

A must-have for science fiction fans!

Brave New Words

The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction

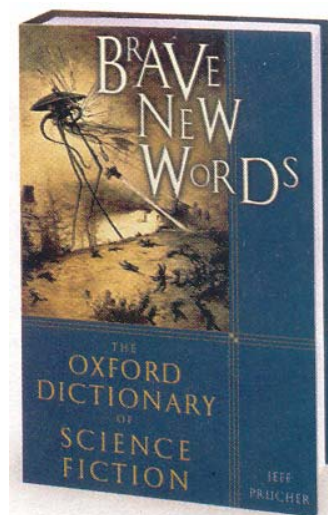
JEFF PRUCHER

'I had an embarrassingly good time poring through Brave New Words. It's more than a dictionary, it's a secret history of science fiction – and of the last 50 years of popular culture.'

- John Scalzi, Author of *Old Man's War*

Do you know that a **ramscoop** is 'an electromagnetic field at the front of a spaceship that captures interstellar hydrogen to be used as fuel for fusion-powered space drive'?

Or that a **timecop** is 'a time-traveler who attempts to prevent the past from being changed, typically as an agent of an organization'?



Brave New Words offers a spectacular tour of the language created by science fiction and its fans. From **annish** and **astrogate** to **zero gravity** and **zine**, it shows exactly how science-fictional words and their associated concepts have developed over time, creating a window to this whole genre of literature.

Each entry includes numerous citations, starting with the earliest usage that can be found. The citations are drawn not only from science fiction books and magazines, but also from mainstream publications, fanzines, screenplays, newspapers, comics, folk songs, and the Internet. This historical look at the language shows how many of the words we consider everyday vocabulary, including **spacesuit**, **blast off**, and **robot**, have roots in imaginative literature rather than hard science. In fact, science fiction has created a large amount of language later adopted by the sciences and popular culture.

The dictionary includes a wide range of words, plus several short information panels about groups of related terms (e.g. **earthlings**, **space drives**, and **Star Trek**), a full bibliography, and an introduction by Gene Wolfe, author of *The Book of the New Sun*.

Not just a useful reference, an informative history, and an entertaining browse, this book is also a document of the enduring legacy of science fiction writers and fans. It's a must-have for everyone with an interest in the genre, whether **actifan**, **passifan**, **faan**, or just plain old **Earther!**

Jeff Prucher is a freelance lexicographer, based in San Francisco and an editor for the *Oxford English Dictionary's* science fiction project. He has previously been a bookseller and an editorial assistant for *Locus Magazine*.

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