

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your positive decision! As already noted in our responses to the reviewer letters, we already took care of all the technical correction.

Here are the detailed changes again (additional information can be found after this list on the last page of this letter):

line 72: 'where primary' replace with 'were primarily';

Corrected.

line 78: probably more correct to use the plural with the possessive, hence 'kid's stuff' or 'kids' stuff';

Corrected.

line 85: at end of sentence, suggest addition - 'in children's books, a market where it is rarely seen by publishers as necessary to be up-to-date.' If necessary, I think Darren Naish has written about this particular aspect, particularly as a writer.

Amended.

line 87: 'on the latest'

Corrected.

line 88: singular so 'medium' in this case;

Corrected.

line 107: consider 'preexisting' over 'existing';

Corrected.

line 120: 'generations for how';

Corrected.

line 142: 'lifeforms' plural is (bizarrely) one word rather than two;

Corrected.

line 176: replace 'were' for 'where';

Corrected.

line 207: I would argue for insertion of heroes as well as villains (if possibly '(or heroes)' in parenthesis);

Corrected.

line 214: 'to explain the presence of the prehistoric creatures';

Corrected.

line 222: remove duplicated citation of Merkl, 2015 on this line;

Corrected.

line 332: replace 'Classic' with 'Classics?';

Corrected.

line 356: I think either remove the comma before 'resemble' or insert another one before 'depicting';

Corrected.

lines 402-408 & 410-417 are essentially duplicated paragraphs - recommend condensing into one;

Corrected.

line 577: I'd say 'were' rather than 'was' here;

Corrected.

line 643: remove 'are' from between nine and originated;

Corrected.

line 688: consider switching to 'Neither dialogue can';

Corrected.

Review 2:

46 '... dinosaur research, which often reaches..' (research is singular)

Corrected.

63 possibly reword 'goal to encourage other scientists..' to goal of encouraging other scientists..'

Corrected.

102 don't need the comma after '..public awareness' as the link is carried by 'because...

Corrected.

146 possibly reword '..he was offered to add..' with '.. he was commissioned to add..' or 'offered the commission of adding..'

We decided to leave this wording unchanged because in the book "Age of Reptiles" by Rosemary Vople from 2007 Rudolph Zallinger himself described (on page 7) this job simply as "an offer" in the chapter about the creation of the mural.

147 I'm not sure if 'model' is the right word here, do you mean an initial schematic, preliminary version or test piece? Model tends to imply a three-dimensional object like a maquette.

Zallinger wrote (page 12 in Vople, 2007) "preliminary small-scale painting, or model, ..." and we decided to use exactly the same phrase now to avoid confusion.

188 do you mean 'Like most other comics, strips involving..?'

Corrected.

191 being really picky (!) I'd prefer the use of a ';' rather than a ':'

Corrected.

207 possible reword '... necessary to advance the story..'

Corrected.

265 possible reword to avoid repeat of 'too'. .. *of Stone* also chose a lost world setting.'

Corrected.

304 Not sure, so a question: should 'ice age' be 'Ice Age' ?

Yes, it is about the last glacial period. Corrected.

337 being annoyingly picky again, the ';' should be a ':'

Corrected.

Like the previous reviewer, I noticed that lines 413 to 417 are a duplicate of lines 404 to 408. I agree that merging the two paragraphs into one should solve this.

Corrected.

505 possibly reword '.. interest for more information..' could be '.. interest in more information..'

Corrected.

550 possible reword 'suitable to teaching' could be 'suitable for teaching'

Corrected.

593 perhaps 'interestingness' could be 'interest'?

Corrected.

657 being picky, the clause following the ':' doesn't need a 'G' it can be '.. as follows: graphic..'

Corrected.

As suggest by reviewer 2, we extended the part about art influences and have now included three more figures (new figures 10, 11, 12), which show the classic originals which served as inspiration together with the corresponding pages in the graphic novel. In our opinion, these figures do indeed further improve our manuscript.

Please note, that while working on the suggested corrections, we decided to partially rewrite and slightly expand section 2.4 (survey results) to reference all diagrams in this figure directly. We also added a few more diagrams in order to provide additional information. In the latest version of our manuscript, this figure is now also included in the main article (figure 9) and no longer suggested as a supplement.

During our revision we also corrected some other minor issues with references and amended the manuscript in very few places. You can find all the details in the uploaded marked-up version.

As for your request regarding a text for the proposal as a 'highlight article', we would like to suggest this draft:

"Paleontological knowledge transfer can be fun! This extended review paper of comics and graphic novels on the subject of paleontology discusses the potential for communicating paleontological topics to the public and the influence of contemporary paleoart in this genre. Additionally, the motivation for and the creation process of the bilingual graphic novel "EUROPASAURUS - Life on Jurassic Islands" - intended as modern science communication - is described. An extensive survey among readers of this book allows conclusions as to what the public expects and appreciates in such a work. "

Please note that we also created a draft of a possible cover image for the highlight article. I have uploaded this picture as a supplement file.

Thank you for your editorial work and best regards

Oliver & the co-authors