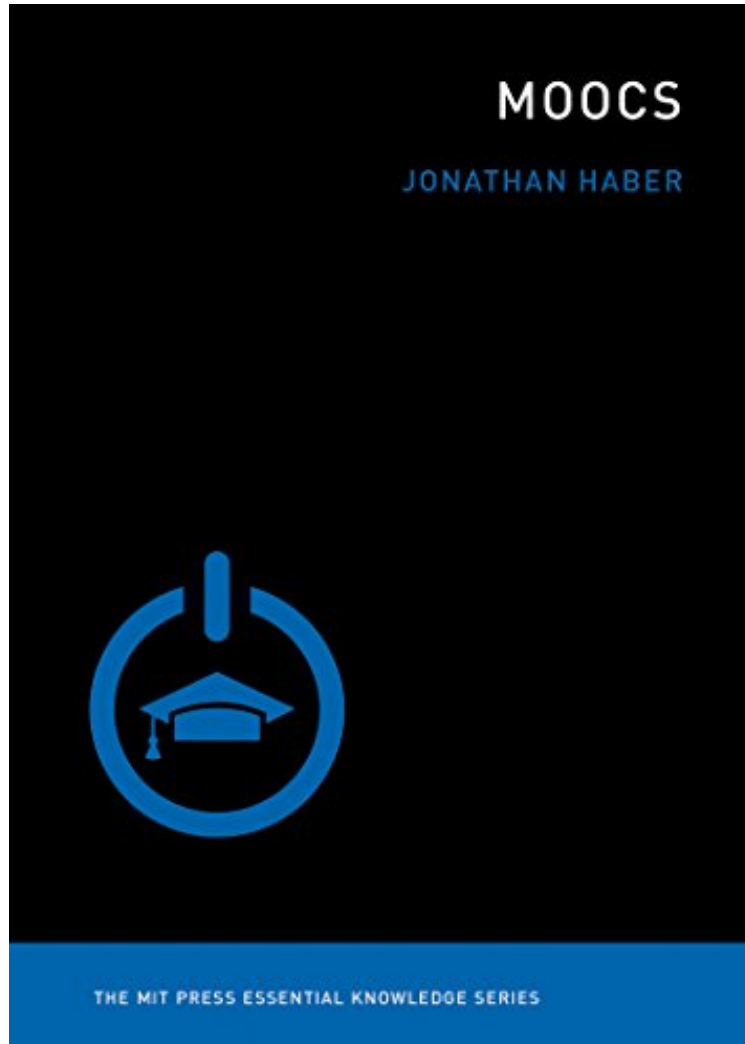


[FREE] MOOCs (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge series)

MOOCs (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge series)

Jonathan Haber

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Jonathan Haber : MOOCs (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised MOOCs (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The historical section gives a good understanding of the provenance of online learning and MOOCs. By Barbara A. Oakley This is a comprehensive, fair, and penetrating overview of every aspect of MOOCs that I've been interested in, and even more aspects I hadn't previously considered. The historical section gives a good understanding of the provenance of online learning and MOOCs. The text then moves on to explore the many different types of MOOCs, and the issues and controversies surrounding them. Because the author has taken a number of MOOCs over a year's period as part of his research process, the text is well-informed and balanced. The writing is elegantly straight-forward, which makes the book an enjoyable as well as an informative read. I highly recommend this terrific book for anyone who might have an interest in MOOCs and the MOOC

phenomenon. It is the best book I have ever read in relation to MOOCs and online learning. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Credible, Interesting, and Impressive! By Loyd Eskildson
Author Jonathan Haber dedicated 2013 to attempting to learn the equivalent of what a student would get from being enrolled in a four-year liberal arts degree program using only MOOCs and other forms of free learning. Previously he'd graduated in the '80s with a degree in chemistry. During 2014 he completed courses from Coursera, Harvard, Udacity, Ohio State University, Holy Cross University, Wesleyan University, edX, Indiana State, Yale, Udemy, Concordia, California Institute of Technology, Saylor.org, Stanford, University of Virginia, Berkeley, and MIT. Topics included 'How to Reason and Argue,' 'Introduction to Law and Economics,' 'Statistics, How to Build a Startup, Understanding Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity, Art History, China, Pragmatism, Technology Entrepreneurship, and Kant's Critique of Pure Reason.' I'm certainly impressed - both with the content, breadth, and reputation of the course providers. His freshman year was from January until the end of March, and the sophomore year was wrapped up at the end of June; however, by that time he'd also started some of his third year classes. Summarizing the experience, Haber believes the typical MOOC is easier. Some of the course discussion-board comments were really, really thoughtful, others really, really misguided; most gravitate to the same old left/right debate. At least half his fellow-students were outside the U.S. As for essays - not much of an issue now, though EdX plans to release open source software that grades essays; meanwhile, in one of his classes (25,000 enrolled) students graded each other's essays using specified rules. One wondering where to take a particular course can check out various professors at Rate My Professor, or even iTunes. Bottom-Line: While there are problems (eg. some professors aren't good at getting the microphone close enough to students, discussion boards often drown in comments) Haber believes MOOCs will make a big contribution to changing education. He believes that self-motivated individuals can get as much out of a MOOC class as a traditional brick-and-mortar class. 0 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Herbert Allen I cannot write a review of this book yet.

The New York Times declared 2012 to be "The Year of the MOOC" as millions of students enrolled in massive open online courses (known as MOOCs), millions of investment dollars flowed to the companies making them, and the media declared MOOCs to be earth-shaking game-changers in higher education. During the inevitable backlash that followed, critics highlighted MOOCs' high dropout rate, the low chance of earning back initial investments, and the potential for any earth-shaking game change to make things worse instead of better. In this volume in the Essential Knowledge series, Jonathan Haber offers an account of MOOCs that avoids both hype and doomsaying. Instead, he provides an engaging, straightforward explanation of a rare phenomenon: an education innovation that captures the imagination of the public while moving at the speed of an Internet startup. Haber explains the origins of MOOCs, what they consist of, the controversies surrounding them, and their possible future role in education. He proposes a new definition of MOOCs based on the culture of experimentation from which they emerged, and adds a student perspective -- missing in most MOOC discussion. Haber's unique Degree of Freedom experiment, during which he attempted to learn the equivalent of a four-year liberal arts degree in one year using only MOOCs and other forms of free education, informs his discussion. Haber urges us to avoid the fallacy of thinking that because MOOCs cannot solve all educational challenges they are not worth pursuing, and he helps us understand what MOOCs -- despite their limitations -- still offer the world. His book is required reading for anyone trying to sort out the competing claims, aspirations, and accusations that color the MOOC debate.

Its clear-eyed take on all the main issues and controversies surrounding MOOCs makes this the perfect read for students, faculty, and anyone wanting to teach or take this type of course. (Library Journal)...this book is an excellent departure point for inspiring discussions about the role of disruptive technologies in education and the ensuing tension between on-line learning and traditional brick and mortar experiences in the face of increasing commodification within higher education systems across the globe. Even if MOOCs themselves disappear in the near future, the need for dialogue about these sorts of issues will not, thus making this book a useful contribution to scholarship. (Science and Public Policy)
About the Author Jonathan Haber is a writer and researcher who has worked extensively in the field of education technology. His website degreeoffreedom.org chronicles his year-long odyssey through MOOCs and other free educational resources.