



Adventures in Building a Graphic Novel Collection

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Prologue

- What is a graphic novel?
 - A novel whose narrative is related through a combination of text and art, often in comic-strip form (<http://www.answers.com/topic/graphic-novel>).
- Isn't that a comic book?
 - It depends on who you ask.



Vocabulary

- Manga – Japanese comics. Published weekly or monthly. Anthologies containing dozens of different stories on a common theme, such as action-adventure, romance, sports and games, historical drama, comedy, science fiction and fantasy, etc.
- Omnibus – An anthology of previously released material linked together by theme or author.
- Trade Paperback – One story arc of a comic collected and reprinted in book form.

The ACTC Graphic Novel Collection

- Started with 11 issues
- Three graphic novels already in the circulating collection
- Currently 41 issues (2 lost)
- Graphic novels rack
- Two issue per patron check out limit



ACT 1: Getting Started

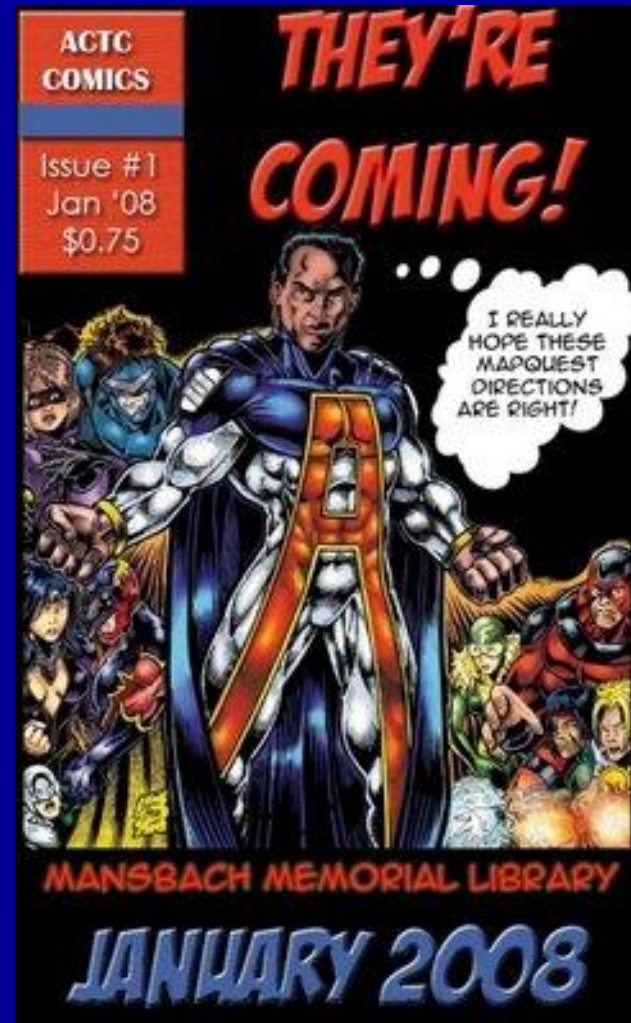
- Library director attended an ALA session about graphic novels and decided we should start a small collection.
- Two employees already familiar with graphic novels were asked to select the first order.

The First Order

- Astonishing X-Men: Gifted
- Batman: Hush
- Batman: Year One
- Buffy: Omnibus, vol. 1
- Buffy, Season 8: Long Way Home
- League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
- Maus
- Sandman: Dream Hunters
- Superman: Man of Steel
- V for Vendetta
- Watchmen

Advertising

Jeff Ratliff, our library assistant, also creates his own comics. He designed this ad for us, which we put on our website, our [library blog](#), and posted on the library doors. A local comic book collector loaned us several issues and memorabilia for a gallery display.



Act 2: The Plot Thickens

- Over the course of 2008, 24 issues were added to the collection.
- Patrons were encouraged to offer suggestions.
- Graphic novels have circulated 34 times with 5 in-library browses.
- *Watchmen* has circulated 11 times.

