Critical Librarianship and Comics

94th chat, Tuesday November 28 2017: critical librarianship and comics; moderated by @ohelmiller and @stephliana

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

This is tomorrow, #critlib folks! twitter.com/ohelmiller/sta...

3 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox 🦊
@violetbfox

TONIGHT! #critlib chat on #comics in libraries, 6pm Pacific/9pm Eastern, moderated by @ohelmiller & @stephliana. All library/archives workers & LIS students welcome! critlib.org/critical-libra... #graphicmedicine

3 MONTHS AGO

Andrew Preater
@preater

@OPWhisperer this is happening at 2 am in our timezone but you may wish to look at the #critlib hashtag after the chat. twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

We’re about 45 minutes out from tonight’s #critlib chat on comics and libraries! Preview our questions (plus comics terminology and readings) here: critlib.org/critical-libra...

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

30 minutes! Prepare yourselves, #critlib. twitter.com/stephliana/sta...

3 MONTHS AGO
Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

Welcome to the #critlib and comics chat! I’m Olivia, art & humanities librarian in MA and one of your moderators tonight. Please introduce yourselves. media1.tenor.com/images/8aafo05...

3 MONTHS AGO

Andrew Wang
@aandrewwwangg

Hi #critlib folks! I’m Andrew, Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship. Super excited for this chat ~

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephtiana

Evening, folks! I’m Stephanie, an art librarian in NoVA and fellow moderator with @ohelmiller for tonight’s #critlib chat. Let’s talk about comics!

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephtiana

BTW, you can tweet anonymously by using this form: script.google.com/macros/s/AKfyc...
#critlib #comics

3 MONTHS AGO

Nancy Foasberg
@nfoasberg

Good evening #critlib! I’m an academic librarian in NYC and excited to learn about comics tonight.

3 MONTHS AGO

Michelle
@chelleinthelib

Hi #critlib i’m michelle, and i’m a lis student/ support staff/clerk in an academic library. and i recently fell in love with comics!

3 MONTHS AGO
Hi everyone. I'm Dave, Comics Librarian and Video Game Archivist at U-M. Always happy to talk comics with librarians! #critlib

Kelly Swickard
@k_swickard
#critlib #comics Hello I am Kelly at MICA in Baltimore (art and design school) (resource description librarian and zine librarian)

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
Q1. How have you used (or seen comics used) in library practice? How would you like to see comics used in libraries? #critlib

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
A1. At my FPOW I taught a 2 credit hour course on how to read comics using them as a springboard to info and visual literacy. #critlib

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
A1. I also have advocated for their inclusion in the library to be there for recreational reading and for art students. #critlib

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
A1. I'd love to advocate for them more for non-art and English courses, but I haven't had the chance to “sell” them to those faculty. I haven't brought comics into a library instruction session yet and that also seems fun. #critlib
#critlib #comics A1 I wish it could be used more for social issues and social themes - comparing from different decades. I use zine-comics many are in regards to social issues and made by students. Or the comics are used for illustration practice inspiration

3 MONTHS AGO

Q1: Former job: I worked pretty closely with our comics students (art school w/comics studies program), which meant getting to talk about and use comics as research sources. Also, @A_meeksie and I developed a workshop on stereotype + viz lit for comm arts students #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Hi #critlib! I'm Tessa, Instruction Library at Spalding University. We just got a big comics donation/collection at our lib!

3 MONTHS AGO

Hi #critlib! I'm joining late. Academic librarian in NYC.

3 MONTHS AGO

A1: i would like to see more displays of comics for teens with narratives about figuring out one's gender identity / sexual orientation. also comix about racism in america. displays + MAKE UR OWN COMIC CLASS!! you don't have to be a rly skilled artist to make comics #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@k_swickard Yes, this is so important! Comics can be fantastic primary sources for this, and I'm curious if/how it's happening elsewhere #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
A1 been using comics with a summer bridge program to introduce students to the foundation of research, asking question. #critlib

@nfoasberg I did a poster at ARLIS 2017 about it, but I’m happy to chat more. #critlib docs.google.com/presentation/d...

