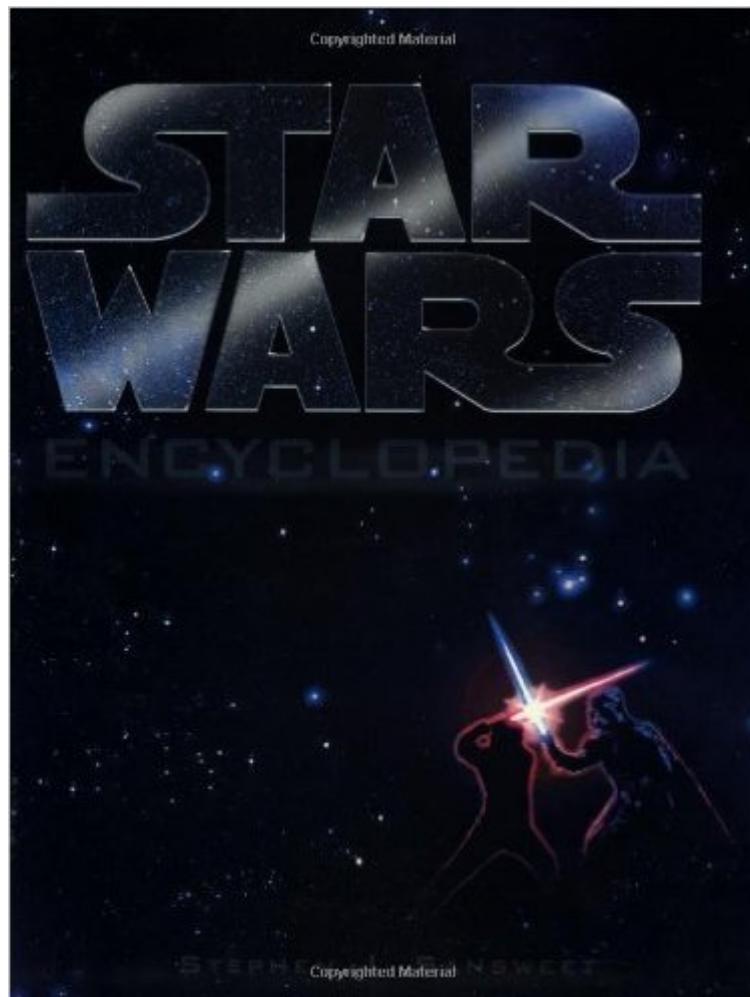


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The Star Wars Encyclopedia



Synopsis

Its vast history and environs have been explored, studied, and chronicled extensively for more than twenty years. Now, this landmark volume--a definitive reference devoted exclusively to the Star Wars milieu--draws together data from films, radio dramas, novels, short stories, computer games, and more, running the full gamut of this extraordinary galaxy. From science and technology to history and geography; from culture and biography to ecology and cosmology; from "abo" and "Abrax" to "zwil" and "Zirtran's Anchor," this all-encompassing, fully illustrated, alphabetical reference covers all the elements which have developed and expanded the Star Wars universe, creating a rich and diverse history that spans millennia. Its scope ranges from the renowned and infamous ("Luke Skywalker," "Darth Vader") to the obscure and enigmatic ("Tnun Bdu"); from the history of the Sith Wars to the Galactic Civil War that pit the Rebel Alliance against the Empire. It introduces us to the natives and customs of planets as diverse as Tatooine and Dagobah, and even to the secrets and beliefs of the Jedi Knights. As a bonus for the intensive researcher, this massive reference includes the complete timeline of major events in Star Wars history. Every key element that exists in the world of Star Wars is supplied here--in clearly defined entries that have been researched and written by one of the leading authorities on the Star Wars universe.

Book Information

Hardcover: 354 pages

Publisher: Ballantine (June 30, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345402278

ISBN-13: 978-0345402271

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.3 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (107 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #894,463 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > Reference](#) #60 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Science Fiction & Fantasy](#) #110 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Encyclopedias](#)

