

Assignment #2 Collection Development Statement

Collection Development Plan for Graphic Novels at College Library at UCLA

Description:

The term graphic novel is not strictly defined, but usually refers to “book length collections of sequential art containing a single story, or a set of interrelated stories.” These works may be fiction or nonfiction, so comprise a variety of call numbers. Supplementary materials, such as criticisms or history of the genre, are not included in this section unless they are presented in the graphic novel format. Generally, collections of cartoons or comic strips are not included in this section.

Influencing Factors:

The collection primarily exists to serve the pleasure reading needs of the undergraduate student population at UCLA, so materials should appeal to this readership. Others with library cards, including graduate students, faculty and staff, are also welcome to borrow materials. The collection may also support the research of students or faculty interested in the literary and artistic merits of the graphic novel format. Additionally, certain non-fiction graphic novel titles can support research in various disciplines.

Selection Plan:

The library's collection will concentrate on titles that receive awards and/or critical acclaim that appeal to the undergraduate student. Standard review sources like *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *Library Journal* include graphic novel reviews and special graphic novel issues. Other more popular sources like *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Entertainment Weekly* should also be considered, as well as specialized websites, list-servs and publishers' catalogs. The Eisner Awards and the Harvey Awards are comics-specific awards given each year in a variety of categories, which should also aid in current and retrospective selection. Standard bibliographies can determine titles to purchase for retrospective development. The library will also consider specific requests by students.

The library collects solely English-language materials, though seeks English translations of foreign-language titles that meet the selection criteria. The library collects both hardcover and paperback materials. The library does not collect individual issues of comic book series. Many popular comics titles are multi-volume series. The library will collect completed series that meet the selection criteria if all the volumes are available. New series or series that are mid-production will only be considered if they have received exemplary critical acclaim, in which case the library will commit to purchasing the entire series run.

Retention and Weeding:

The age of a title is not especially relevant for weeding the graphic novel section, since older, seminal titles often remain popular. Books in poor condition should be replaced as necessary. Every two years, the collection should be evaluated for usage to determine if any infrequently used materials can be weeded to make space for newer titles.

Development Plan:

The library should continue to purchase current titles that meet the criteria established in the collection plan. In addition, emphasis should be placed on retrospective development to bring in earlier, influential works and older work by current popular artists. Particular attention should be paid to purchasing materials that represent a variety of viewpoints and that reflect the diversity of the student population. Since the collection is new and there is additional shelf space, there is room for significant growth.