@lvanden1 Ahh I was hunting for this after you talked about it and couldn’t find it. Thanks for sharing! #critlib

Joining a little late, but glad @stephliana mentioned our workshop and pinged me or I would’ve forgotten! Amanda, librarian for many creative depts in northern Arizona! #critlib

A1. The comics collection at U-M began to support the art school, but has grown over the years as comics have become more widely used in classes throughout the univ. #critlib 1/

@chelleinthelib Do you find that non-art/comics students are reluctant to make comics because they aren’t a "skilled artist"? How do others make these kinds of workshops failure-friendly or encourage experimentation with the form? #critlib
Tessa Withorn
@tessawithorn

A1 we just got our collection but we have a great art school so im hoping to get inspired by yall #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@stephliana @chelleinthelib I definitely saw this hesitation in my for-credit course, but only in the class that had an art student! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

Q2: What programming ideas or experiences do you have that examine comics through a critical lens? That use comics AS a critical lens? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@davereadscomics Did you have any say in that or did it just happen organically? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah
@s_k_l_w

A1 I think there’s a lot of potential for instruction w/comics in non-art classes. Close reading, asking questions, how to move beyond the source in front of you & make connections w/other sources & ideas #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Nancy Foasberg
@nfoasberg

@ohelmiller @stephliana @chelleinthelib So the presence of an art student made the other students more self-conscious about their art? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
@chelleinthelib And to follow up on that, how do you connect these workshops to the library and your roles in your institutions? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Dave Carter
@davereadscomics

These days probably the largest use is in the foreign language department, with 200-level classes in German, French & Italian based solely around comics; so I get to go and teach some basic comics theory in language classes (none of which I speak or read!) #critlib 2/?

3 MONTHS AGO

Amanda Meeks
@A_meeksie

A1: as a former art teacher I used comix to talk about personal issues (students made them), I did some community comix events at @TheChibrary, too! I AM currently trying to collect comics, graphic novels, etc in other languages to support our global languages program #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@nfoasberg @stephiiana @chelleinthelib It appeared that way! The other class had no art students and they didn’t bat an eye at being asked to draw on the fly. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Nancy Foasberg
@nfoasberg

I don’t know the answer to this, but it makes me think of an interview I heard on a podcast long ago with Lynda Barry about teaching people to draw comics. She asked them to draw monsters, because we all feel like we know how to do that! #critlib twitter.com/stephiiana/sta...

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

A2. Pie in the Sky Idea: bring a comics creator into the library for a talk about their book. Ideally this creator would be from a marginalized group. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Stephanie
@stephliana
Q2 cont: This dovetails pretty well with the previous question, so feel free to blend! #critlib

Dave Carter
@davereadscomics
@ohelmiller Very organic, though I certainly supported courses by altering/broadening the types of comics I purchas for the collection. #critlib

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
@s_k_l_w I totally agree. Have you done instruction with comics in one-shots outside of the summer bridge program? #critlib

Nancy Foasberg
@nfoasberg
@davereadscomics That's pretty awesome! I love the idea of using a more visual medium to teach languages. #critlib

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
@nfoasberg Lynda Barry is a goddess. #critlib

Dave Carter
@davereadscomics
I also recently took over purchasing comics for the main recreational reading collection, and have been expanding those offerings as well. #critlib 3/3
Olivia Miller  
@ohelmiller

A2. In the past I’ve included titles like March and Fun Home as a part of displays with non-comic titles. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah  
@s_k_l_w

@ohelmiller Not yet but I’d like to. I’ve got secret plans to bring this type of work to public high schools in nyc. Not so secret now but ... #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie  
@stephliana

@nfoasberg Lynda Barry is a fantastic example. And I have a similar experience -- in one workshop demo, we had a group of librarians draw "superheros" exquisite corpses -- some of them went pretty monstrous, but the participants got into it pretty quickly. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller  
@ohelmiller

@davereadscomics That's amazing! I’d love to see some lesson plans for this! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Kelly Swickard  
@k_swickard

#critlib A2 I do the zine collection so for me comics and zines are a very thinly separation - there are many overlaps - I want to do more with comics and often order them like the new Wonder Woman ones especially when our alum are doing the illustration or coloring

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah  
@s_k_l_w

A2 one of our goals wrt the summer bridge comics curriculum was to move away from “white dudes in capes” comics so we had a rigorous selection process for our materials #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Andrew Wang
@aandrewwangg

A2 I see so much potential in using comics to illustrate how world events and collective public memories morph through visualized personal narrative #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

This is a good goal for anyone into #critlib and comics. twitter.com/s_k_l_w/status...