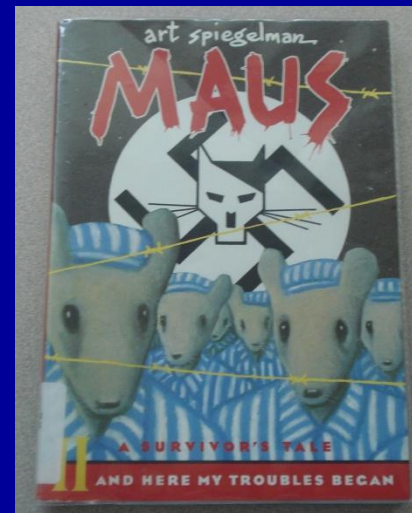
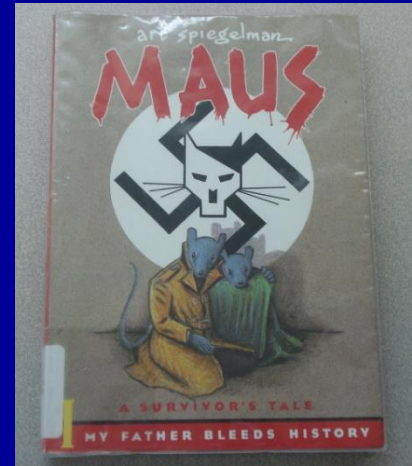
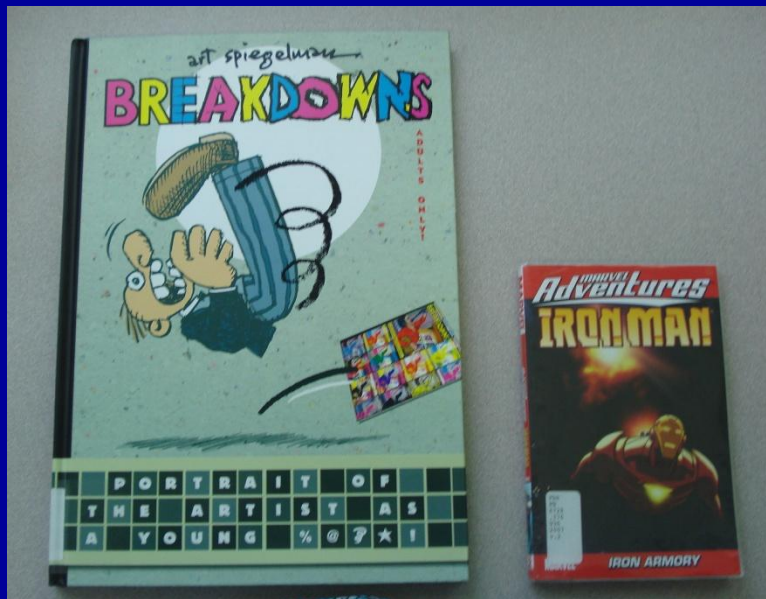
Act 3: Practical Matters

- Trade paperbacks vs. individual issues
- Preservation techniques
 - CoLibri covers
- Cataloging issues
 - LC call numbers
 - “Paperback” location
- Shelving/display



Act 4: Complications

- Display
- Misshelving
- Value/theft



Act 5: Future Plans

- Changes to shelving/display
 - Spinner rack for new arrivals
 - Crates with dividers for older issues
- Add “graphic novel” sticker to aid in shelving
- Remove LC call number labels
- Create “graphic novel” location

Publisher and Vendor Websites

- [DC Comics](#)
- [Marvel Comics](#)
- [Dark Horse Comics](#)
- [Things From Another World](#)
- [Emery-Pratt](#) (Selection Plan)
- [Ingram](#)

Open Source Resources

- [University of Memphis Graphic Novels Wiki](#)
- [Diamond Bookshelf](#)
- [Graphic Novel Reporter](#)
- [ImageText](#)

Webcomics

- Unshelved (<http://www.unshelved.com>)
- Sheldon (<http://www.sheldoncomics.com>)
- xkcd (<http://xkcd.com>)
- Top Web Comics
(<http://topwebcomics.com>)
- Webcomic List
(<http://www.thewebcomiclist.com>)

Names to Watch

- Alan Moore
- Neil Gaiman
- Art Spiegelman
- Joss Whedon
- Frank Miller
- Jeff Smith
- David Lapham
- Jason Lutes
- Warren Ellis
- Garth Ennis

In Conclusion

- Start with series that are popular and/or with which you are familiar.
- Start small.
- Seek patron input.
- Don't be afraid to use non-traditional review sources.
- Have fun with it.

THE END

Thank You!