

Book reviews

About book reviews

Book reviews are reports of the content and value of scholarly books. They are mostly common in the human and social sciences. Researchers regularly publish reviews of books at the end of specialized journals. As a general rule, book reviews summarize the book's content and make a critical assessment of its value.

Why reading book reviews?

Several books are published on one particular topic, but they are of uneven quality. Book reviews enable you to make a wise choice on which book is worth spending time on. Hence by reading book reviews you get:

- information about the content of the book in a short time;
- a discussion of the most interesting parts of the book;
- an overall assessment of the book's value by a specialist.

How to find book reviews?

Specialized journals usually publish book reviews at the end of each issue. These reviews are indexed by databases and search engines. Most of book reviews are available electronically, other may be found in print in the university library collections.

[Picarta](#): type the three to four first words of the book's title and add the word 'review' in the search field; follow the SFX link to obtain the reference or log to the university catalogue.

[Web of Knowledge](#): type the three to four first words of the book's title and select the field 'title'; if the number of results is too high, select 'Book reviews' in the 'Refine results' panel and then click 'Refine'; select the reference and follow the SFX link to obtain it.

[Jstor](#): in the Advanced Search, type the three to four first words of the book's title and tick the box 'Review'. Follow the links to obtain the electronic version of the review.

Book reviews are also indexed by specialist databases; most of them have the refine function 'Type of document' which allows searching for book reviews.