MA Open Education - Open Textbook Review

Open textbooks are textbooks that have been funded, published, and licensed to be freely used, adapted, and distributed. These books have been reviewed by faculty from a variety of colleges and universities to assess their quality. They can be downloaded for no cost, or printed at low cost.

All textbooks are either used at multiple higher education institutions; or affiliated with an institution, scholarly society, or professional organization. (Open Textbook Library)

Are you an instructor who is concerned about the impact of high textbook costs on your students?

This is your chance to explore possible open textbook solutions by attending an OER Workshop at your institution — where you can discover open textbooks in your field. After the workshop, you'll be asked to write a short review of an open textbook from the Open Textbook Library

Your review will benefit other faculty considering open textbooks. **You'll receive a $200 stipend for your participation in the workshop and completing and submitting a written review.** Below is the rubric with the criteria that faculty members use. It was originally developed by BC Campus:

Comprehensiveness: text covers all areas and ideas of subject appropriately and provides an effective index / glossary.
Accuracy: error-free and unbiased.
Relevance longevity: up to date, necessary updates will be relatively easy to implement
Clarity: lucid, accessible prose and provides adequate context for any jargon / technical terminology used.
Consistency: internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.
Modularity: easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at dif points within the course. Not overly self-referential, should be easily reorg'd and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting much disruption to reader.
Flow: topics presented in a logical, clear fashion.
Interface: text is free of sig interface issues (navigation, distortion of images / charts, or other display failures).
Grammar: no errors.
Cultural relevance: not culturally insensitive or offensive in any way. Use examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.
https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/

Submit your review: To be provided
May 21st Webinar Reviews due by: **June 24, 2025**

Examples of faculty textbook reviews:
https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/communication-in-the-real-world-an-introduction-to-communication-studies#Reviews

More information: stashjian@necc.mass.edu

Questions? Email: rawkward@dhe.mass.edu