Developing an On-Demand Curriculum using MOOC Curriculum Methodology

Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought numerous challenges to our institution in the form of moving all former face-to-face lessons into an online format. A major side effect of this rush to move online has been to set aside temporarily any research relating to the JSPS KAKEN grant project (18K02924) entitled: Development of a Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) for Language Training to Support the Globalization of the Hospitality Services Industry. The uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and operating within its constraints dictated a cautious approach with respect to the research and the interactions required between the researchers and the hospitality industry. It seemed as if there would be no hope of moving the project forward.

However, in the fall of 2020 with approaching classes remaining online, the researchers shifted the direction of the KAKEN project to focus on developing on-demand curriculums for English language learners at the institution instead of directly with the hospitality services industry. By nature of the hospitality-centric major fields of study (international tourism, social work, health and nutrition, and pharmacology) currently offered at the institution, an aspect of the"hospitality services industry"can be touched. Additionally, the MOOC's primary characteristic is being available"ondemand"to a wide audience of participants. It seems the research team was"gifted"a saving grace in the presentation of this new goal — developing effective on-demand courses in a "MOOC style" format to help students achieve their learning goals for the second semester.