



Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing

GUIDELINES FOR BOOK REVIEWS

The following guidelines are intended to assist the reviewer in compiling a complete and effective book review. ASPRS limits the length of a book review to 500 – 1,000 words.

The Review

- Begin the review by citing bibliographic information about the book and your name, title, and affiliation (see example below).

Remote Sensing of the Environment: An Earth Resource Perspective. John R. Jensen. Prentice-Hall, Inc.: Upper Saddle River, NJ. 1998. xiv and 544 pp., diagrams, maps, photos, images, index. Hardcover. \$xx.xx. ISBN 0-13-489733-1.

Reviewed by: Bradley C. Rundquist, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.

- Follow this with an introductory paragraph that summarizes the intended purpose of the book, the target audience, and its basic structure/organization.
- The next section(s) should synthesize and explain the contents of the book. Focus on describing the book and not just summarizing it.
- Evaluate the book. Offer your opinion of the book as a whole and comment on the author(s) ideas and interpretations. Discuss how convincing the arguments presented in the various chapters are, the effectiveness of the material presented, and the overall scholarly nature of the document. Some of the issues to consider in this section would include:
 - accuracy of the material presented,
 - fairness of the author(s) in treating various subjects, descriptions, and analyses,
 - presentation of alternative interpretations,
 - effectiveness of the author(s) arguments in support of his/her/their findings, and
 - organization of the material (is the book well-written, repetitive, obscure, confusing, or awkward?)

These are only some suggestions to consider when writing the evaluation section. The goal of this section is to discuss the effectiveness and significance of the book.

- In your conclusion focus on whether the book has accomplished its objective(s). How does it compare to other books in the same field? Is the book well-suited for its target audience? Does the book fill a void in the available contemporary literature?

General Guidelines

Keep in mind the following issues/guidelines when preparing the review:

- The review should be double-spaced, prepared in Word format, and submitted electronically to Dr. Sagar Deshpande at sagard79@gmail.com
- The review should be written from the viewpoint of potential users, and emphasize whether it would meet the needs of such users.
- Are the concepts clearly defined? How well are the author(s) ideas developed? What areas are (or not) covered?
- Discuss the accuracy of the book's content.
- Comment on the book's layout, binding, typography, notes, footnotes, figures, diagrams, illustrations, maps, imagery, appendices, and index. Check their relevancy and accuracy.
- Attach a scan (in JPEG, PDF, or TIFF format at 300 dpi) of the book's cover for inclusion in your review. You can e-mail the scan me.
- You may need to inquire into the authority of the author(s) (e.g., his/her/their qualifications, reputation, and expertise in the field(s)). You might want to check the publisher's web-site for background on the author(s).
- Be fair to the author(s). Do not make harsh or personal remarks.
- Negative comments about the book should be backed up with specific examples/quotes/justifications. Be objective and fair-minded, and point out weaknesses that the readers should know about. However, do not point out the author(s) flaws. Instead, display **your** expertise in a constructive and positive manner.
- If this is your first book review for PE&RS you are encouraged to read through past reviews to gain a sense for their structure and content.

If you have questions or concerns you can reach me via e-mail:

sagard79@gmail.com