

The quest for meaningful learning analytics for co-creation platforms

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In this practice paper we want to address the challenge of providing meaningful Learning Analytics connected to an interactive courseware platform.

The goal of the courseware platform is to support social learning directly connected to course material. On top of functionality for private annotations and remarks, reading out loud, automatic summaries, etc. the platform provides functionality for learners to directly discuss or ask questions on the course material. Connecting the discussion to the actual courseware offers potential over the more traditional approach of having a discussion board or forum in a separate silo. Learners can directly see other student's questions, teachers answers, and ongoing discussion while using the course material. Teachers get a view of potential difficulties or interesting opportunities for deeper discussion that is connected to the material, supporting the continuous improvement of course material. Finally, and potentially most importantly, the discussion can leverage the social aspect of learning and strengthen interaction between students and students and teachers.

Learning Analytics and Learning Dashboards have the potential to strengthen the interactive courseware platform. For Learning Analytics and Dashboards to be effective and meaningful to the users, they should connect to the pedagogical approaches that teachers envision when using the platform, and focus on those learning traces, analysis, and feedback that connect to the pedagogical goals. Learning Analytics will however only be useful if the digital traces it builds on reflect actual activities connected to learning. Therefore, the course design itself should be such that these meaningful digital traces will be created. Next, building on these meaningful traces Learning Analytics and Dashboards can be built that support the stakeholders (students, teachers, and course builders) in the pedagogical process. In the practice paper we will present the different pedagogical use cases for interactive courseware platforms that we identified in a co-creative effort, recommendations for course designs focusing on creating meaningful digital traces from the digital platforms, and ideas for Learning Analytics and Dashboards that could be built on top of the digital traces. We will highlight open challenges regarding Learning Analytics for interactive courseware.