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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The 40-plus chapters in *The Complete Dinosaur* range from raw, cutting-edge science that drips with original data to surveys of the history of dinosaur collecting that are suitable for even the most jargon-shy readers. Editors James O. Farlow and M. K. Brett-Surman admit that they were "teenage geeks who loved the movies of Willis O'Brien, Ray Harryhausen, and Jim Danforth, and the novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Rice Burroughs," and they do not neglect their roots. There are chapters covering all the hot topics of contemporary dinosaur research, including footprints, metabolism, and meteor strikes; there is also a section on determining how many lawyers you need to feed a captive *Tyrannosaurus rex*. It's a remarkable fusion between scientific research--warts, conflicts, and all--and public understanding.

From Library Journal

Very similar in length and scope to the *Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs* (LJ 11/1/97), this work features signed articles by many of the same distinguished paleontologists with the goal of providing a single authoritative account of dinosaur paleontology accessible to the general reader. The contributors were instructed to keep technical jargon to a minimum. The articles are grouped by six categories: Discovery of Dinosaurs, Study of Dinosaurs, Groups of Dinosaurs, Biology of Dinosaurs, Dinosaur Evolution, and Dinosaurs and the Media. When controversial topics arise, the editors have provided opposing viewpoints rather than picking sides. For example, the "extinction" article is presented as "A dialogue between a Catastrophist and a Gradualist." Dinosaurs are described by group rather than by individual genera, so this is not the place to find a picture of a specific kind of dinosaur (though the illustrations are generally informative). With simpler language, more background information, and a subject rather than an alphabetical organization that makes for a more coherent presentation, this is a better purchase for public and school libraries than the *Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs*, which is written as a review of dinosaur research literature for specialists. An excellent encyclopedia that serves as a nice bridge between popular and scholarly dinosaur literature. --Amy Brunvand, Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City
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Review

"... stimulating armchair company for cold winter evenings ... Best of all, the book treats dinosaurs as intellectual fun. What other book asks whether *Tyrannosaurus rex* was warm or cold-blooded by recalling a scene from *Jurassic Park* and then calculating how many lawyers it would take to feed a predator with each type of metabolism?" --New Scientist " ... a gift to serious dinosaur enthusiasts ... a highly successful volume." --Science "The book is useful both as a reference and as a browse-and-enjoy compendium ..." --Natural History "The amount of information in just 750 pages is amazing. This book should be on the shelves of dinosaur freaks as well as those who need to know more about the paleobiology of extinct animals. It will be an invaluable library reference." --American Reference Books Annual "An excellent encyclopedia that serves as a nice bridge between popular and scholarly dinosaur literature." --Library Journal "... copiously illustrated and scrupulously up-to-date ... the book reveals dinos through the fractious fields that make a study of them." --Publishers Weekly

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Shirley Cochran:

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