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Discover Psychology 2.0: A Brief Introductory Text
https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/discover-psychology-2-0-a-brief-introductory-text

OER Textbook Review

For each category, assign 1-5 stars (with 5 being best) and provide written details. There’s also space at the end for general comments. Please fill out electronically, then print the final product and have it signed by your department chair. You can either drop the printed and signed copy off to me in the library or send it through the inter-campus mail.

Comprehensiveness = 3 Stars
The text covers all areas and ideas of the subject appropriately and provides an effective index and/or glossary.

Covers some of the subtopics for each given topic that my current textbook covers as well as covers other subtopics. There are differences in coverage but this might be expected for Introduction to Psychology textbooks. Each “chapter” or module in itself does not cover in a comprehensive way a given topic but instead covers a specific subtopic. This gives flexibility to the instructor to piece together modules of subtopics for a given topic that better fits their needs if using Noba Psychology in general (v. the Brief Intro textbook that I am reviewing specifically).

Content Accuracy = 5 Stars
Content is accurate, error-free, and unbiased.

As far as I can tell without reading the entirety of the text, the content is accurate. Several of the modules are written by an expert (if not the expert) in that area of study. Of the modules that I read, the information was accurate, error-free and unbiased.

Relevance/Longevity = 4 Stars
Content is up-to-date, but not in a way that will quickly make the text obsolete within a short period of time. The text is written and/or arranged in such a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement.

Includes seminal studies (as one would expect) as well as more current studies from early 2010s. The seminal studies are presented first and then additional more recent findings or updated information is then used to supplement the explanation of the phenomenon.
Clarity = 5 Stars
The text is written in lucid, accessible prose, and provides adequate context for any jargon/technical terminology used.

This text is very well written in a way that is accessible to a variety of different levels of readers. Examples are used that would appeal and connect with students and all terms are defined.

Consistency = 5 Stars
The text is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.

Although each of the modules are written by different authors the text is mostly internally consistent in style and framing. There is a similar structure for each module in that they all begin with learning objectives and then progress through an introduction, content, outside resources, discussion questions, vocabulary and end with references.

Modularity = 5 Stars
The text is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at different points within the course (i.e., enormous blocks of text without subheadings should be avoided). The text should not be overly self-referential, and should be easily reorganized and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting much disruption to the reader.

Setup to be modular and remixed. While the text that I am reviewing is made up the highlights or most common sections, there is the ability to edit out which modules should be included and in what order.
**Organization/Structure/Flow = 3 Stars**
The topics in the text are presented in a logical, clear fashion.

The organization of the text makes sense but is not the most logical order. Again this is not an issue as the instructor can pick and choose what to include and reorder the modules as they see fit. The rating above is for the particular structure and order of Discover Psychology 2.0: A Brief Introductory Text.

**Interface = 4 Stars**
The text is free of significant interface issues, including navigation problems, distortion of images/charts, and any other display features that may distract or confuse the reader.

Because it is modular it does not have a table of contents or easy way to search without knowing the correct key terms. The print version of the text does have a table of contents and an index. Lacks charts and tables to organize information in a condensed way, but the figures throughout are clear and helpful. Terms are clickable for definitions so there is no need to look back in the text to find definitions.

**Grammatical Errors = 5 Stars**
The text contains no grammatical errors.

I did not read any grammatical errors.

**Cultural Relevance = 5 Stars**
The text is not culturally insensitive or offensive in any way. It should make use of examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

Images throughout include diverse individuals from a variety of genders, races and ethnicities. Many modules (well over half of the 100+ modules available in the full collection) touch on cultural similarities and differences. There are a couple of modules that specifically focus on cultural differences. Some of the modules are written by international researchers.
General Comments

Noba Psychology is a promising OER textbook that really exploits all of the benefits of an online text (modular, flexible, adaptable). There is more front end work here for the instructor to create a text that will meet their specific needs but again the advantage is that the textbook can be customized for any given instructor’s course. This is important for an Introduction to Psychology textbook where there is a lot of variation in what topics each instructor might cover. It is also convenient that Noba offers a “pre-made” Introductory text with the most common topics taught in traditional Intro courses for those who prefer less of the front end work. This option might be more appealing for adjunct faculty.

The text comes with instructor resources such as guided reading worksheets (can be used for homework), PowerPoints, test banks, essays on best practices in teaching, adaptive student quizzes (on the Cerego platform), and instructor manual (suggestions for activities and assignments, lecture frameworks, class design recommendations, module outlines, connections between the content and APA learning objectives, and outside resources). Of note is the PowerPoint slides that come complete instructor notes, suggested activities, discussion questions, and additional resources built-in.

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I have read the above review and shared it with the department.

_____________________________________                                            __________________________
Department Chair                                                                                          Date

_____________________________________                                            ___________________________
Reviewer                                                                                                  Date