

Katherine Herold

Century College

4 January 2021

Recommended Open Educational Resources (OER) for Statistics for Psychology

1. Foster, G. C., Lane, D., Scott, D., Hebl, M., & Guerra, R. (2018). *An Introduction to Psychological Statistics*.

<https://irl.umsl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=oer>

I would certainly consider adopting this textbook for statistics for psychology. The writing is clear, and the examples are excellent. The author demonstrates an understanding of the anxieties students feel when first taking this course and works throughout the book to dissuade those fears. All necessary content for an introductory statistics for psychology course is covered. The examples used are easy to understand and can be quickly adapted by the instructor if necessary. The design of the tables and figures is excellent, and I believe will be engaging for students.

While the content of this textbook is excellent, there are additional issues to consider prior to adoption. For example, the textbook has a table of contents but no index or glossary, which students might find frustrating. All the new terminology introduced in statistics for psychology makes an index and/or glossary especially important as students will likely want to look up terms they do not recognize. There is also no statistical package (R, SPSS) associated with this textbook, which could be a burden for students if one is used in the course. Students typically rely heavily on the textbook to help them in their understanding of the statistical packaged used. There are also no instructor resources included. On a positive note, the textbook does have excellent chapter exercises included (with answers to odd numbered questions).

2. Navarro, D. (2020). Learning Statistics with R: A tutorial for psychology students and other beginners.

<http://ccss.djnavarro.net/lsr/lsr-0.6.pdf>

The biggest benefit of this textbook is that the content is paired with the statistical package R. R is increasingly used in statistics for psychology courses because it is free to use and allows the user to write their own codes quite easily. Use of this textbook would mean that a statistics for psychology course could be 100% open-source as both the textbook and the statistical package would be free to use. The formatting of the textbook (a standard, downloadable PDF) is a bit cumbersome. There is no easy way to move among the pages without knowing the exact page number you are looking for. Students would likely enjoy having a printed copy, which would add a cost to this otherwise free resource. There is no index or glossary for students to look up terms, and there are no practice problems provided.

All necessary content for a statistics for psychology text are covered in this book, though the book would benefit from more psychology-specific examples throughout. If I were to use this textbook I would need

to bring in additional examples in every chapter to be certain students were mastering the material. The R instructions are clear and easy to follow with helpful screenshots included.

3. Open Stax Publishing. *Introductory Statistics*.

<https://openstax.org/details/books/introductory-statistics>

This book could be a fantastic resource for an instructor with experience teaching statistics for Psychology. As this is a general statistics book (and not one geared toward psychological research) there are not many psychology specific examples included. That said, if an instructor had a strong background in psychology for statistics they could supplement with their own examples quite easily. The online interface for this textbook is excellent. The chapters are easy to move between and the website is clear and simple to navigate. Students also have the option of downloading the textbook as a PDF, downloading for an e-reader (at minimal cost) or ordering a print copy (a slightly larger cost). The option to order a bound and printed copy will be appealing to students who are wary of only reading a textbook online.

All introductory statistics material is covered in this textbook and covered well. There are also practice exams, review exercises, solution sheets and data sets available for student use. Finally, this textbook includes instructor resources such as power points and test banks. There is also an entire course module available for download, but only for canvas or blackboard (not D2L).