

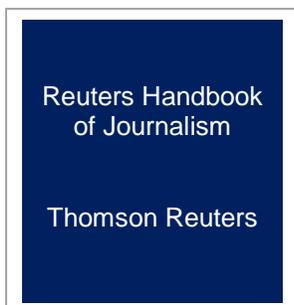


## Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

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](http://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:

### Reuters Handbook of Journalism



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

Thomson Reuters

Reviewed by:

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Institution:

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Title/Position:

Professor

Format

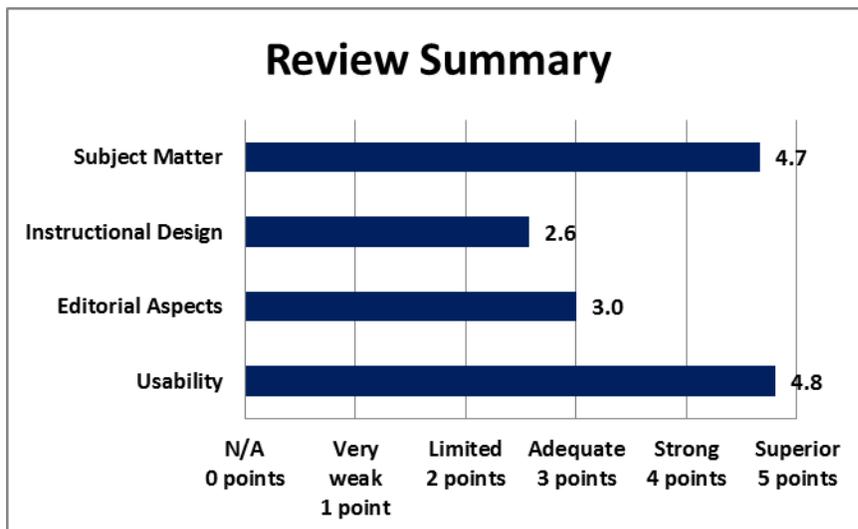
Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

August 2015



### California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [JOUR 110](#)

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		
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Total Points: 28 out of 30

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

- The handbook is extremely straightforward and to the point.
- All the content is factual and informative.
- The information is current and up-to-date with social media rules and regulations.
- When it comes to journalism there are many rules that one must abide by for each separate medium. The handbook covers all aspects and clearly explains why the rules are in place.
- Students are tested, for example, on how to write datelines. A test on effective datelines would be helpful.
- Also, students need to know proper style so a style test is necessary. For example, when it is appropriate to use an actual number or when to use a figure.

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: 18 out of 35

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

- The instructional design isn't visually appealing or exciting; however, that is not the purpose of a handbook. The purpose of this handbook was to provide information that students could refer to when they are not sure about format. However, the Table of Contents at the beginning of each chapter is very helpful to help one quickly locate information.

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: 15 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- Since accuracy is key in journalism the handbook did a good job of making sure that all content was literate and factually correct. The handbook was laid out in a simple, easy to follow format

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
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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: 24 out of 25

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

- The handbook was very easy to use and is a requirement for all journalism students throughout their college career. They will need to refer to this type of handbook in the beginning in order to learn the style guidelines. In fact, I still refer to my APA Style Manual when necessary.

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 found it to be easy to use. It is a handbook that instructors can refer to when explaining different types of writing for different types of purposes.

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

- I think it is necessary that there is a Style Quiz/Test for each letter of the alphabet.

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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