



## 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:

### Information Systems



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Textbook Authors:  
 Richard T. Watson

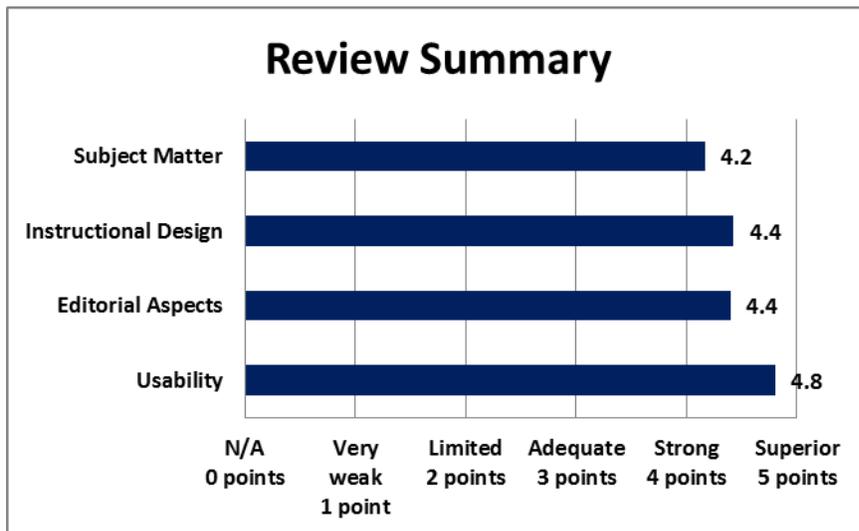
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Institution:  
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Title/Position:  
 Professor

Format  
 Reviewed:  
[Online](#)

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Date Reviewed:  
 December 2015

### California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [BUS 140](#)

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: 25 out of 30

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

- The book covers topics related to information systems and their role in business and defines topics such as database management systems, networking, ethics and security, computer systems hardware and software components.
- The book does not provide practical exercises in electronic spreadsheet development, the use of database software or Internet technologies.
- The chapter "Opportunities in the network age" need more updated examples related to Internet and mobile Apps to cover technological forces of Moore's law and Metcalfe law.
- In chapter 15 "Avoiding system failures", it would be nice to incorporate more examples and case studies of the most well-known multi-tier architecture such as "Three-tier architecture".
- The book does not provide any practical examples with Databases. It would have been nice to incorporate an open source database software in their examples.
- For the advancements of web-technology it would be important to incorporate basic information about web development and open source programming languages.

<b>Instructional Design (35 possible points)</b>	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: 31 out of 35

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

- The book is well organized and it is engaging. The book offers diverse schemes and graphics to illustrate content.
- Each chapter has a group of editors, contributors and reviewers offering a variety of presentation styles and diverse views.
- The chapters have learning objectives, chapter summary, exercises and references. Some chapters have cases and case questions.

<b>Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)</b>	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: 22 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook:

- The language of the textbook is free of grammatical, spelling and typographical errors. It is written in a clear style.
- The book looks professional and easy to follow.
- There are no multimedia elements.

Usability (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
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 textbook can be downloaded into PDF. The textbook is easily accessible, can be printed in part or as a whole. It can be easily annotated by students and instructors.

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?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
						X

Total Points: 10 out of 10

## Overall Comments

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

- The books addresses the course objectives of the class and covers all theoretical course content.
- It is easy to download, search and annotate.
- It provides diverse views since it is a contribution of several well qualified authors.
- It has interesting and well-presented case studies.

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

- Additional material is needed to cover practical exercises of the course.
- The images do not always show the latest technologies such as mobile technology.

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