

Junxing Yang, Cave Research 2015, 1:1,http://www.ivypubs.com/content/1/2

Book Review

Open Access ISSN 2379-8408



Encyclopedia of Caves (Second Edition). White, W.B. & Culver, D.C. Ed. 966 p.p. ISBN: 978-0-12-383832-2; Published in January 2012

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Caves have been a long interest to explorers and amateurs to venture it. And caves and its related areas challenge scientists in its unique and yet attract ways, mainly because of the nature of caves, "except for entrance areas, which are largely hidden from view". Encyclopedia of Caves (Second Edition), built upon the great success of the first edition, further explored all aspects of speleological study in its 128 articles and 17 general subject areas. The contributors of this edition are international experts in their selected topics from around the world, and their deep subject knowledge provides both deep and board subject overview, for "a broad spectrum of readers, from biologists and geologists conducting research in related areas, to students and the interested general public", as two editors hoped that this editor would "address the interests of as many 'clients' as possible given the limitations of space". In particular, as caves research becomes global, this edition truly covers caves around the world, for instance, it is the first time that the topic of cavefish in China is comprehensively reviewed and examined in an encyclopedia. Clearly, this goal is successfully achieved. Formatted in a typical encyclopedia, the book is arranged in a single alphabetical sequence by title, with the "Guide to the Encyclopedia" in the beginning and "Index" of more than 4600 entries at the back. This edition has both hardcover and e-book formats, and the later could be access at http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/book/9780123838322 Readers with the e-book access right could benefit from all e-book development technologies as using and reading this book, such as quickly search interested topics, save and download articles in PDF, export the citation, etc. Though caves might be hidden from view, this book opens the paths to this fascinating world, and lights the further pursuit and discovery of physical and biological systems in caves. It is commended that this book is an essential reference for explorers, scientists, students, teachers, and anyone interested in caves.