Documentation tool

CRAAP Test

Resource Title:

Introductory Business Statistics

Resource URL:

https://openstax.org/details/books/introductory-business-statistics

Currency: The timeliness of the information: When was the resource published or posted? Has the resource been revised or updated? Does your topic require current information? Are the links functional?

The textbook was first published in November 2017. An update of the web version was published in January 2022. The book is included in ecampus Ontario's open resource library. Current information is not required because the statistical analysis procedures used are well established. But up-to-date, relevant, or real-world applications of the statistical methods are important so students can see how statistics is applied to current business problems. All of the links that I have tried are functional.

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs Does the resource relate to your needs? Who is the intended audience? Is the information in the resource at an appropriate level for your learners?

The textbook is intended for a one-semester course in statistics for business students. For one of my courses (statistics for non-accounting students), the book includes more content that what is covered in the course. For the other course (statistics for accounting students), the book covers about 80% of the topics, missing a few of the topics covered at the end of the course (i.e. multiple regression, time series, statistical quality control). I can easily supply students with supplementalary materials to cover these missing topics. A major issue with the textbook is that it does not focus on the use of Excel to perform statistical calculations, instead relying on traditional, manual calculations and distribution tables. Because my students are in business, I have decided to focus my statistics courses on using the built-in tools in Excel to perform the calculations in order to simulate a more real-world experience for the students. This issue can be resolved by providing supplementary materials as needed. Going forward, I

plan to customize this book to illustrate the use of Excel in the calculations. The information is presented at an appropriate level for college learners.

Authority: The source of the information Who is the creator? What are their credentials or organizational affiliations? Are they qualified to write on this topic?

The senior contributing authors are Alexander Holmes, Barbara Illowsky and Susan Dean. Dr. Holmes is a professor of economics at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Illowsky is a professor of mathematics at De Anza College, with a doctorate in education specializing in instructional design for online learning. Susan Dean is a retired math professor at De Anza College. Cumulatively, the three authors have experience with online learning, statistics and business.

