

Science Fiction & Fantasy - Your Experiences

This is a survey seeking to find out what people choose to read, and particularly what it is they like about their experience of Science Fiction and Fantasy literature. This survey is split into two halves - one where you are asked questions about what you read and how you feel about it, the second contains general background questions. The survey is not compulsory! You can answer as many or as few questions as you like and stop at any time without explanation or prejudice. Your answers will be completely anonymous and you cannot be identified by answering this survey. If you would like to add more to your answers than you can manage to fit in here, please email me at: ben.menadue@jcu.edu.au Thank you for your participation in my project, Ben Menadue, Cairns, Australia. The survey is intended to run for a year from November 2015 to November 2016.

Information Sheet - The Background to this Questionnaire

The Research Project: Science Fictions and Cultural Facts – how people's experience of science fiction and fantasy can help us build better, more considered outcomes for research through collaboration between stakeholders.

You are invited to take part in a research project about people's experience of science fiction and fantasy literature. The study is being conducted by Ben Menadue and will contribute to his PhD thesis at James Cook University. The aim is to identify how people experience new ideas they read and to see if this knowledge can help scientists work together and with the public to make research more effective in providing benefits to society. The survey provides the researcher with information on how you have experienced Science Fiction & Fantasy literature in your life.

If you know other people who might be interested in taking part, please feel free to pass on the link to this survey.

If you have any questions please contact Ben Menadue and/or Richard Lansdown:

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This survey is being carried out under the terms of the James Cook University
Human Research Ethics Committee Approval H6299

If you have any concerns regarding the ethical conduct of the study, please
contact:

Human Ethics, Research Office
James Cook University, Townsville, Qld, 4811 Australia
Phone: (07) 4781 5011 (ethics@jcu.edu.au)

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First, some questions about what you read.

It might be that what we choose to read has an influence on how we see the world around us, or we might make reading choices that are influenced by what's going on in the world. Either way, it's an interesting thing to think about.

How much do you enjoy reading compared to doing other things?

(for 'reading' please include audiobooks - in this and later questions)

1 2 3 4 5

I'd much rather be reading I don't read much

What sort of books do you like to read in general?

Click as many or as few as you want.

- Mystery, Suspense or Thrillers
- Drama
- Fantasy
- Sci-Fi
- Adventure, War
- Realistic Fiction
- Humour and Comedy
- Biographies
- Places and Events
- Ideas
- Horror
- Other non-fiction
- Magazines
- Poetry
- Romance
- Literature
- Blogs
- Short Stories
- Newspapers
- Factual Science (non-fiction)

Other:

Do you always have something around that you are reading?

You might not be reading it right now, but you'll pick it up and read some of it later today or perhaps tomorrow

Yes

No

About how many books have you read in the past month?

(not counting magazines, including audiobooks)

How many magazines do you read in a month?

How many of the books were Science Fiction or Fantasy stories?

Please add in any Science Fiction or Fantasy magazines here as well.

What themes in Science Fiction & Fantasy do you like to read the most?

Please select a few that you really like, no more than five if you can.

- 'Hard' technology and future science
- Wild, Weird or Supernatural
- Mystery and Magic
- Grand and Majestic - Big Ideas
- Personal Stories
- Fantastical
- Cyberpunk / Virtual Worlds
- Romance
- Heroic
- Horror
- War
- Time Travel
- Superhumans and Superheroes
- Powers of the Mind (Telepathy, ESP...)
- Suspense and Thriller
- Humour and Comedy
- Poetic or Literary
- Disasters, post-apocalyptic
- Dystopian - everything's going bad
- Utopian - the future's looking good
- Other:

What was the last Science Fiction or Fantasy book that you read?

The name of the book:

Who wrote it?

The name of the author

How much did you like it?

1 2 3 4 5

Not really It was great!

If you disliked it (or any part of it) please say why:

Please check all that apply

- The story wasn't well thought out
- It wasn't very well written
- I didn't like the ending
- It was too unbelievable
- I didn't like the people / aliens in it
- The cover was much better than the book
- The idea was stupid
- It was upsetting to read
- It had too much sex
- It was too violent
- It was boring
- It was too long
- Other:

If you liked it (or any part of it) please say why:

Please check all that apply

- The plot was really good
- It was very well written
- I loved the ending
- You could imagine it could be real
- The characters / aliens appealed to me
- The cover / marketing was excellent
- The ideas in it were brilliant
- It was an exciting read
- I wished it was longer
- Other:

How old were you when you first started reading Science Fiction and Fantasy?

Do you read it as much now as when you first started reading it?

Are you just as interested in Science Fiction and Fantasy as you used to be, more interested, or is it not something you read so much any more.

1 2 3 4 5

I read more now I don't read much SF&F these days

Do you generally prefer Science Fiction or Fantasy?

1 2 3 4 5

Mainly Fantasy Mainly Science Fiction

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Some more detailed questions about your reading choices.

You've provided some useful information on how much and what you read, now there are some questions about why you read it and what you like about it.

Which ideas in Science Fiction & Fantasy do you find the most moving, or inspirational?

Please say what the idea or theme is and then say something about each one, in as many or as few words as you want. These might be topics you've indicated earlier, or some new ones.

Why do you choose to read a particular book?

You can select more than one item, here.

- I like the cover
- I've read the author before
- I like to try something new
- A friend recommended it
- I liked a review I read
- It looks like it's about one of my favourite story types
- I've read everything else
- Other:

If you have a favourite author - who is it?

What do you like about that author?

If you were stuck on a desert island with no hope of rescue, which three SF&F books would you like to have with you?

You get Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings for free, so you don't need to mention them here unless either of them have a really, really special place in your heart.

Why did you pick those books?

