

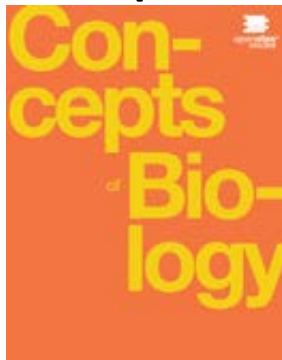


Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

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 etextbooks 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:

Concepts of Biology



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Textbook Authors:

Samantha Fowler, Clayton State University
 Rebecca Roush, Sandhills Community College
 James Wise, Hampton University

Reviewed by:

Roxann Schroeder

Institution:

Humboldt State University, CA

Title/Position:

Professor

Format

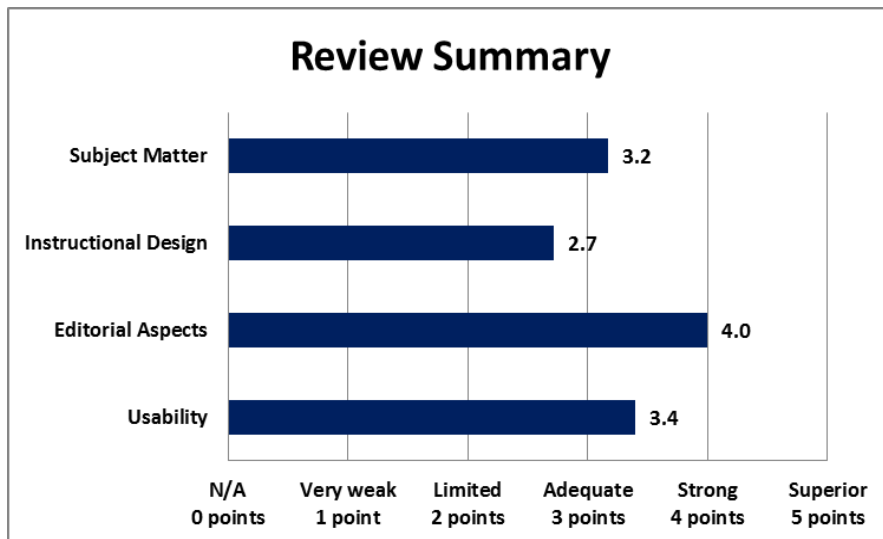
Reviewed:

[PDF](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

October, 2014



California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [BIO 1155](#)

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: 19 out of 30

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

- This is a general textbook of biology, so there are examples of anatomy and physiology from many organisms, it does not focus exclusively on humans, but there are examples from humans for each section, so there would be enough material here for a human A&P course.

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: 19 out of 35

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

- This book includes QR codes AND URLs throughout to take student to supplemental material (videos, animations, interactive "labs") that give further details about the topics discussed.

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 laid out 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

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- No comments.

Usability (30 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	
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Total Points: 17 out of 30

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

- I opened the pdf version of the book, and it responded to the Adobe functions nicely. However, I am not sure what would happen for a student who did not have Adobe Acrobat Pro (I was using a PC with Windows 7). I know that on computers with Acrobat Reader there are many fewer options, for instance with annotating and editing.

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: 8 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- I am using this book this semester for Intro Biol, rather than A&P.

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

- I like that the book is free, and it seems to cover the material at a good level (I have tried another ebook - Nature's Principles of Biology - and found that my students seemed to miss many points that were skipped over to make room for the really cool bells and whistles that I loved but the students seemed to not find as helpful).
- This book is also quite complete, which means that it could be useful for a number of different biology classes. It could also serve as a backup resource for courses that use other textbooks (especially since it is free).

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#).
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