

Graphic Novel Discussion Group Plan and Implementation

Charges

1. Develop a classification system for graphic novels that improves access for customers and reduces staff time devoted to these materials.
2. Determine whether separate shelving areas, defined by a separate location code, best serve the needs of customers and are feasible at MLS libraries.

Application

Recommendations apply to graphic novels, defined as *multi-panel works written to be read in relatively long segments, like short stories or novels. If the work was originally published in parts, the parts are likely to have been issued monthly or less frequently (occasionally weekly or biweekly as part of serial anthologies), not daily. Includes manga.*

Recommendations apply only to print materials in the adult, young adult, and juvenile collections, both fiction and nonfiction. Easy, reader, and tween material will not be included in the graphic novel location codes and will not be interfiled with the JGNs.

Recommendations will be implemented retroactively. Materials will be recalled and corrected by Cataloging staff over a period of time.

Call Numbers

Classification

Classify all graphic format fiction using the classification FICTION as appropriate for the age level. Discontinue use of other fiction classifications such as SCIENCE FICTION, MYSTERY, etc.

Continue to classify graphic format nonfiction in Dewey classifications reflecting the subject matter. Discontinue use of Dewey classifications beginning with 741.5 for graphic novels; this classification describes the format, not the content.

Author Marks

Replace the author mark (first three letters of the main entry) below the classification based on the following hierarchy. Maintain a dynamic list of popular “super” characters or groups of characters.

1. First three letters of the main character name, as long as the name appears on the dynamic list.
2. Six letter descriptors previously established for certain groups of materials.
3. First three letters of the series title.
4. First three letters of the individual title.

Numeric Identification

Add any numeric identification such as volume number, part number, etc., appearing on the item itself to the call number.

Examples

<i>Existing</i>	<i>New</i>
<div> <div>SCIENCE FICTION SPI V.1</div> <div>The amazing Spider-man Slott, Dan,</div> </div>	<div> <div>FICTION SPI V.1</div> <div>The amazing Spider-man Slott, Dan,</div> </div>
<div> <div>YFICTION KON PART2</div> <div>The complete Chi's sweet Konami, Kanata, 1958-</div> </div>	<div> <div>YFICTION CHI PART2</div> <div>The complete Chi's sweet Konami, Kanata, 1958-</div> </div>
<div> <div>YSCIENCE FICTION DAR V.6</div> <div>Vader down. Volume 6 Gillen, Kieron</div> </div>	<div> <div>YFICTION STA_WAR V.6</div> <div>Vader down. Volume 6 Gillen, Kieron</div> </div>
<div> <div>JFICTION HOL V.3</div> <div>Squish, no. 3: The power of Holm, Jennifer L.</div> </div>	<div> <div>JFICTION SQU V.3</div> <div>Squish, no. 3: The power of Holm, Jennifer L.</div> </div>

Location Codes

Create three new location codes for materials in graphic format, as follows:

GN = Adult materials

YGN = YA materials

JGN = Juvenile materials.

Assign these location codes to all materials meeting the definition of “graphic novel” on page 1, **including nonfiction materials.**

Do not assign these location codes to collections of comic strips, such as Garfield, Foxtrot, etc. They may be assigned to collections of comic strips which present a complete story, such as Dick Tracy.

Discontinue use of Dewey classifications beginning with 741.5 for all titles meeting the definition of a graphic novel. Continue to use it for collections of comic strips.

Shelving

Each MLS library establishes separate shelving areas for materials in location codes GN, YGN, and JGN.

Shelve fiction titles in the graphic novel shelving areas as follows:

Classification (FICTION)

First set of characters below classification on the spine label (SUP, CHI, etc.)

If applicable, second set of characters below classification on the spine label (WAR, etc.)

If applicable, alphabetically by title

If applicable, alphabetically by author

If applicable, numerically by volume number

Nonfiction materials are shelved in Dewey order at the end of the fiction materials.

Library staff aggressively weed materials in graphic novel collections based on age and condition.

Catalog Access

Cataloging will establish the following subject headings to be applied to records for graphic novels whenever appropriate. These fields will be searchable in the public catalog.

Character/Group name (Fictitious character), i.e., Superman (Fictitious character), X-Men (Fictitious character).

Superheroes

Manga

Implementation

Cataloging has begun recalling graphic novels currently in the collection as needed to reclassify to meet the new standards.

Do not send graphic novels to Cataloging for labeling until requested to do so.

Library staff may submit suggestions for series to be considered for the new labeling schemes. Use the Cataloging Consideration form for such suggestions.

Reclassification is projected to be completed by end of 2020.

Direct Benefits to Customers

- Easier to locate materials physically in the library
- Easier to locate materials through LS2PAC
- Improved discoverability
- Less time wasted wandering the stacks
- Easier to put materials on hold
- Easier to pick up multiple titles in one visit
- Less frustration
- Items will get to customers more quickly
- Easier to recommend new titles
- Increased member retention

Indirect Benefits to Customers (Direct Benefits to Staff)

- Easier to locate materials physically in the library for customers
- Easier to locate materials in the catalog
- Predictable location to walk members to
- Fewer disgruntled members to deal with
- Reduce ILL requests for already-owned titles
- Faster to shelve