If you could swap The Lord of The Rings and/or Harry Potter for a different book, would you do this?

Select which one, or both, or leave it as it is if you want to keep both.

- The Lord of The Rings
- Harry Potter (any of the books)

Do other people in your family read a lot?

- Yes
- No

What sort of books do they like to read?

Click as many or as few as you want.

- Mystery, Suspense or Thrillers
- Drama
- Fantasy
- Sci-Fi
- Adventure, War
- Realistic Fiction
- Humour and Comedy
- Biographies
- Places and Events
- Ideas
- Horror

- Other non-fiction
- Magazines
- Poetry
- Romance
- Literature
- Blogs
- Short Stories
- Newspapers
- Factual Science (non-fiction)
- Other:

Do you also like Science Fiction and Fantasy Films and TV Shows?

- Yes
- No

If you do, what are your favourites?

Say what you like about them too, if you have time.

There are probably books, films or authors that you don't like - what are they?

It's often helpful to know what people don't like as much as what they do like.

Why don't you like them?

What's your favourite Science Fiction or Fantasy book of all time?

Why is it special to you?

How much do you like Science Fiction & Fantasy?

1 2 3 4 5

About the same as other things I read It's the best thing ever

How special is good Science Fiction and Fantasy compared to other writing?

This is about whether you think SF&F is inferior to 'classic' literature and isn't very good or worthwhile by comparison

1 2 3 4 5

It's trashy It's as good, if not better

Would you say you're a bit of a dreamer, or more of a realist?

1 2 3 4 5

Realist Dreamer

Does Science Fiction help you relate to Science in general?

This and the following questions are about how you think attitudes to Science Fiction and Fantasy might influence how we relate to new ideas and concepts in the real world.

1 2 3 4 5

Not really Yes it does

Do you think reading Science Fiction and Fantasy opens you up to new ideas?

1 2 3 4 5

Not really Definitely

Do you think reading Science Fiction and Fantasy makes you more likely to believe in 'real' science?

1 2 3 4 5

Not at all Yes, very much so

Do you think that other people who have doubts about science might be more open to it if they read Science Fiction?

1 2 3 4 5

Probably not It would definitely help

Do you think scientists in science fiction seem more grounded and understandable than scientists in real life?

1 2 3 4 5

I think real scientists are more understandable Yes, I can relate to them more easily

Do you ever find yourself feeling a bit ashamed to be reading Science Fiction & Fantasy?

For instance, do you apologise for it when someone notices it, or perhaps hide the cover when you're reading in public.

1 2 3 4 5

I should be reading something more worthwhile Not at all, I'm proud of what I read

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Some questions about you

These are what is known as 'demographic' questions. They help us to see if people like different things in books because they are older, or live in different places, or speak different languages. You don't have to answer any of these questions (you don't have to answer any of this questionnaire) but if you do it helps us build a more accurate picture of what people like and why they might like it. As it says at the beginning, your responses are anonymous and you cannot be identified from your answers.

Where in the world do you live?

First select the region, then please put the name of your country (or abbreviation e.g. .UK, USA, NZ) in the 'other' box at the bottom of the list.

- Australia or New Zealand
- Western Europe
- North America (US and Canada)
- Central or South America
- Pacific Islands
- Caribbean
- South East Asia
- Central Asia
- Eastern Europe
- Middle East
- Africa
- Other:

What is your native language?

This is the one you speak most at home.

- English
- Other:

Are you in a relationship with someone?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

- I'd rather not say
- Other:

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Other:

How old are you?

This helps us get a good idea if peoples preferences vary much with their age.

What level of formal education do you have?

'Professional or Technical Trade' here is if you are qualified in any trade, (for example an electrician, mechanic, surveyor) which required further education after school.

- School
- University
- Post-Graduate University
- Professional or Technical Trade

How important do you think your life experience and learned skills are compared to your formal education?

People continue to learn and develop skills through their lives outside of their career and formal education, these can be very useful in determining what we do with our lives.

1 2 3 4 5

Not important Very important

What is your main occupation?

- Employed
- Self-Employed
- Retired
- Student
- Unemployed
- Other:

What job do you normally do, or have you done in the past?

If you could pick any job or career at all, what would you pick?

How good are you at working with your hands?

Making, fixing and handling things, often using tools.

1 2 3 4 5

It all falls apart I could build a space-station

Are you happy with how much income you have?

This is not a question about how much you actually earn, but more about how you feel about it.

- I never have enough money, even for day to day things
- I do well enough but a bit more would be helpful
- I'm happy with what I have
- I'm doing well, I have more than I need
- I've got enough that I don't really have to think about it

How good are you at solving puzzles and working things out in your head?

1 2 3 4 5

I solve puzzles with a hammer I'm the world chess champion

Do you learn new physical or manual skills easily?

This isn't a question about whether you are good at doing them.

- Yes
- No

Do you find it easy to understand new and unfamiliar ideas?

- Yes
- No

Do you think of yourself as happy to consider all sides of an argument, or do you have strong opinions of what you think is right and wrong.

Try to come down on one side of the fence here - pick the answer that is likely to be your first reaction to a new argument.

- I'm always happy to consider all the options
- I prefer my own opinions

Is there anything else you would like to add about your experience of Science Fiction & Fantasy?

We are very interested in what you have to say about your experience of reading and enjoying Science Fiction and Fantasy in your life and how it may have influenced you. There may be things you want to say about Science Fiction & Fantasy in general. Please write anything else you feel like saying here and write as much or as little as you like.

How did you discover this survey?

This adds information about the link between the what people are interested in and how they find things out.

- From a news article
- Referred by a friend / colleague
- A circular from your organisation / school
- From an internet search

A blog, twitter or other social media

Other:

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