Libraries and MOOCs

MOOC - A massive open online course (MOOC; /mu:k/)
anywhere in the world or Arizona for that matter. Weaker community colleges without local employer tie-ins would be subject to the same fate.

The opportunities for education on the internet are limitless. Libraries used to be the place people came to read and learn. Now the information formerly held by libraries is available not in a building but on your cell phone. Universities were founded to provide a place for discussion, education, learning, and thought to occur in a group setting. Can this be accomplished using Skype, GoToMeeting, or MeetingBurner software? One of the most frequent comments I get from my online students is that they miss the personal interaction with the other students that you get with a face to face class. MOOCs are good at content delivery; if you want to learn something, take a test, and go away. Will future students want to pay a premium for face-to-face group learning? Will they want to pay a premium to use library resources at a local university library? In the past students have given high marks to personal learning interaction in a classroom setting. Will they be able to afford to in the future, or will most be priced out of that market by MOOCs? In any case local brick and mortar university libraries will need to come up with solutions to the problems posed by MOOC students.

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