

# Graphic Literature: Collection Development Resources

## Meta Sites and Other General Resources

GNLIB-L - Graphic Novels in Libraries. (<http://www.angelfire.com/comics/gnlib/>)

A listserv for librarians to discuss all issues related to graphic novels in libraries

Comic Books for Young Adults (<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/comics/pages/>)

From Michael R. Lavin @ University of Buffalo Libraries, this is a crash course in all things related to graphic novels for the YA audience. Includes collection development issues, recommended lists for different age groups (and “teen favorites not recommended for younger readers”) and a guide to the major and independent publishers.

Comic Book Resources (<http://www.comicbookresources.com/>)

The name says it all.

Comics2Film (<http://www.comics2film.com/>)

Good resource for keeping up with news on films and TV shows with ties to graphic literature

The Comic Page (<http://www.dereksantos.com/comicpage/>)

Directory of +2,000 Web sites.

## Local Sources

Use Diamond’s Comic Shop Locator Service (<http://csls.diamondcomics.com/>) to locate stores near you.

Good stores in Atlanta include Oxford Comics and Games, the Titan Games & Comics chain, Batty’s Best Comics and Games, Comic Company.

DragonCon (<http://www.dragoncon.org>)

Atlanta’s big multimedia convention usually held on Labor Day weekend. The con includes a comics programming track that brings in writers and artists, as well as a number of sellers and publishers in the Exhibit Room.

## Some Key Publishers

DC (<http://www.dccomics.com/>)

Eisner collection, Batman, JLA, Superman, Birds of Prey, Green Lantern, Smallville, Catwoman  
Vertigo – aimed at older audiences

Sandman, Transmetropolitan, Preacher, Hellblazer, Y: The Last Man, 100 Bullets, The Invisibles  
Wildstorm – “cutting-edge” superheroes

The Authority, Planetary, Astro City, Stormwatch, League of Extraordinary Gentleman

Marvel (<http://www.marvel.com/>)

X-Men, Spiderman, Fantastic Four, Avengers, Daredevil

Max – aimed at older audiences

Alias, Elektra, Punisher

Icon – new imprint

Powers and Kabuki (both formerly at Image)

Dark Horse (<http://www.darkhorse.com/>)

Amazing Adventures of the Escapist, Alien, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel, Star Wars, Hellboy, Grendel, Oh My Goddess, Predator, Lone Wolf and Cub, Sin City, Ring

Image (<http://www.imagecomics.com/>)

Spawn, Liberty Meadows, Rex Mundi  
Top Cow – Witchblade, Rising Stars

Oni (<http://www.onipress.com/>)

Queen & Country, Adventures of Barry Ween

Top Shelf (<http://www.topshelfcomix.com/>) – based in Marietta

Blankets, From Hell, Goodbye Chunky Rice, Box Office Poison

Fantagraphics (<http://www.fantagraphics.com/>)

Love & Rockets, Ghost World, Jimmy Corrigan, Safe Area Gorzade, The Complete Crumb Comics

Tokyopop (<http://www.tokyopop.com/>)

Manga titles, including Cowboy Bebop, Demon Diary, Love Hina

### **Collection Building (Getting Started)**

Diamond Comic Distributors (<http://www.diamondcomics.com/>)

Major distributor of graphic novels for libraries and retailers; extensive lists of children's, YA and adult titles.

Getting Graphic @ Your Library (<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2002/trw2002.htm>)

The theme for ALA's 2002 Teen Read Week, this site includes information about beginning and publicizing a collection.

Graphic Novels – Brodart (<http://www.graphicnovels.brodart.com/home.htm>)

Catalog of titles for ordering, including Spanish-language titles and an introduction to Manga. Age-appropriateness information included for each title.

### **Online Bibliographies and Reviewing Sources**

Comics Worth Reading (<http://www.comicsworthreading.com/>)

Reviews and previews of comics, with recommended titles.

The Librarian's Guide to Anime and Manga (<http://www.koyagi.com/Libguide.html>)

Includes definitions, collection issues and recommended titles.

No Flying, No Tights (<http://www.noflyingnotights.com/>)

Review site for teen-appropriate titles. They have also added new sections to review comics for kids (Sidekicks) and for teens/adults (The Lair). Each section has a top 10 list and reviews arranged by genre: nonfiction, superheroes, science fiction, humor, etc. Last updated in early 2004.

*Previews* (<http://previews.diamondcomics.com/>)

Diamond's monthly magazine of upcoming titles and comics/GN-related materials

Recommended Graphic Novels for Public Libraries (<http://my.voyager.net/~sraiteri/graphicnovels.htm>)  
From Steve Raiteri, Greene County PL in Xenia, OH, this is an annotated list of YA-appropriate titles, with emphasis on "superhero" titles. Last updated 10/03.