Customer Reviews

If you're a big geekin' fanboy who needs to occasionally bone up on your general knowledge of that "Galaxy Far, Far Away", then the Star Wars Encyclopedia is the best A-to-Z quick reference guide

to get. Not only does this giant tome cover subjects from the original trilogy, it also includes tidbits of info from the various Dark Horse comic books, the novels (including the Timothy Zahn trilogy), the Droids and Ewoks cartoon shows, and even the Ewoks TV movies and the infamous 'Star Wars Holiday Special'! There's all sorts of characters, weaponry, ships, equipment, planets, and much more between the covers! It's also a wonderful resource that'll help put an end to many of those knockdown-dragout Star Wars fanboy arguments you're always having with your buds! Well, maybe not that Greedo-firing-first debacle in 'Star Wars: The Special Edition', but you can't have everything! Also included: a quick-reference timeline so you can see which when each particular story- be it a movie, comic-book story arc, novel, or otherwise- happened in relation to the 'first' Star Wars flick, which is designated point zero in the timeline. Although it's fairly pricey, the book is printed on semi-slick paper, and includes full-color photos & illustrations. Because of these two things, and other stuff that makes this trade-size tome a higher-quality Star Wars book than usual, I think it's more than worth the asking price! Late

Ever since the first Guide to the Star Wars Universe was published in 1984, there have been many reference books written about the characters, weapons, spacecraft, fauna, flora, and worlds of that "galaxy far, far away...." Raymond Velasco's first Guide had precious little to go on back in '84. Bill Slavicsek was luckier a decade later; the Expanded Universe had grown a bit larger with the new wave of Star Wars-related novels, role-playing game guides, graphic novels, and even young readers' books. But even though Slavicsek's 1994 and 2000 Guides are very well-done, Steven J. Sansweet's huge Star Wars Encyclopedia is a treasure trove of information about the Star Wars saga's details. Following the same format as the Slavicsek "Guides," Sansweet's large and lavishly illustrated one-volume Encyclopedia covers every imaginable topic from the Rebel A-Wing to the Imperial officer known as Zuggs. Because it was published in 1998, precious little information from the current "Prequel Trilogy" appears in this edition of The Star Wars Encyclopedia. Also, the Expanded Universe has gotten larger, so readers who want to find out about topics covered in the New Jedi Order series will be disappointed. Fans will have to wait until 2006 to see the second, updated edition. Still, Sansweet's book is considered to be the best reference work, not only for its thoroughness, but because the author is a vice president at Lucasfilm and is the owner of one of the world's largest private Star Wars collections. He also appears frequently on the "Ask the Jedi Council" forum at [...]

Since the dawn of George Lucas' Star Wars Universe back in 1977, there have been numerous

attempts to document some, if not all, aspects of that universe. Despite some fine efforts, all of the attempts to chronicle its vast and intricate details have felt somewhat incomplete. Perhaps editor Steven Sansweet felt the same way, for he has managed to develop what is simply the most comprehensive record of all things Star Wars. From the major characters and technology like Darth Vader and the Death Star to most minor detail in a comic rendering like the Knobby White Spider, Sansweet covers all the bases. Every piece of literature about the Star Wars Universe (including sanctioned and unsanctioned novels, comics, Adventure Journals, Customizable Card Game) are documented in this reference piece. The true beauty of the encyclopedia is not just its completeness, but also its ability to help the reader cross-reference all the listings. In parentheses as a footnote to every entry in the book, there is an acronym that indicates the source of the character, technology, or story. A key in the index of the book explains what each acronym stands for. Given the date of the encyclopedia's release, it obviously does not include material written after early 1998 (I strongly suspect that once Episode III has been released and the New Jedi Order Novel series has completed that a new edition will be released). I have owned the "Star Wars Encyclopedia" for almost 4 years now, and I still find myself referring to it for minute details about books I have read. Other times, I just sit down and browse through to see if I can find anything new. That is the mark of a truly fine reference document.

This volume describes and depicts the various aspects of the Star Wars EU (Extended Universe - movies, books, comics, card games, computer games, etc.). Any fan of Star Wars, whether a movie buff or EU fanatic will enjoy the comprehensive coverage of topics from alien species to specific character biographies, from objects to planets, history to spacecraft. Each entry is referenced to the various sources that include it, whether it be from a specific movie, book, comic, etc. On the positive side, the Star Wars Encyclopedia is filled with interesting information, stills from the original Star Wars trilogy films, illustrations from various artists, and a nice timeline of events at the beginning. On the negative, this book was published in 1998. It is therefore missing references to most of the interesting aspects of Episodes I, II, and III (ep. III not released at the time of this review) as well as any Extended Universe material since published. I hope that a second edition will be forthcoming following the release of Episode III.** Additional information for the serious Star Wars geek: I purchased this book in order to prepare myself for the upcoming release of Star Wars Galaxies, the massively multiplayer online game that is going to be released later. As that game "occurs" during the period of the original trilogy, much of the information needed to familiarize oneself with the environment is present within this work. However, since the game creators are using material from

the entire EU, and since so much material has been released since 1998; I was a bit disappointed by the information that is not included (no fault of the author).

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