Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The California Open Educational Resources Council 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:

Destinos: An Introduction to Spanish

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Textbook Authors:
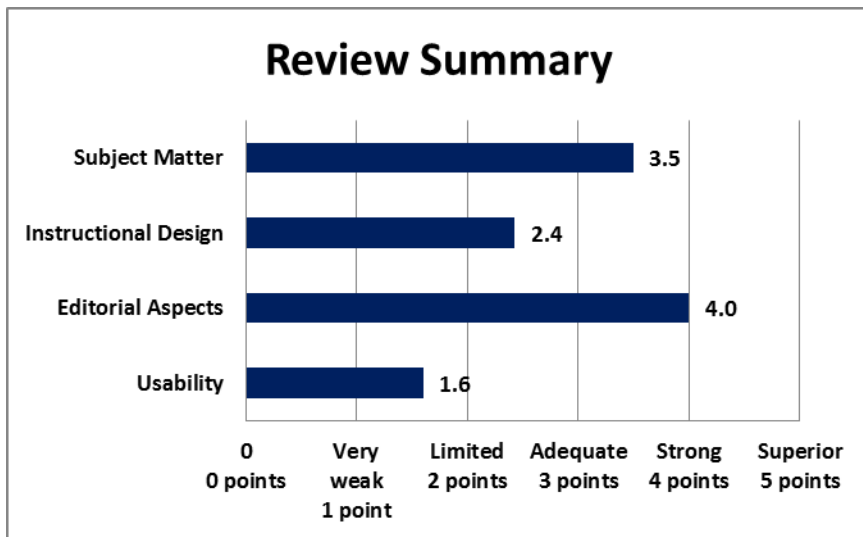## Annenberg Foundation

Reviewed by:
Sarah Harmon

Institution:
Cañada College

Title/Position:
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: SPAN 100

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				

	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
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: 21 out of 30

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

- Highly sensitive to various cultures and dialects. However, this is original Destinos, so it's over 20 years old--some of the cultural aspects are a bit dated.

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: 17 out of 35

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

- Overall, it's a great ancillary to instruction, as it gives natural language context to any instruction. It gives a story line that is easy to follow, so students can easily gain knowledge from context if they don't know a word or recognize a verb form or construction. However, this is not a textbook. There is no instruction on how to form verb forms; it is somewhat given to instructors as ancillaries, but not given to students. Also, because this is over 20 years old, it is somewhat out of date on latest pedagogy with respect to foreign language. Communicative methods are still used, but have been greatly tailored to fit various modalities and abilities. This material don't allow for that.

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 latid0out 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: 20 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- Free of errors, and the media all works on multiple platforms. The exercises seem to work well, although answers are not immediately provided. When finished with a given exercise, it gives you the answers, but doesn't mark that you did something incorrectly.

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	

	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.

- Easy to navigate, and straightforward progression from one lesson to the next. Very clearly there is a tie-in with the videos; it's impossible to do much of the exercises without knowing what happens in the videos. However, there are only 1-2 exercises per lesson element; 'further practice' consists of links to outside sources, some of which are not recommendable. In order to be considered as a stand-alone text, there needs to be more exercises to be useful.

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: 4 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- I can recommend it as an ancillary, so as to showcase the language in real situations and with a wide range of standard dialects. The amount of cultural lessons is a great addition to any introductory course.

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

- It is not a textbook. Overall, it's a good ancillary, but not good for a stand-alone text. For one, there is a companion textbook that gives all of the lessons that aren't on this video. For another, there's been a big update to both the videos and the textbook, which might be something to consider. As this is right now, it's not recommendable as a textbook or as a stand-alone material.

> 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.)

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For questions or more information, contact the CA Open Educational Resources Council.