*Sequential Tart* (<http://www.sequentialtart.com/home.shtml>)

Monthly webzine of interviews, news and reviews, with archive going back to 1998.

### **Print Resources, Including Bibliographies and Collection Development Guides**

“Beyond Superheroes: Comics Get Serious” – *Library Journal*, February 1, 2002

Another good article about building a GN collection. Stephen Weiner includes a bibliography of titles that reflect the diversity of subjects that are covered: fiction as well as nonfiction.

Gorman, Michele. *Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Preteens and Teens*. Worthington, Ohio: Linworth, 2003.

Includes an annotated bibliography of 50 graphic novels for readers 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up

See also by the same author: “What Teens Want” – *School Library Journal*, August 2002.

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics*. Northampton, Mass.: Kitchen Sink Press, 1993.

History and explanation of comics and the medium

Pustz, Matthew. *Comic Book Culture: Fanboys and True Believers*. Jackson, Miss.: University Press of Mississippi, 1999.

Cultural perspective of comic books and readers. includes chapters on literacy, a discussion of contemporary and alternative titles and their readers, the influence of comicons and the Internet.

Rothschild, D. Akiva. *Graphic Novels: A Bibliographic Guide to Book-Length Comics*. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1995.

Annotated bibliography of +400 graphic novels, primarily US, and divided by genre. Good guide to core, essential and not-so essential titles as well as the type of library audience where they would be appropriate (YA, HS, Adult)

*Serials Review*: 24(1) – 25(1). In 1998/99, *Serials Review* published a 4-issue series called “Comic Books and Libraries.” Includes articles on publishers, magazines and journals that cover comic books, and women in comics.

Weiner, Stephen. *101 Best Graphic Novels*. New York: NBM, 2001.

*Young Adult Library Services*: 1(1). Inaugural issues devoted to graphic novels

“Zap! Whoosh! Kerplow!” – *School Library Journal*, January 1997

Lora Bruggeman’s seven-step guide for building a strong GN collection, with some title recommendations for various age groups.

### **Journals That Review Graphic Novels**

*Publishers Weekly* – check regularly

*Library Journal* – 5/1/04, 9/1/03, 5/1/03, 1/1/03

*School Library Journal* – 5/04, 9/03, 5/03, 1/03

*Booklist* – 2/1/04, 2/1/03

*Entertainment Weekly* – occasional reviews

*Comics Journal* – more scholarly, with interviews and reviews (monthly)

## Teri's List

(Disclaimer: my reading tastes skew towards "mature" titles and subject matter)

### Getting Started with Some Core Titles:

*Maus / Maus II*

*The Dark Knight Returns /*

*The Dark Knight Strikes Again*

*Sandman* (10 vol., plus additional titles)

*Watchmen*

### Slice of Life: Drama and Comedy

*Strangers in Paradise* (13 vol.+)

*Blankets*

*Jimmy Corrigan*

*Stuck Rubber Baby*

*Box Office Poison*

*Love & Rockets* (15 vol.+)

works by Kyle Baker

works by Dan Clowes

*Tale of One Bad Rat*

### Comedy

*Bone* (8 vol.+)

*Fun with Milk and Cheese*

*Cerebus* (16 vol.)

### Drama: Noir, Horror & Suspense

*Torso*

*V for Vendetta*

*Jinx*

*Rex Mundi* (1 vol.+)

*Y: The Last Man* (3 vol.+)

*From Hell*

*Goldfish*

*Hawaiian Dick* (1 vol.+)

*Queen & Country* (5 vol.+)

### Superheroes, Skewed

*League of Extraordinary Gentleman* (2 vol.)

*The Authority* (5 vol.+)

*Rising Stars* (2 vol.+)

*Stormwatch* (5 vol.)

*Powers* (5 vol.+)

*Global Frequency* (2 vol.)

*Astro City* (4 vol.+)

*Alias* (4 vol.)

### Mixed Media: Comics to TV/Film and Back

*Road to Perdition* (1 vol.+)

*Ghost World*

*Hellboy* (5 vol.+)

*The Ring* (2 vol.+)

*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (27 vol.+)

*Spiderman* (multiple series)

*C.S.I.* (4 vol.+)

*American Splendor*

*Angel* (6 vol.+)

*The Amazing Adventures of the Escapist* (nya)

*X-Men* (multiple series)

### The Real World

*Fax from Sarajevo*

*Palestine*

*Persepolis*

*Safe Area Gorzade*

*Pedro and Me*

*9-11* (2 vol.)

### Definitely For Mature Audiences (multi-volume series)

*Battle Royale*

*Preacher*

*Sin City*

*Transmetropolitan*

*Hellblazer*