



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

Reviewing Books!

A “mutually beneficial relationship
between libraries and publishers”

SLA PAM Division Publisher Relations session:

**“New Ideas in Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics Publishing,
Collections, and Services”**

Sara Tompson, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Panelist

Tuesday, June 12th, 3:30-5:00

© 2018 California Institute of Technology. Government sponsorship acknowledged.



For those who don't know me:

- I've been a STEM Librarian, either at a university or a lab, since 1987 (with some admin-only gigs)
- Now working at second Federally Funded Research & Development Center (FFRDC) in my career – the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA
 - JPL is run by Caltech under contract to NASA
- I've been an SLA member since 1991
- Was PAM Secretary 2005-2006
- I fly small airplanes for fun!
- A feisty 11 year old white and black cat Nelly rules my husband and me!



What's Old is New Again!

Have you considered reviewing books??

Seems like back in the 1990s, if not the 00s, academic and special librarians would talk about and use book reviews more than nowadays...

→ Your thoughts?

I've been reviewing books for *Library Journal* since 2004!

- Still love it
 - Your “payment” is a book! What’s not to like?!
- Still benefit from it
 - Aids in keeping up with trends in **library users’** disciplines; I review books in these disciplines:
 - Aerospace
 - Aviation
 - Physics
 - Astronomy
 - Engineering
 - Science, general
 - (also Library & Information Science, occasionally Science Fiction)
 - Aids in library collection development, obviously
 - Conversation starter with users
 - Occasionally give away a review copy to interested users, e.g. Physics of Golf to CIO!

Since 2012, *LJ* has used a web platform for submitting reviews (used to email). Here's what I've reviewed since the platform was launched.

Title	Issue Date
1,000 Tips by 100 Eco Architects	2012-12-01
Applied Minds	2015-06-01
Beyond Earth	2016-10-01
Brilliant Blunders	2013-06-07
Cracking the Particle Code of the Universe	2013-11-15
Encyclopedia of Archival Science	2016-02-01
Faraday, Maxwell, and the Electromagnetic Field	2014-02-15
Going Beyond Google Again	2014-06-01
In the Light of Science	2014-10-01
Is Digital Different?	2016-02-15
Predator	2014-09-01
Rocket Billionaires	2018-03-09
StarTalk	2016-09-30
The Ascent of Gravity	2017-10-01
The Future of Humanity	2018-02-09
The Ingenious Mr. Pyke	2015-04-01
The Man Who Stalked Einstein	2015-04-01
The Physicist and the Philosopher	2015-04-01
The Quotable Feynman	2015-09-15
The Science of the Perfect Swing	2015-10-15
Useful, Usable, Desirable	2014-11-01

Title	Issue Date
Applied Minds	2015-06-01
Atom Land	2018-02-15
Beyond the God Particle	2013-09-15
Chief Engineer	2017-04-14
Einstein's Dice and Schrödinger's Cat	2015-02-15
Escaping the Dark, Gray City	2017-03-03
Geek Physics	2015-05-01
Half-Life	2015-01-01
Introduction to Information Science	2013-02-01
Physics	2015-11-01
Rethinking Information Work	2016-05-20
Sally Ride	2014-03-15
Street Smart	2015-08-01
The Copyright Librarian	2016-04-15
The Infographic Guide to Science	2016-10-28
The Large Hadron Collider	2014-09-01
The Order of Time	2018-05-15
The Pope of Physics	2016-10-15
The Road Taken	2016-03-01
The Spinning Magnet	2017-12-01
What Is Real?	2018-04-15

More info on *LJ* reviewing is here:

<https://reviews.libraryjournal.com/about/>

You might also considering reviewing for:

- JASIST:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/23301643/homepage/forauthors.html>

- ACRL's *Choice*:

<http://www.choice360.org/products/reviews>

- Kirkus: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>

- Columns in STEM discipline publications



Thank you!

sara.r.tompson@jpl.nasa.gov



Tompson for PAM



SLA

Connecting Information
Professionals



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology



Tompson for PAM