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

@ohelmiller Yes! And this might be pretty manageable, depending on your location and especially if you're near a regular convention/expo site. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Walter Schlect
@WalterSchlect

Joining #critlib late again! I'm a librarian for a German cultural center

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@stephliana I think $$$ is the big thing :-/ #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

Time is flying by! Q3. How do cataloging and/or shelving practices in your library affect the perception or discovery of comics? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Stephanie @stephliana

A2: We just wrapped up a massive comics exhibit at Mason and brought in seven speakers, including six comics artists and a comics shop owner. Got them into studio and class visits, but also talking about their work for general audiences and in the library #critlib

3 MTHS AGO

Nancy Foasberg @nfoasberg

@ohelmiller @stephliana I wonder if this might make a good local author-type event! #critlib

3 MTHS AGO

Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

Our graphic novel collection a reflection of current comic making from Germany, but also aimed at students learning German #critlib

3 MTHS AGO

Olivia Miller @ohelmiller

@stephliana I know this was a big deal. I bet it was amazing! #critlib

3 MTHS AGO

sarah @s_k_l_w

A3 maddeningly ours are cataloged and shelves with our juvenile collection which is sort of hidden. Dream is to pull them out to a featured location and promote the heck out of it. #critlib

3 MTHS AGO

Stephanie @stephliana

@ohelmiller It's a BIG thing, and I'm adamant that we pay artists if we bring them in. In the case of our exhibition, it meant talking to many many people and getting various acad departments to help fund speakers - helped if we could connect and artist to a course topic! #critlib

3 MTHS AGO
Amanda Meeks  
@A_meeksie

A3: They make the graphic novels nearly impossible to find because our stacks are not as visible as in other libraries; I proposed a zine collection that will include comix and I advocated that we put that in the MakerLab, so that’s progress in terms of visibility. #critlib

Olivia Miller  
@ohelmiller

@stephliana Whew! I know I could benefit from a primer on talking to academic departments to get funding! #critlib

Violet Fox  
@violetbfox

A3. Really interested in hearing from folks about cataloging/shelving choices in comics--so many options, none perfect. #critlib

Olivia Miller  
@ohelmiller

A3. Whew, I have some feelings on this. At my FPOW we had them as a separate collection to really hit home to students that our library didn’t just have academic books to read for coursework.... #critlib 1/4

Amanda Meeks  
@A_meeksie

A3 Cataloging is a whole other issue I can’t even touch... #critlib

Olivia Miller  
@ohelmiller

A3. But does this send a message that comics can’t be academic? #critlib 2/4
A3. At my current POW, comics are distributed according to LC call number. If someone wants to only see comics they have to search in the catalog for the right combo of words. Usually “comics” does it. #critlib 3/4

3 MONTHS AGO

A3. Isn’t it magical to imagine someone browsing the E’s for Civil Rights Movement titles and stumbling across March? Or HQ’s and find Tomboy? #critlib 4/4

3 MONTHS AGO

@ohelmiller In this case, we had courses offered on Representations of Black Women, art for social change, and sexuality in history (among others) and were able to make connections between the comics/speakers and those courses #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

#critlib A3 our current comics and graphic novels are part of the regular circulating collection in the PNs mostly we use LC - some are in their subject areas if they are nonfiction but I try not to do that as we are a heavy browsing library

3 MONTHS AGO

@s_k__w I have lots of feelings about comics being in juvenile collections. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A3 I’m troubled by comics being banished to leisure reading collections in academic libraries. Working on an abstract for the upcoming book @stephlana @ohelmiller #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
@ohelmiller And a big shout-out here to @InterferenceArc and the intrepid curators of #ourcomicsourselves, Jan Descartes and Monica Johnson! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@s_k_l_w Juvenile collection seems like an odd choice. Are they juvenile comics in particular? Or is this just a "comics are kid stuff" thing? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

michelle
@chelleinthelibrary

A3. (my answer is a question) how do catalogers separate teen vs. adult comics? I usually don't understand how these distinctions are made with comics/ graphic novels. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Amanda Meeks
@A_meeksie

Intellectually, it makes the most sense to put them where there is also stuff to make them. That's from my time working and volunteering at @TheChibrary and SCAD. Inspiration for creativity. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@A_meeksie Interesting! Are there specific ways that zine and comix creation relates to what's in your MakerLab? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Kelly Swickard
@k_swickard

#critlib A3 zines are noncirculating & not given a call number - those are located on shelves right as you walk in the library. We have some old comics (1990s) which were deaccessioned long before me. We just have them out to be browsed (not check out, not in catalog)