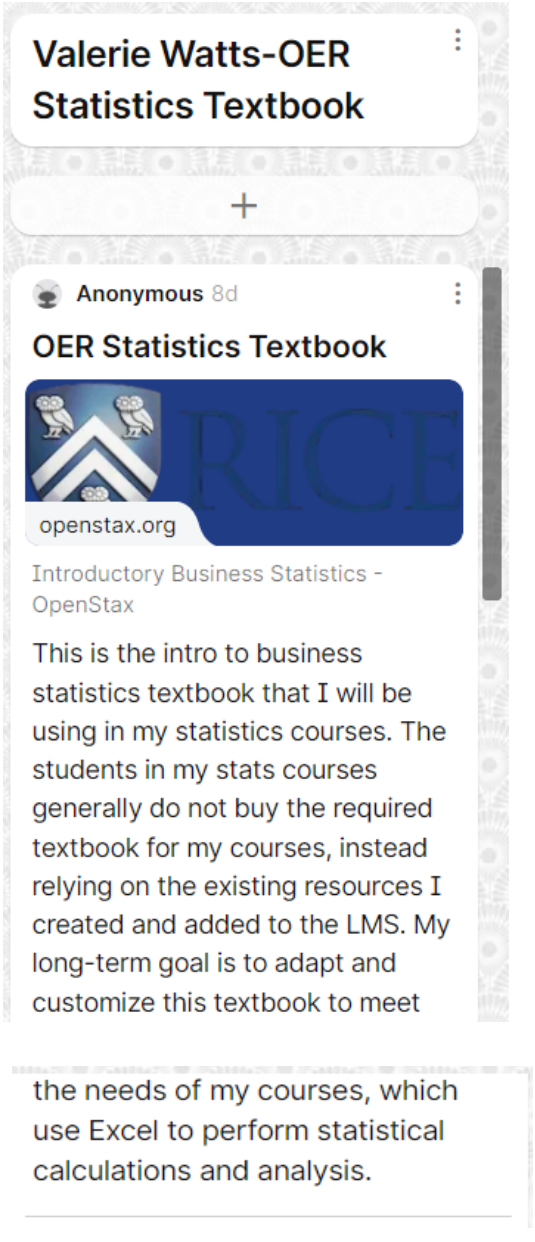
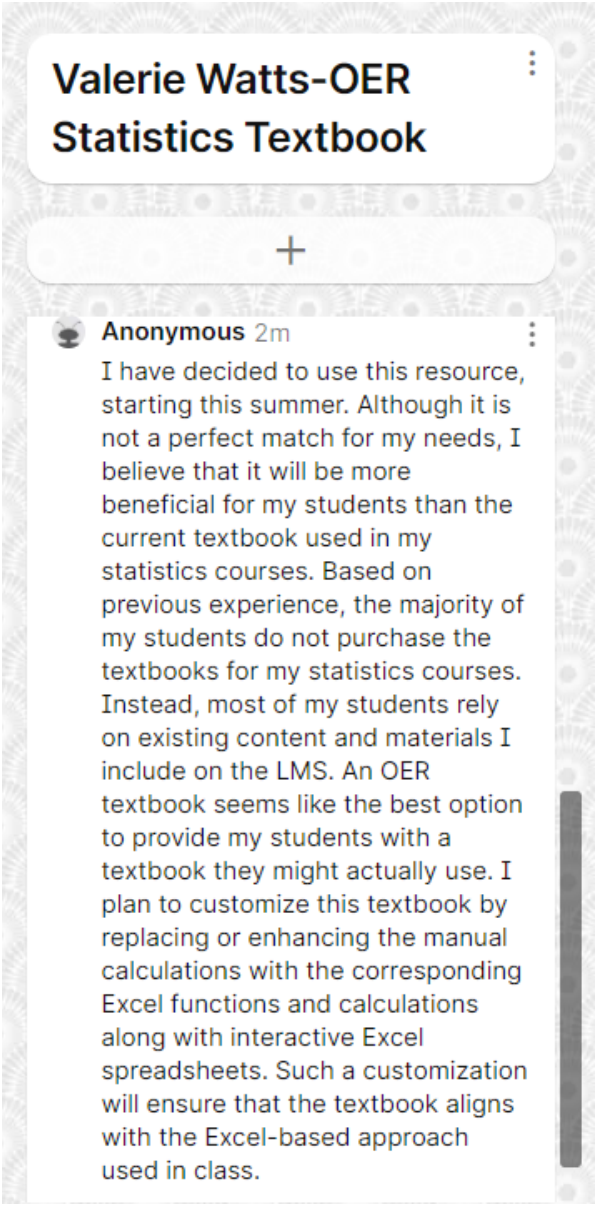
Accuracy: The reliability and truthfulness of the information Is the information supported by evidence? Has the resource been reviewed or refereed? Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?

The book includes an errata list and the ability to submit an error for correction. According to the errata list, typos and errors appear to be corrected regularly (approximately twice a year). No reviews or references are provided, on either the original website or ecampus Ontario. The book is also included in BCCampus's open library.

Purpose: The reason the information exists Why does this resource exist? (to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?) Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda? Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

As stated in the summary the textbook "is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of the one-semester statistics course for business, economics, and related majors. Core statistical concepts and skills have been augmented with practical business examples, scenarios, and exercises. The result is a meaningful understanding of the discipline, which will serve students in their business careers and real-world experiences." This appears to be the case. The content appears to be correct. The website includes an option to submit an error for correction in future updates.

Final Recommendation: Will you use this resource? Why or why not?

I have decided to use this resource, starting this summer. Although it is not a perfect match for my needs, I believe that it will be more beneficial for my students than the current textbook used in my statistics courses. Based on previous experience, the

majority of my students do not purchase the textbooks for my statistics courses. Instead, most of my students rely on existing content and materials I include on the LMS. An OER textbook seems like the best option to provide my students with a textbook they might actually use. I also believe that with some adaptation and customization, this book will be a good resource for my students.