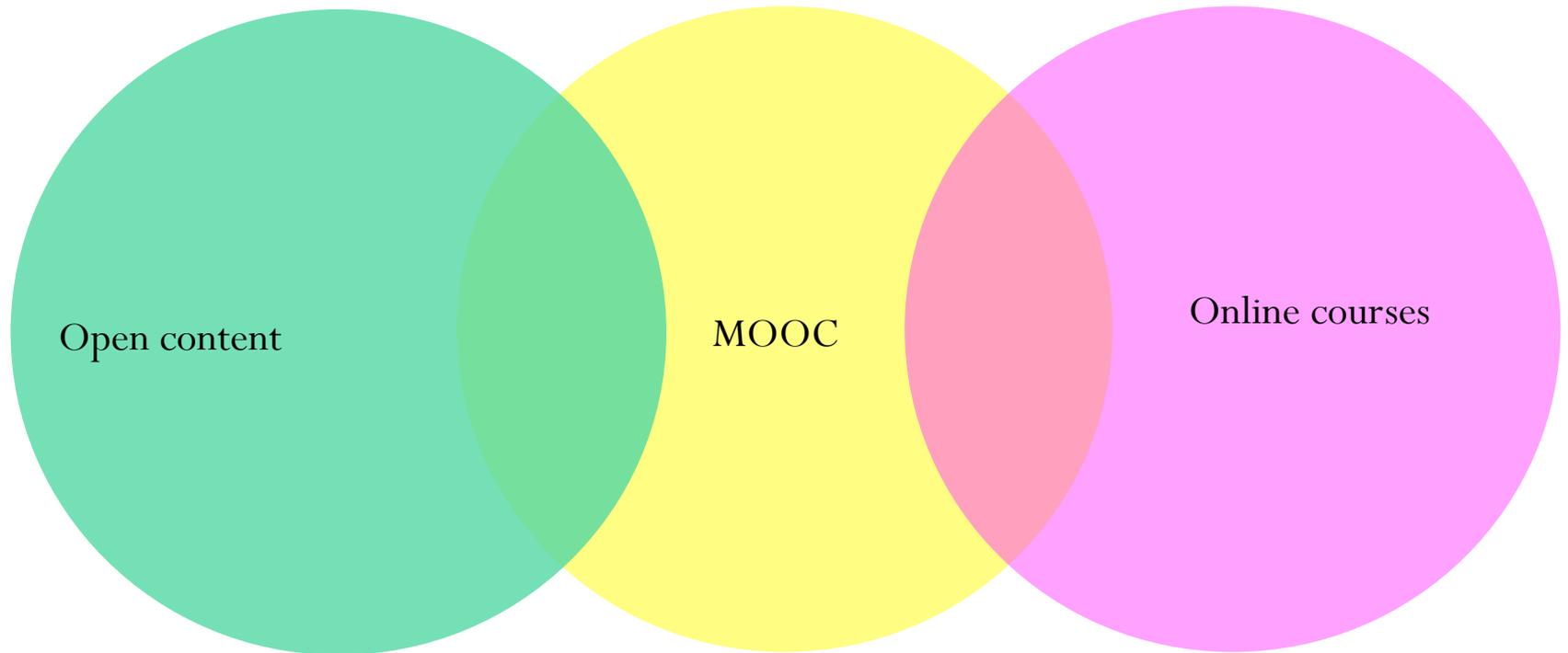
Wrapped MOOCs at UCT

Time	Topic
Group meets every -Monday for 5 weeks	Critical Thinking in Global Challenges https://www.coursera.org/course/criticalthinking
Group meets every -Thursday for 5 weeks	Principles of Written English https://www.edx.org/course/uc-berkeleyx/uc-berkeleyx-colwri2-2x-principles-1348
Group meets every -Monday for 6 weeks	Understanding Research: An Overview for Health Professionals https://www.coursera.org/course/researchforhealth
Group meets every second Wednesday for 5 weeks	Model Thinking https://www.coursera.org/course/modelthinking
Group meets every Monday for 6 weeks	Design and Interpretation of Clinical Trials https://www.coursera.org/course/clintrials
Group meets every Wednesday for 10 weeks	Data Analysis and Statistical Inference https://www.coursera.org/course/statistics
Group meets every Thursday for 6 weeks	University Teaching 101 *NEW* https://www.coursera.org/course/univteaching101

Question for UCT:

**What do we need to do to
achieve the greatest impact in
and for Africa ?**

MOOCs- open & online



Resourcing Development Initiatives in Africa

Academic Partnerships *Guide to Quality in Post-Traditional Online Higher Education*, published last week, foregrounds the notion of outreach in developing countries.

Two examples:

- Makerere University programme to improve the production and economic performance of dairy farms, captured in form of OER
- World Bank, in collaboration with the Tanzanian Commission for Science and Technology engaged in a pilot to meet the specific needs of students who need market-relevant IT skills, and the Information Technology in Tanzania. Incorporates existing Coursera offerings

Narrowing the gap between secondary and tertiary education

- 50% of first time entering students in South Africa fail to complete degrees
- Lack of adequate career advice as major contributing factor to early drop outs
- Threshold concepts as stumbling blocks to success
- Inability to understand the requirements and constraints of the tertiary environment

Post-traditional v. first time entering students

Post-traditional students are typically able to work independently, while most school leavers seeking to enter universities in (South) Africa are not.

I Taught Myself

Empowerment as key to success

- Build resilience and self-reliance
- Foster a sense of agency and ownership
- Provide adequate scaffolding and embed digital and other literacies
- Short, three week interventions with aid of teachers as facilitators

Key to addressing massive skills shortages in Africa

EXISTING RESOURCES

- Khan Academy
- Educational Partnerships
- Futurelearn: Preparing for Uni; Study Skills for International Students
- Coursera: Advanced Chemistry; Preparation for Introductory Biology

Designing Career Guidance and other preparatory courses that are fit for the (South) African market