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OpenIntro statistics: an open-source textbook.

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Summary: The traditional textbook is a familiar and useful tool that has served well for centuries. Here, we discuss “OpenIntro statistics”, a new textbook that seeks to retain the long-standing points of excellence among traditional textbooks, while overcoming what is potentially the most important traditional limitation: exclusivity. “OpenIntro statistics” is a completely open-source textbook, which can be downloaded for free and edited by anybody. Its content meets the highest established standards, and it is written, edited, and reviewed by faculty from leading universities. In this paper, we provide support for the assertion that “OpenIntro statistics” retains as many of the advantages of a traditional textbook as possible, while empowering the largest possible audience to own and edit introductory content in statistics. We also discuss how the open-source textbook model differs from other technologically enabled alternatives to the traditional textbook, and consider trends in the textbook over the coming years.

Classification: K15 U25 U75

Keywords: open-source textbooks; introductory statistics; stochastics; teaching; educational media; statistics textbooks; upper secondary; university teaching; introductory course; textbook analyses; internet; real-life data

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