



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 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:

WikiBooks: Art History



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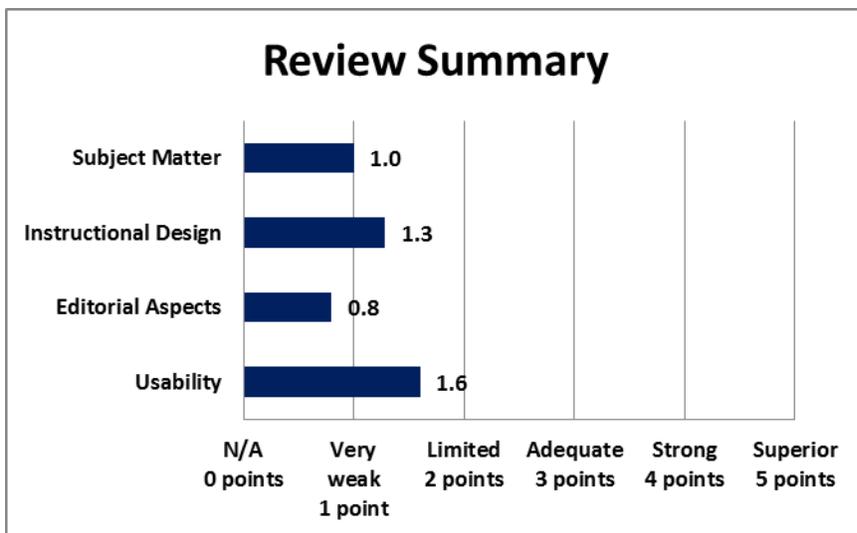
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

March 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [ARTH 120](#)

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: 6 out of 30

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

- This is not a textbook in the usual sense; rather, it is a very cursory and by all appearances arbitrary collection of largely single-screen entries that claim to represent eras of varying periodization. For example, "Ancient Art" announces its contents as "Egyptian, Greek and Roman (including Early Christian) Art, and their effects on the development of Art"; its sole entry is a single-screen presenting Ancient Egypt. This limited offering is both characteristic and sufficient to discuss subject matter and coverage throughout this Wikibook. Of the screen dedicated to Ancient Egypt, one-third is given to a bulleted list of formal characteristics of frontalism, the distinctive representational mode for depicting gods and pharaohs. Absent is discussion of pyramids, temples, tombs, papyri, political organization, pharaohs, and religious belief including the gods and the afterlife (of these, however, pyramids, the gods, and hieroglyphics appear do appear on the page). Actual discussion is limited and tends to be poorly written, inaccurate and/or incomplete. A typical section reads, "Sculptures that appeared more natural were built. The first known portraits were done"; this constitutes half of the coverage given to Old Kingdom Egypt .

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: 9 out of 35

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

- There are no standard or expected textbook features present in the Wikibook Art History.

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: 4 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The Wikibook Art History is poorly written (e.g., "it's Latin meaning", "we could a semiotic effort to talk about the human soul") and appears to be hastily assembled from other online sources with no eye towards a coherent, factual whole. Sections of unified discussion are rare and appear in two formats. The first is highly detailed, often arcane, as in the examples of frontalism presented earlier and the program of Romanesque architecture. The second format is distinguished by inaccuracy, anachronism, lack of

context, and a markedly non-scholarly reliance on partial or vacuous statements (e.g., the Medieval extends through the 1500s, illumination is “fanciful and strange,” Futurism is given a single sentence, Art Deco is notable for its “sleek use of straight lines,” and so on). Diversity is absent; all artists are “he,” and “no one can quibble with the sublime beauty” of key works of Western art and architecture. The glossary is rudimentary and presents many incomplete and inaccurate entries.

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					

Total Points: 8 out of 30

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

- WikiBook Art History can be read online, exported as separate PDF files, or printed.

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				
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	X	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)

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 Wikibook Art History is available free on the Internet.

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

- Accuracy, factual content, scope, selection and amount of images, the glossary, and basic mechanics of writing would all need significant work before the Wikibook Art History could be considered for use. As a potential textbook it is an extremely flawed offering, and especially if it is to exist as an ongoing collaborative work.

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