Glaring errors

I find nothing more disheartening than a spelling or grammatical error in a textbook. Sometimes I just circle it and make sure I’m right. Sometimes I circle it and tell the professor. Sometimes I circle it, respell or rewrite it, and continue reading. Sometimes I ponder the glazed eyes of the editors that must have read the book a hundred times and, subsequently, missed the error.

It’s really something that bothers me, though. If we, as students, are expected to write flawlessly for our class papers, how can professionals get away with printing material that is to be implemented in the classroom alongside this expectation of flawless writing?

I find my concern deepening as I consider all the things I learned throughout my schooling that may have been wrong altogether. If nothing’s stopping the most basic of spelling and grammar errors from creeping into my texts, what stands to bar incorrect statistics, historical facts, and verb conjugations? Absolutely nothing. Although, I do suppose that more time is spent analyzing the content of the book and not the specifics of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and syntax...

Perhaps all this is a lesson in not trusting all that I read? Perhaps it is an exercise in sharpening my editor’s eye... I hold myself to pretty high standards when it comes to correctness, so maybe I’m just applying that to others.