

GRAPHIC NOVELS, MANGA & ANIME



A graphic novel is "an original, self-contained story, told in the comic book format." Note that the Japanese term manga is often used interchangeably with the American term graphic novel ("manga" is the Japanese word for comics). Related to graphic novels is anime which is Japanese animation (often derived from manga), also called "Japanimation." Anime comes in both VHS and DVD format.

Whenever possible, preview graphic novels and anime titles prior to purchase. Interlibrary loan, local comic stores, and/or bookstores are good purchasing points and places to browse for more information. Free samples can also be found online. Visit <http://www.e-sheep.com/main.shtml>, <http://www.fantagraphics.com/comics/comics.html>, or <http://www.scottmcloud.com/comics/chess/chess.html> for more details.



Examples of GRAPHIC NOVELS:

The following are all tried true, the main building blocks for any collection

- Batman and Robin
- The Flash
- Captain America
- The Incredible Hulk
- Superman
- Star Wars - Extremely popular and a must have
- Bone by Jeff Smith - Very humorous
- Elfquest by Richard & Wendy Pini - Tolkienish fantasy attractive to younger kids
- Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman
- Spider-Man
- Wonder Woman
- X-Men
- Buffy the Vampire Slayer



Helpful Resources: Web Sites, Books, Articles & More

Graphic Novels in Libraries Listserv (GNLIB-L)

For Archives: <http://www.topica.com/lists/gnlib-l>

To Subscribe: GNLIB-L-subscribe@topica.com.

This list is unmoderated and is open to any public/private/school librarian interested in beginning or expanding their graphic novel or comics collection. Librarians are encouraged to share reviews and resources for collection development.

Animerica: Anime and Manga Monthly

<http://www.animerica.com/>

Enter the exciting world of Japanese pop culture through this anime and manga monthly magazine. Includes news, interviews, newsletter, blog, and sneak previews of American and Japanese releases. Good source for purchasing too.

Presented by Kimberly Bolan, Library Consultant & author of *Teen Spaces: The Step-by-Step Library Makeover* (ALA Editions, 2003) 2006

Handout developed by Kim Bolan and Sally Snow, Director of the Parma (NY) Public Library
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Helpful Resources (cont.):

The Anime Café

<http://www.abcb.com/>

A good, basic resource pages for anime reviews, trivia, and general information. Includes "Beginner's Guides" as well as a "Parent's Guide to Anime" that includes reviews, a rating system, and age ranges.

Anime Nation

<http://www.animation.com>

Considered one of the best anime/manga sites on the Web!

Best Anime

<http://www.bestanime.com>

Includes an animation search engine where you can search by title, genre, author, and more.

Book Wholesalers, Inc. (BWI)

<http://www.bwibooks.com/> or phone: (800) 888-4478

Good vendor for graphic novel purchases. They will send you monthly catalogs and an annual list of what you have on order, what is coming out, and what is ceasing publication. Consider setting up a standing order. They also have a special binding that has a lifetime guarantee. This will last much longer than traditional graphic novel bindings.

Brodart's Graphic Novel Webpage

<http://www.graphicnovels.brodart.com/>

A good collection development tool. Because they know the key to the selection process is identifying appropriate materials for various age groups, they monitor this new and changing environment to help meet the needs of a diversity of libraries and their communities.

Comic Books for Young Adults: A Guide for Librarians

<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/lml/comics/pages/>

Compiled and maintained by librarian, Michael R. Lavin, this site discusses why comics belong in libraries; providing an explanation of formats and collection development issues. Recommendations as well as guides to publishers and genres and an extensive bibliography can be found here.

The Comics Get Serious: Graphic Novel Reviews

<http://www.rationalmagic.com/Comics/Comics.html>

Aviva Rothschild has a collection of over 125 titles reviewed here, along with subject headings and age-level recommendations.

Diamond Comics

<http://bookshelf.diamondcomics.com>

1-800-45COMIC (1-800-452-6642)

One of the world's largest distributors of English-language comics and related merchandise. They include a wide selection of super hero, manga, and TV tie-in comics. 20% discount for library orders.

Duke University's Anime Club

<http://www.duke.edu/web/DukAnime/>

Information about the club, meeting times and places, general information about anime, and more!

Helpful Resources (cont.):

Goldsmith, Francisca. *Graphic Novels Now: Building, Managing, and Marketing a Dynamic Collection.* Chicago: ALA Editions, 2005.

Francisca Goldsmith shares smart advice, from how to develop a well-rounded collection by finding reviews and reliable publishers and distributors to shelving, cataloging, and preserving these unique books. This guide also features tips on marketing and promoting the graphic novel collection, as well as how to create dynamic programs such as artist visits and how-to cartooning workshops.

Graphically Speaking

Young Adult Specialist, Kat Kan's graphic novel review column for *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*.

The Librarian's Guide to Anime and Manga

<http://www.koyagi.com/Libguide.html>

Discusses both manga and anime and includes information regarding violence, nudity, and sexual content & emerging trends. Recommends resources and offers many buying recommendations.

No Flying, No Tights

<http://www.noflyingnotights.com/>

A graphic novel review site for teens and adults.

Recommended Graphic Novels for Public Libraries.

<http://my.voyager.net/~sraiteri/graphicnovels.htm>

Selected and annotated by librarian, Steve Raiteri, this site consists of the best titles appropriate for ages 10 to 16. Subdivisions include various superheroes, science fiction and fantasy, comedy, and manga. Helpful annotations and a "Suggested Opening Collection: 30 Selections" is also included.

We-Love-Anime.com

<http://we-love-anime.com>

Considered "a great source for lovers of anime and those joining this new world of excitement."

Weiner, Stephen and Keith R. A. DeCandido. *The 101 Best Graphic Novels.* NBM Publishing, Inc., 2001.

Alphabetic listing of graphic novels by authors' name with age indicators (Children, Young Adult, Adult) and short descriptive annotations. A library edition comes with a booklet on starting a collection.

Wizard Universe

<http://www.wizarduniverse.com>

An good source for libraries that have a number of graphic novels in their collection. Includes price guides, action figures, information on upcoming publications, and more. Sign up for online weekly updates. Subscribe to one of their monthly publications including *Wizard Magazine* or *Anime Insider*.