

Cataloging graphic novels

Fixed fields - OCLC field name in parenthesis

Literary form (LitF) = 0 for nonfiction, 1 for fiction or a more specific code, as appropriate

Content (Cont) = 6 for graphic novels

Illustrations (Ills) = a for illustrations (in addition to any other appropriate codes)

Dates

Be careful about dates for these items. Copyright dates are often updated with each new printing. The date in the fixed fields and in the 260 field must match the latest copyright date for the item.

Statement of responsibility

Many people contribute to the creation of graphic novels. Writers, pencillers, inkers, etc. are each separate functions for the Rule of Three

245; \$c written by John Smith ... [et al.] ; penciled by Jane Smith ... [et al.] ; inked by Mary Smith ... [et al.].

Generally omit editors and cover artists. Use judgment regarding whether letterers, colorists, and other creators have “bibliographic significance” and should be in the 245; \$c. Optionally, they may be included in a note.

Edition statement

The phrase “Direct edition” on graphic novels published by Marvel is not an edition statement; it just means the book was sold through comic book shops and book vendors. Absence or presence of this phrase does not warrant creating a new record.

GateNet: In local records, add the following note “Some issues have Direct edition” if needed. If entering a new record in OCLC add “Direct edition” as a quoted note.

300 field

These books primarily consist of illustrations with some text. Use “chiefly ill.” or “chiefly col. ill.” in subfield \$b.

Examples:

300; ;a ca. 180 p. : \$b chiefly col. ill. ; \$c 26 cm.

300; ;a160 p. : \$b chiefly ill. (some col.) ; \$c 26 cm.

Notes

Add notes as appropriate. Below are some commonly used notes for graphic novels.

Statements of responsibility not listed in 245

Include a note for the character’s original creator, if known.

500; ;a “Character of Spider-Man originally created by Stan Lee.”

Publication history note

Comic book compilations often contain information about the original publication of the individual issues. Graphic novels sometimes have first appeared in a serialized form. This should be included on a publication history note.

500; ;a Originally published in magazine form as Ultimate Spider-Man, #1-7.

Physical description note

When a graphic novel translated from Japanese retains its original right-to-left presentation format, include a note to that effect.

500; ;a In keeping with the original Japanese format, this book reads right-to-left, and back-to-front.

Subject headings

Use the free-floating form subdivision \$v Comic books, strips, etc. for all topical headings. The Library of Congress has decided that \$v Comic books, strips, etc. and either \$v Fiction or \$v Juvenile fiction cannot be applied to the same heading or the same record, because both are types of literature at the same level.

Examples:

650; 0;a Runaway teenagers \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650; 0;a Voyages and travels \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

If there is an established fictitious character associated with the book, include a heading for the character.

Example:

650; 0;a Spider-Man (Fictitious character) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

Form and Genre headings (655)

Use the following form heading for all graphic novels and comic book compilations:

655; 0;a Graphic novels.

Do not use both 655; 0; \$a Graphic novels and 655; 0; \$a Comic books, strips, etc. as genre/form headings on the same record because they have a broader/narrower relationship; however you can use both 655; 0; \$a Graphic novels and 655; 0; \$a Fantasy comic books, strips, etc because they do not have a broader/narrower relationship.

If your item is a collection of comic strips (i.e. Garfield, Peanuts, etc.), use the genre heading Comics books, strips, etc.

Use the appropriate genre/form headings when they apply. Some of the more commonly used forms are listed below; this is not an exhaustive list:

655; 7;a Mystery comic books, strips, etc. \$2 gsafd

655; 7;a Science fiction comic books, strips, etc. \$gsafd

655; 7;a Superhero comic books, strips, etc. \$2 gsafd

655; 7;a Western comic books, strips, etc. \$2 gsafd

655; 0;a Fantasy comic books, strips, etc

655; 0;a Horror comic books, strips, etc.

Also apply the corresponding general genre headings.

An example for The Hobbit:

655; 0;a Fantasy comic books, strips, etc.

655; 7;a Fantasy fiction. \$2 gsafd

655; 0;a Graphic novels.

Added entry (Uniform title)

Add an added entry for the uniform title if appropriate.

An X-men example:

100;1 ;a Millar, Mark.

245;10;a Ultimate X-men. \$p The tomorrow people / \$c by Mark Millar.

730;0 ;a X-men (Comic strip)

Translations/adaptations

AACR Chapter 21 states: Enter a paraphrase, rewriting, adaptations for children, or version in a different literary form (e.g. novelization, dramatization) under the heading for the adapter.

Examples:

Story and art by Akira Toriyama ; English adaptation by Gerard Jones ; translation, Lillian Olsen. **Main entry should be Gerard Jones**

By Yuriko Nishiyama ; translation, Shirley Kubo ; English adaptation, Jordan Capell. **Main entry should be Jordan Capell**

Include the 041 field for the languages of the translation and the original.

Example:

041;1 ;a eng \$h jpn

GateNet: In local records add the subject heading Graphic novels with the free-floating subdivisions describing the country of origin and the language of the translation.

Example:

650; 0;a Graphic novels \$z Japan \$x Translations into English.

Include a name-title added entry for the original work when the main entry is for the adaptor..

Example:

700;1 ;a Toriyama, Akira, \$d 1955- \$t Dragon ball. \$nVol.1, \$p Monkey's tale.