3 MONTHS AGO
@ohelmiller Some of ours are interfiled this way, mainly the graphic novels w/historical content. I like that aspect of it but complicates discovery in other ways #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@aandrewwangg @stephliana I can't wait to read it! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@chelleinthelibr Catalogers rarely have the leisure to read the items they’re cataloging, so they often have to go with what the publisher indicates (or what that publisher usually publishes). #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@stephliana All of these courses sound dreamy #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A2. We’ve done everything from 24-hour and minicomics days (started by @stephliana & cohort) to the A2inkubate pre-conference to the A2CAF, to participating in this month’s university-wide symposium around March #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@ohelmiller Yes, I pushed pretty hard to get our makerlab to include independent publishing tools and materials because it was VERY tech-focused when I arrived. Making is not just high end, expensive, and often inaccessible technology. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@A_meeksie @TheChibrary That's a great point. I can only imagine how I would react to that as a library patron. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

@k_swickard A3: I wonder if there are distinct differences in the browsing patterns for comics readers btw liberal arts/research unis and art & design schools... #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah
@s_k_l_w

@nfoasberg The latter, from what I understand. I dislike it immensely esp since we're working to connect comics to academic work otherwise #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox 🦋
@violetbfox

@lissertations I was just reading that today, thanks for sharing! Since it's two years+ old, I wanted to ask @edwardshaddow if and/or how well it's been maintained. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Nancy Foasberg
@nfoasberg

@s_k_l_w Yeah, that's a really unfortunate choice :/ #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

@k_swickard Having been at both, I have a better idea of how they were used at the art & design school, because they were highly visible. At new workplace, they're somewhat hidden on an upper floor of the library #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Andrew Wang
@aandrewwangg
It's like an unproductive reversal of the Comics Code Authority/censorship #critlib #smh twitter.com/nfoasberg/stat...

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
@violetbfox @chelleinthelib This is so problematic to me. I wonder if it would be possible for subject liaisons to give catalogers metadata suggestions? This is me not knowing about cataloging practices #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Tessa Withorn
@tessawithorn
A3 since this was a new collection i was v excited to help catalog and label. Organizing & discovering comics is HARD. Do you org by main artist/creator or title? What do ppl look for first? 1/× #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller
@stephliana @k_swickard That sounds like a fun research project! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Emma
@emmalawson
#critlib A3: we still catalogue comics in the PNs but we shelve them on the first floor in a big display to make them really findable. I think we have a subject heading too to group them together

3 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox
@ohelmiller @chelleinthelib It just depends on how friendly your catalogers are! If they're not total jerks, they'll be happy to hear your feedback and/or explain options. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Q4. Given institutional norms and pushes for "highbrow" or literary work: how can we keep comic collections weird? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@s_k_l_w

@ohelmiller @violetbfox @chelleinthelib It is problematic but I think that it’s worth a conversation about prioritizing the more specialized cataloging of things like this. It all depends on how you want the collections used #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Tessa Withorn
@tessawithorn

I've organized comic collections at 2 small libraries. In the first I separated trade pbk comics from "graphic novels," comics went by series, gns went by author/creator 2/× #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@emmalawson

@ohelmiller Have you noticed them getting attention because of this? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

A4. As someone who has collection development duties, keep buying weird stuff! Honor a variety of voices and especially those from small and independent presses. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

A4: I make sure we have Jack Kirby on the shelf, for a good start. But now, buying comics from students, at local fairs, finding things that actually have FUN and explore the joy and potential of the comics medium #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Dave Carter @davereadscomics

A3 I've worked extensively with our catalogers on developing local classification standards to ensure that, as much as possible, the comics collection is browsable and findable. We are just now wrapping up a major reclassification project of older comics to the new rules. #critlib

Tessa Withorn @tessawithorn

In my new library a large portion of the donation was marvel/dc, sometimes very obscure or convoluted series and subseries, some mags, some gns, really mixed 3/x. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah @s_k_l_w

A4 I think there's merit in “weird” collections in academe and we can be the champions of them. If it engages students, if it can spark questions and curiosity then why not? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller @ohelmiller

@tessawithorn Interesting! I personally make a distinction between TPB's and "graphic novels" but I haven't seen folks in libraries talk about it. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox @violetbfox

