Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The California Open Educational Resources Council has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected no/low cost and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Lumen – U.S. History 1

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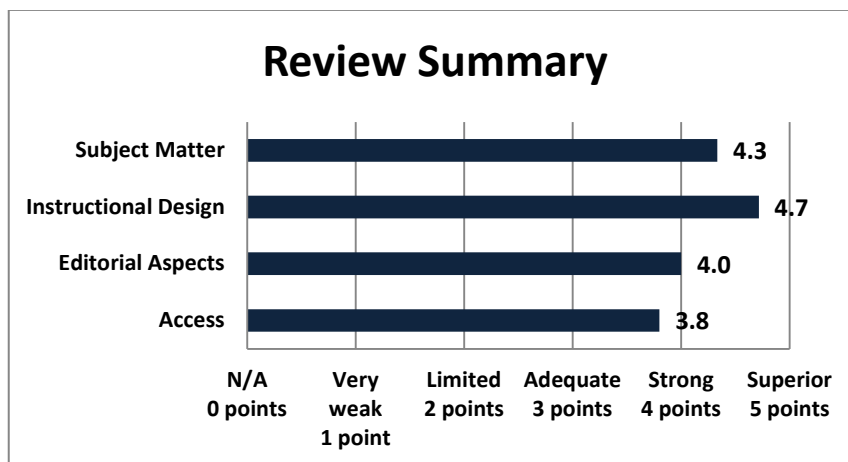
Title/Position:

Assistant Professor, History

Format Reviewed:

Online

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

August, 2014.

Review Summary

Subject Matter	4.3
Instructional Design	4.7
Editorial Aspects	4.0
Access	3.8

N/A 0 points · Very weak 1 point · Limited 2 points · Adequate 3 points · Strong 4 points · Superior 5 points

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: HIST 130

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?					X	
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?						X
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?				X		

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)					X	

Total points: 26 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- Seems to be up to date, common versions of events...

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?						X
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)				X		
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?						X
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?						X
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?						
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)						X
Is the textbook searchable?						X

Total points: 28 out of 35 points

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

Very well organized... ready for a student or a teacher to implement! I liked the SLO's, lessons were organized into bite size segments, liked the critical thinking and chronology sections. Good for those new to online experience,17 chapters similar to traditional 1 chapter per week semester, pre-post test good for assessment data.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?						X
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages latid0out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)					X	
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)						X
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)			X			

Total points: 20 out of 25 points

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The answer keys state that the "correct answers are bolded," but the answers are not bolded (though they are on the PDF version). "Patronado" should be spelled "Patronato" in section 2.2.2 ("The Spanish in the Age of Discovery") or page 33 in the PDF version. "Grenada" should be "Granada" in the same section and page as stated in the previous sentence. Other issues include:
  - It is standard practice to refer to Bartolomé de las Casas by his Spanish name rather than the anglicized version "Bartholomew de las Casas" (see pages 79 and 89 in PDF or sections 3.3.1 and 3.4.2 in online version). The same holds true for

José de Anchieta, which is spelled as Joseph de Anchieta on page 89 (section 3.4.2).

- o "Hernán do de Soto" should be "Hernándo de Soto" on page 83 (sections 3.3).
- o In the phrase "However, The Jesuit experience in Canada," the "t" in "the" should be lower-case (page 94 or section 3.5.1).
- o I believe that "foordways" should be "foodways" (page 99 or section 3.6).

Access (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?					X	
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)				X		
Can the textbook be printed easily?				X		
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?						X
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?					X	

Total points: 19 out of 25 points

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- Very organized! Walks you through step by step, very good for those new to online and may be intimidated.

Overall Ratings						
	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?						X
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?					X	

Total points: 9 out of 10 points

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- Ready to implement! Curriculum ready... the legwork has been completed for the most part! Step by step instructions are very helpful!
- I also like the netiquette and plagiarism info.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- I would still like to see more charts and graphs, more interactive aspects too.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the textbook site in MERLOT.
(Please register in MERLOT to post your feedback.)

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For questions or more information, contact the CA Open Educational Resources Council