

bookCritics - Book Review

Introduction

A form of literary criticism, book reviews are written opinions about a particular book. They can take many forms. Book reviews can be brief or long. They can critique and/or summarize the book. They can be written by readers or professional book reviewers. Reader reviews tend to be more personal, focusing on the individual reader's experience while reading the book. But since readers can have such widely differing views of the same book, it is valuable for all involved when a book has a variety of reader reviews available.

"A book review is a form of literary criticism in which a book is merely described (summary review) or analyzed based on content, style, and merit. A book review may be a primary source, opinion piece, summary review or scholarly review." – Wikipedia

For Authors, book reviews can be more important than you may think. Reading through the reviews written about your books can really help you better understand what it is your readers are looking for. Answering questions like, what are your readers enjoying about your work? What do they think is missing? And, what do they connect with? Can do a lot for helping you understand your audience.

Benefits

Here are three reasons why book reviews are vital to writers and readers.

- Saves Time, Decreases Risk to Readers
- Greater Visibility, Greater Chance of Getting Found by More Readers
- More Sales

Features

- Common place for authors, expert reviewers and readers.
- Read reviews about the book written by experts.
- Overall rating for the book.
- Recommendation of similar books.
- Discussion boards for readers to discuss their views on the book.
- Follow your favorite author and get updated on recent books.
- Monitoring tools to track your reading progress.
- Virtual Book Shelf.
- Link to reading options (both soft copy and hard copy).

Market Survey

	Pros	Cons
Amazon Book Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantity of books: there is a review for almost any book out there Quantity of reviews: plenty of reviews for each book Sorting: I love the option sorting by stars or by highest voted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No expert reviewers Swayed by fans/hater reviewers Most fake reviews Smaller book reviews completely unreliable Confirmation bias Not really a book review site
Google Books	Higher quality reviews compared to Amazon	Easily deceived, especially for smaller books, the reviews can be fabricated
Goodreads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You know the reviewers You can better target subject matter experts compared to Amazon/Google Books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook of books The best reviewers are not there: not all the top reviewers are on Goodreads
Derek Sivers	Does not mince words	No categories: summaries are all mixed in a single page, going from history to biographies to self-help
The Power Moves	Higher quality reviews	Not many books are reviewed

References

- Amazon Book Review, <https://www.amazonbookreview.com/>
- Google Books, <https://books.google.com/>
- Goodreads, <https://www.goodreads.com/>
- Derek Sivers, <https://sive.rs/>
- Kirkus Reviews, <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>
- The Power Moves, <https://thepowermoves.com/>
- BookBub, <https://media.bookbub.com/>
- Where To Find Book Recommendations Online by Sadie Trombetta, Bustle, <https://www.bustle.com/p/11-websites-for-readers-looking-for-new-book-recommendations-32650>
- The Book Club Bible
- Literary criticism
- London Review of Books
- National Book Critics Circle
- The New York Review of Books
- Self-Publishing Review