A4. I love this question! I'd put forward similar answers to acquiring anything "non-standard" like, e.g., zines: building good relations btxn public/tech services, advocating for value of non-traditional publications, flexibility in acquisitions. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie @stephlana

Also, Squirrel Girl and Ms. Marvel and the Miles Morales Ultimate Spiderman series. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
This was a program that we did with two artists on identity & telling “forbidden” family narratives m.youtube.com/watch?v=DGXqNL... #critlib

@WALTERSCHLECT · 3 MONTHS AGO

Emma
@emmalawson

#critlib A4: our main selection criteria is GNs or trades. We have a variety of capes, award winners, local stuff -- basically whatever seems cool. Cape comics are more Ms. Marvel than X-Men, usually

@3 MONTHS AGO

sarah
@s_k_l_w

@davereadscomics I’d love to know what the new rules are. A few of us are keen on doing this at mpow but we need guidance. #critlib

@3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

This is literally the point of a library, at least to me. #critlib twitter.com/s_k_l_w/status...
Violet Fox @violettfox
@davereadscomics What did that entail? Are they shelved together? Standardizing keywords? And/or?? #critlib
3 MONTHS AGO

Amanda Meeks @A_meeksie
A4 Most contemporary comics I've seen outside of the mainstream are pretty weird, so just keep collecting those. Often times the purchasing systems are set up for small, indie sellers, but keep persisting and asking for those anyways. #critlib
3 MONTHS AGO

Andrew Wang @aandroidwanggg
A4 There's so much --academic-- literature on comics now that it's frustrating there's still this push back against comics as "low" art. Maybe showcasing that secondary literature in instruction could help "validate" comic collections? #critlib
3 MONTHS AGO

Tessa Withorn @tessawithorn
So our labels ended up as something like this: COMIC XMEN Esse v.3 This keeps all X-men together, 2nd line is for subseries, 3rd for volume. If there was no subseries, the 1st 4 letters of the individual title. 4/× #critlib
3 MONTHS AGO

Nancy Foasberg @nfoasberg
I think this is really important, not just for showing that popular culture has a place in academia but also showing what kinds of work secondary literature can do! #critlib twitter.com/aandroidwanggg/s...
Tessa Withorn
@tessawithorn

It seemed to work well for our exciting collection. We have a lot of freedom to do what we want, which is nice. Now to fill in the volumes we didn't get in the donation to fill some gaps 5/5
#critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Dave Carter
@davereadscomics

@s_k_l_w Agreed. I'm a firm believer in the “if you build it, they will come” approach to collections. The students/faculty/staff have found uses for our comics collection and game archive that we never considered when 1st developing those collections #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

Jumping back to A3: have y'all been following the mess with C.B. Cebulski / "Akira Yoshida"? Catalogers and metadata specialists, what's an appropriate response to authority records when an author invented a pseudonym and alter ego that is, um, a little problematic? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A2 This was a cool program we did on identity & "forbidden" family narratives in comics m.youtube.com/watch?v=DGXqNIL... #critlib

WALTER SCHLECT @WALTERSCHLECT · 3 MONTHS AGO
Kelly Swickard
@k_swickard

#critlib A4 it is different for me all our stuff is weird haha - luckily since our students are hired to do comics and graphic novels - ordering them is not an issue. Additionally, one of our faculty is a colorist for Marvel. Our Alum creator Lumber Janes.

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@aandrewwangg I'm reading "Arresting Development: Comics at the Boundaries of Literature" and the intro talks about this like, why is there still pushback? Haven't we gone over this?
#critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah
@s_k_l_w

@aandrewwangg This is exactly what we do w/the curriculum we developed. The last session pulls in an academic article about comics and race, or comics & gender, and we take the students through a close read of that too #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephiiana

RE: bleedingcool.com/2017/11/28/mar... How can we reflect this in our records of any materials created by Cebulski as "Yoshida"? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

A4. Also, re: keeping collections weird: being open to self-published works and encouraging creators to see your library as a resource/ally/place to find stuff beyond DC/Marvel. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@k_swickard <3 Lumberjanes #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Okay last question (it’s fun!): Q5. Comic suggestions for the new-to-comics-critical-librarian? #critlib #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@michelle
@chelleinthelib

A4: my way to keep a comic collection weird would be to buy zines, but those usually don’t circulate. so that’s now a good answer. so i’d say go to not mainstream publishers? i’m sick of dude superheroes in capes. always have been, always will be... #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@Andrew Wang
@aandrewwwangg

