Real or Not Real: Does Scientific Accuracy Matter in Fiction?

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Fiction Narrative

Facts

Real

Not Real
Science Fiction Scale of Hardness

A subjective scale that measures how a work reflects actual scientific knowledge. There are different scales, but the idea is the same.

**HARD SCIENCE FICTION**
- Present Day Technology
  - Ultra Hard
  - Very Hard
  - Plausibly Hard
  - Firm
  - Medium

**SOFT SCIENCE FICTION**
- Soft
  - Very Soft
  - Mushy Soft

**Ratings:**
1 - Science in Genre Only
2 - World of Phlebotinum
3 - Physics Plus
4 - One Big Lie
5 - Speculative Science
6 - Real Life
Pre-Jurassic Park Dinosaurs
Jurassic Park “Raptor”
Pop culture Products
Jurassic Park “Dilophosaurus”
Accurate Dilophosaurus
Pop culture Products
Why does it matter?

• Our knowledge of the world is composed of details, as irrelevant as they may seem.

• It informs us of variety and strangeness that is constantly surprising and fascinating.

• Knowing basic facts about the past is no less important than knowing that the Earth revolves around the sun, or where China is located.
Why does it matter?

• A blockbuster summer film such as Jurassic World has the opportunity to present the general public with new dinosaurs and other extinct organisms, while also helping the audience assimilate the reality of fethared dinosaurs.

• Letting feathery dinosaurs run wild could inspire a whole new generation of young fossil fans, thrill audiences, and give evolutionary science a much needed boost.
Brought dinosaur research of the 1980s to 1990s viewers.

Will bring the dinosaur research of the 1980s to 2010s viewers.
Conclusion

Scientific accuracy, whether as narrative, art, or design, helps avoid creating unnecessary misconceptions which may unintentionally go on to become the inspiration and basis for other stories, merchandise and toys, all based on what is inherently false or outdated knowledge.
Works Cited


Works Consulted
www.kheper.net - Grading SF for Realism
tvtropes.org - Mohs Scale of Science Fiction Hardness