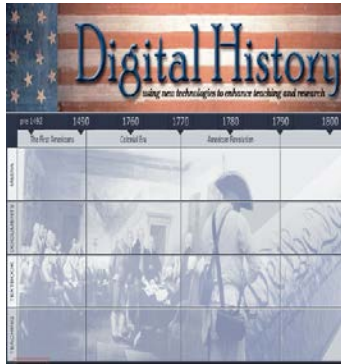


Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) 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:

Digital History



Textbook Author:
Sara McNeil

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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Reviewed by:

Anne Reid

Institution:

California State
University,
Los Angeles

Title/Position:

Instructor

History

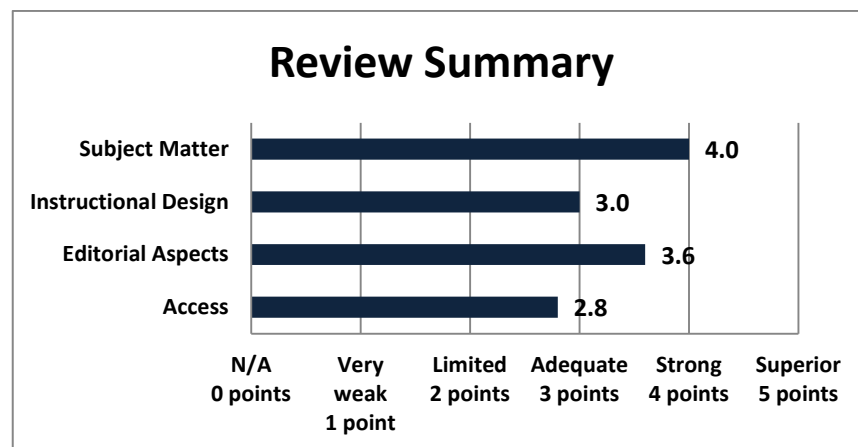
Format Reviewed:

[PDF](#) and [Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

August, 2014.



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: 24 out of 30

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

- I found one minor factual error: Tucson is not a Spanish name, but a Hispanicized version of an indigenous (O'odham) name (See http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3573).

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: 21 out of 35 points

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

- The search function is not prominently displayed. It would help if a search box could appear on all the pages.

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: 18 out of 25 points

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

- All of the links to the maps on the page http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/columbus/columbus_maps.cfm are broken.

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	

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 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: 14 out of 25 points

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

- No comment.

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: 7 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- The prose is scholarly and accessible for a general audience. The website features links to period musical selections, primary sources, online exhibits, and external links to reputable sites. I am a regular visitor to this resource for its significant collection of primary sources.

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

- In its current state, this resource makes a very fine companion to a course reader. There are a few items that I would like to see improved before I would consider adopting this resource. First, I would like to see discussion questions at the end of chapters/sections (there are some discussion questions in the "Topics" section, but they are few and they appear inconsistently). Second, an index would be most helpful for locating information more effectively. There is a search function, but it is not very prominent.

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.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#)



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