@ohelmiller Right! Comics have a particularly tough time in art libraries. That architecture/painting/sculpture elitism persists #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

(these chats always move so fast and I want to talk to all of you on all of these threads, so you’ll probably be getting some next-day replies! #critlib) pic.twitter.com/5gQjTeWln8

3 MONTHS AGO
@violetbfox Yes to encouraging creators to see the library as a resource! See this by @CBLDF cbldf.org/librarian-tool... #critlib

Matthew Murray
@MidniteLibrary

A4. Purchase comics that aren't available through library distributors. #critlib (e.g. figure out how to buy from creators at events, on Kickstarter, etc.)

Dave Carter
@davereadscomics

A4 mini-comics (hi again, @stephliana !), collections of Webcomics, local artists, comics from other countries and cultures. Go outside of Previews and your regular book vendor. #critlib 1/

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

@stephliana I hadn't heard anything about this, I'll have to look into it! As for NACO/authority record standards: the author is the ultimate authority, there wouldn't be any judgment on their preferred name. #critlib

Walter Schlect
@WalterSchlect

A2 but we did this externally at SVA because it is hard to build an audience doing one graphic novel event a year #critlib

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

A5. Fun Home by Alison Bechdel. Don’t forget your dictionary. #critlib
Dave Carter @davereadscomics

@stephliana Also, accept donations. I've been amazed at the sort of things that have come our way from people's personal collections #critlib 2/2

3 MONTHS AGO

@variouspagings

We shelve mostly in 741.5, but a few of our school libraries have switched to grouping together in a Fiction--Graphic Novels section. Nonfiction and biographical comics go in those collections however. We make sure each gets the genre heading Graphic novels. #critlib
twitter.com/violetbfox/sta...

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie @stephliana

@MidniteLibrary A4 oh man, I want libraries to be SO much better about being able to fund/buy comics through Kickstarter. Our systems are so byzantine that it makes it sometimes impossible to be collecting these things, though. :( #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Murray @MidniteLibrary

A5. Understanding Comics by Scott McCloud. It will help you understand the ways in which stories are told through comics and give you some understanding of their history. It's a comic about comics! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller @ohelmiller

A5. Lumberjanes by Shannon Watters, Grace Ellis, Brooke A. Allen and Noelle Stevenson. Let's go back in time and give this to our kid-selves. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller @ohelmiller

A5. March Trilogy by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, & Nate Powell. Required reading for all. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
A3 our graphic novels used to be shelved with art books that you had to stoop down to reach and were poorly lit #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A5. Ms. Marvel by G. Willow Wilson and lots of artists. The hero we all need right now. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A5. Mania, Depression, Michelangelo and Me by Ellen Forney. Lots of mental health feels here! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A5. Tomboy by Liz Prince. Gender is a social construct, ya'll! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@ohelmiller When I was in grad school I managed to get our entire cohort to read this book and we all raved. I love her. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

@s_k_l_w I think identifying their interdisciplinary value is a great tactic. Wish we could appreciate comics for their aesthetic qualities the way we appreciate other art forms but I understand having to speak the academy’s language #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
A5. Syllabus by our queen Lynda Barry! #critlib

@s_s_k_l_w

@ohelmiller Seriously. I gifted it to my tween niece and my own kids will get them when they're a little older. So good. #critlib

@daveredascomics @stephliana Do you promote the fact that people can donate? #critlib

@MidniteLibrary A4. This is tough for many libraries who might require SSN from creators they buy from, but often can be worked around via distros/local buyers. Important for acquisitions folks to think flexibly whenever possible! #critlib

I second this one with all my comic-loving heart! #critlib twitter.com/MidniteLibrary...
Tessa Withorn
@tessawithorn

Q4 1. Encourage students who want to write theses on comics!! Esp in ungrad. I did and got push back from the english department 2. Support local artists, independent presses, and intentionally collect works by queer folx and artists of color #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@A_meeksie She was in Vermont last month with some other big name comics folks and I chickened out of going partially because I didn't think I could say anything to her other than ljaelrjalrjelrjalrjalrja #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah
@s_k_l_w

@andrewwangg I think there's room for both ways of seeing comics. You can't talk about them without discussion of the visual, but making explicit the other connections helps ppl who may need extra convincing imo #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@andrewwangg @s_k_l_w 90% of the time, I'm reading the comic because of aesthetics. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

