

GRAPHIC NOVELS

A **graphic novel** is a type of comic book, usually with a lengthy and complex storyline similar to those of novels, and often aimed at mature audiences. A graphic novel refers only to materials that are published in book or magazine format and that have *all* of the following characteristics:

- The characters and action are portrayed in a succession of panel drawings.
- A series of panels advances a *fictional* narrative line. (Note: Some graphic novels are nonfiction works written in comic book style).
- The dialogue is generally presented in “balloons,” or their equivalent.

Graphic novels that have been ordered for academic departments should be processed according to the following procedures. These graphic novels arrive separately from those ordered by the juvenile bibliographer.

If the item has been ordered by the juvenile bibliographer, follow the instructions in the **Juvenile Materials** procedures.

If in doubt about an item’s intended treatment, refer to the Head of Copy Cataloging.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Class in **PN6700 - PN6790** graphic novels that are works of fiction. Class in **A – Z** graphic novels that are works of nonfiction.
- Follow **SCM H 1430** when determining genre headings.
- Follow guidelines outlined in **Sets vs. Analytics Guidelines** when cataloging a set of graphic novels.
- Retain or add the genre heading **655_0 Graphic novels** in each record.
- All graphic novels should be flagged with a blue **GRAPHIC NOVELS – SEND TO PRES** flag. Place ALL graphic novels on the Preservation Shelf when cataloging is complete, and add the blue flag if missing.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Follow **Overview and Basic Procedures** with the following changes or additions.

008

Cont (Nature of Contents) = 6 (Comics/graphic novels)

In Millennium, **Content1** should be coded **6**

Do not use = Lit Form = c (Comic strips); obsolete as of Aug. 2009

050 or 090

If a work of fiction, the call number should be within the range **PN6700 - PN6790**. If not, refer to your supervisor.

Do not class graphic novels in numbers for individual literary authors (in the PB-PT schedules).

Do not class in PZ unless ordered by the juvenile bibliographer.

LC prefers to cutter by title and then by author.

Example:

050	0	0	PN6728.M395 bK545 2004
100	1		Kieth, Sam
245	1	4	The Maxx / . . .

N6728 = Collections of general literature--Comic books, strips, etc.--By region or country--United States

.M395 = Cutter by title (even though it is not the main entry) – The Maxx

K545 = Cutter by author – Kieth, Sam

ClassWeb Outline

The following outline is provided for your reference only. Please refer to ClassWeb for the most accurate and up-to-date schedule.

Collections of general literature--Comic books, strips, etc.--By region or country--United States—History

PN6725	History
PN6726	Collections
PN6727.A-Z	Individual authors or works, A-Z

Subarrange individual authors by Table **P-PZ40**

Subarrange individual works by Table **P-PZ43**

Prefer classification of comic strips by title

For juvenile graphic novels, see subclass **PZ**

PN6728.A-Z Individual comic strips. By title, A-Z

For juvenile graphic novels, see subclass **PZ**

Apply Table PN11 to this portion of the schedules:

PN11 1-3 Table for comic books, strips, etc., by region or country (4 nos.)

PN11 1 History

PN11 2 Collections

PN11 3.A-Z Individual authors or works, A-Z

Subarrange individual authors by Table **P-PZ40**

Subarrange individual works by Table **P-PZ43**

Prefer classification of comic strips by title

For juvenile graphic novels, see subclass **PZ**

PN11 4.A-Z Individual comic strips. By title, A-Z

For juvenile graphic novels, see subclass **PZ**

If in doubt or if you think the call number looks inaccurate, refer to your supervisor or an original cataloger.

Subject Headings

LC provides guidelines in **SCM H 1430 – Comics and Comic Characters** for determining genre and subject headings. For our catalog, assign headings as follows.

FICTION

- 1) Always assign **655_0 Graphic novels**. If the record has a 650_0 Graphic novels, change it to a 655_0.
- 2) Some records may also have **655_0 Comic books, strips, etc**. Retain if it follows these guidelines:
 - a. A collection or selection of comic strips or cartoons
 - b. A comic book cataloged as a serial
 - c. Selected issues of serial comics that have been collected and republished as monographs
- 3) If possible, also assign one of the following additional **655_0** headings for genre breakdowns of comic strips:

Detective and mystery comic books, strips, etc

Documentary comic books, strips, etc

Erotic comic books, strips, etc

Fantasy comic books, strips, etc

Fotonovela

Grassroots comic books, strips, etc

Horror comic books, strips, etc

Romance comic books, strips, etc

Science fiction comic books, strips, etc

Superhero comic books strips, etc

Surrealist comic books, strips, etc

Underground comic books, strips, etc

Western comic books, strips, etc

NON-FICTION

- 1) Assign the appropriate subject heading array for nonfiction written in comic book or graphic novel style. Subdivide each heading by **–Comic books, strips, etc**
- 2) Always assign **655_0 Graphic novels**
- 3) Some records may also have **655_0 Comic books, strips, etc**. Retain if it follows these guidelines:
 - a. A collection or selection of comic strips or cartoons
 - b. A comic book cataloged as a serial
 - c. Selected issues of serial comics that have been collected and republished as monographs