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 free 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:

General Chemistry

Find it: eTextbook Website

Textbook Authors:
Wikibooks

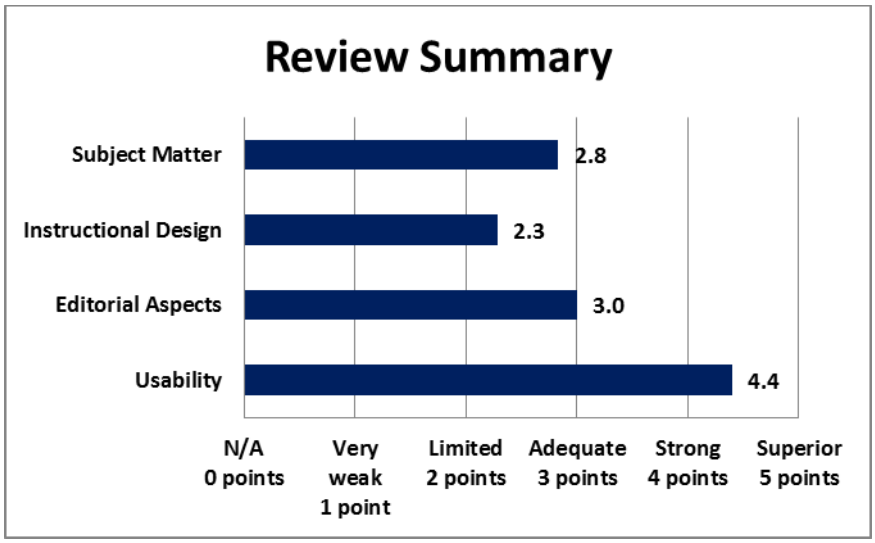
Reviewed by:
Larry Mink

Institution:
California State University, San Bernardino

Title/Position:
Professor

Format Reviewed:
Online

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:
December 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: CHEM 120S

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			
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: 17 out of 30

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

- This text book is provided as modules. Each module contains one specific concept. Each module is limited to one page in length. Most of the more complex concepts such as stochiometry, quantum theory, chemical equilibrium, kinetics, etc...are not presented in an adequate level to be used as a general chemistry textbook for science majors at the university level.
- Very few numerical examples are provided, and end of chapter homework problems are not provided.
- This textbook just provided the overall concepts of various aspects for chemistry and the basic formulas used in problem solving. All topics limited to one page modules.
- The text book is 359 pages in length compared to the average university level general chemistry textbook at 1,200.
- A table of context is provided. A back of the book index is not provided. A limited number of figures are provided. No end of chapter problems are provided.

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?		X				
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: 16 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- This textbook is limited to being a reference with regard to chemistry topics, and a few of the chemical equations that are used. It provided no in-depth explanations of the topics nor example calculations that students are required to perform at the undergraduate college level.

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: 15 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook:

- Viewing the textbook on line is fine. However, as a PDF file it has several editorial problems. The images

are too big compared the font size of the text (i.e. page 9). There are just blank pages at points (page 6). The title of one module is at the end of a page followed by its related context on the next page. Half pages are blank (page 11 & 12).

Usability (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: 22 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook:

- Accessing the text book is easy.

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: 1 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- The text book as a reference to the basic topics and terms is clearly presented.

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

- The text book would have to provide an in-depth presentation of all the material presented. Including extensive examples of problem solving, and numerous problems for the students to work on as homework sets.
- Also this text book is purposely made so that anyone can edit it, at any time, after having created a login profile. This is not acceptable for a textbook that would be used as a general chemistry textbook for a university level course.

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.)

CALIFORNIA OER COUNCIL
CSU + CCC + UC

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