

4-2012

[Review of] SFE: The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction

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Aken, Robert A., "[Review of] SFE: The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction" (2012). *Library Faculty and Staff Publications*. 92.

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Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5860/CHOICE.49-4208>

Notes/Citation Information

Published in *CHOICE*, v. 49, no. 8, 49-4208.

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Choice

www.cro3.org

doi: 10.5860/CHOICE.49-4208
CHOICE April 2012 vol. 49 no. 08

Outstanding Title! 49-4208

Internet Resource

SFE: The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, ed. by John Clute and David Langford.
<http://www.sf-encyclopedia.com/>

[Visited Jan'12] Clute, an editor of the first (*The Science Fiction Encyclopedia*, US edition, with P. Nicholls et al., CH, Feb'80) and second (*The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*, with P. Nicholls, CH, Oct'93, 31-0648) print editions of this work, and columnist/writer Langford now offer an expanding online third edition. Freely available, in collaboration with Gollancz and the SF Gateway, this beta version is 75 percent complete at 3.2 million words (with a million more to come). The 12,000-plus entries focus on English-language science fiction--primarily in nearly 8,000 author entries (most written by Clute). Searches default to all entries but are limitable to 19 categories that are also alphabetically browsable, e.g., themes, media, publications, awards, and international. Entries include date modified, category tags, and links for sharing. The critical narrative's cross-references serve as a virtual essay for various historical influences, schools, themes, and more. Entries include contributors' initials (full names are in About Us). *See also* references frequently follow, with birth/death information, list of works, publisher, cover artist information, and links to related sites. Although not complete, this site is often very current, e.g., featuring Neal Stephenson's 2011 *REAMDE*. Errors are rare, e.g., one reference to Wil McCarthy's *Queendom of Sol* series as *Queendom of Earth*. The site responds quickly and consistently across Macintosh and Windows platforms with all primary browsers. No print or online work approaches this resource's coverage, with its important factual information and provision of significant analysis and context. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through researchers/faculty.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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REFERENCE - General

Clute, John and Nicholls, Peter

The Encyclopedia of science fiction

Choice October 1993 31:31-0648; doi:10.5860/CHOICE.31-0648

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