A5: Emily Carroll's webcomics. Linda Medley's "Castle Waiting." The quarterly "Frontier" series published by @YouthinDecline #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox 💖
@violetbfox

@ashuping Oh totally, it can be a pain in the neck for libraries and creators alike. I think libs are finding more ways around barriers, though! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Andrew Wang @aandrewwangen

A5 so excited i forgot the hashtag the first time. BITCH PLANET!!! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Amanda Meeks @A_meeksie

This has been a great conversation and has given me more to think about! Thank you @stephliana and @ohelmiller for moderating! So excited to see you both soon! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie @stephliana

Thanks to everyone participating right now! Would someone be willing to create a Storify for tonight's chat? #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

Now they are next to our language books & have more visibility & are checked out by people who aren't necessarily looking for them #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller @ohelmiller

@nfoasberg Totally! You might also like Giant Days by John Allison, Whitney Cogar, & Lissa Treiman. It's on the silly side but still woke and entertaining. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

sarah @s_k_l_w

This has been great. Thanks to the mods and all the great ideas/comments/recommendations #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
I’d recommend following @librnwithissues for great comics & library commentary, as well as @NoetheMatt & @GraphicMedicine for lots of health related comic reading! #critlib

@oelmiller Absolutely agree! And social/cultural context definitely contributes to aesthetic experience. #critlib

Ack! Where did time go? So many beautiful ideas floating around. Consider submitting a chapter proposal to the book @stephliana and I are co-editing about #critlib and comics in academic libraries! libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5625 #critlib

@ohelmiller IMHO, Fun Home is the defining comics work of the 21st century. There is so much going on in that comic on just a craft and storytelling level alone, and that’s supporting a fascinating story. #critlib

@WalterSchlect That’s awesome! #critlib

That moment you realize you’ve missed comics #critlib because you were traveling home from guest lecturing on graphic medicine... SO MANY EMOTIONS! I promise to catch up in the morning!
Like @ohelmillert said: now that you've got all of these wonderful ideas in mind, consider submitting a chapter proposal to the book we're co-editing about #critlib and comics in academic libraries! libraryjuicepress.com/blog/?p=5625

Self promotion here but some of you may be interested in my NASIG keynote on comics youtube.be/BRWd7nDO1d4 #critlib

A4 collect comics from other languages and other countries. Make it a world dialogue. #critlib

Since 2011, I also teach a regular spring course on comics reader's advisory for #iSchoolUI - fills every single time! #critlib
Seriously, y'all. #critlib media1.tenor.com/images/9787bdf...

Matthew Murray
@MidniteLibrary

A3. A bit late, but I want to give an example of how not to catalogue comics. The writer is not necessarily the main access point. I've seen collections such as "Batman Illustrated by Neal Adams" catalogued under the writer of the first issue collected. #critlib

Violet Fox 🎥
@violetbfox

And definitely follow @ComicsCrusader and consider presenting at 1st Conference of the Comics Studies Society! comicssociety.org/conference/ #critlib

Naomi Binnie
@libnaomi

missed what looks like a really great #critlib - again - bc it's my bday and I was out for Indian food and indulgent target shopping!

Olivia Miller
@ohelmiller

@violetbfox @ComicsCrusader I've been meaning to talk to you about the CSS conference, @stephliana! Any librarians proposing something for it? #critlib

Zach Welhouse
@ZachRPG

Me miss comics #critlib?! No! Q5: Scott Pilgrim, Watchmen, and Maus are my library's top circulations. No budget for lengthy manga!
Olivia Miller  
@ohelmiller

@MidniteLibrary @nfoasberg It's 7 volumes in and I'm shocked at how good it still is! I should check out his other title. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Tessa Withorn  
@tessawithorn

A5 I'll say it again with the #critlib tag Wuvable Oaf! Which made @LambdaLiterary so hopefully got picked up by more libs

3 MONTHS AGO

Dave Carter  
@davereadscomics

A5. So so many to list, but here are a few that have generated interesting discussions in our Graphic Narrative Discussion Group: #critlib 1/?

3 MONTHS AGO

Naomi Binnie  
@libnaomi

A little late to #critlib tonight but long time lover of "weird" comics and am thinking about using comics in instruction/digital learning

3 MONTHS AGO

Carol Tilley  
@AnUncivilPhD

One quick note: I'm president-elect of @cssorg and as an LIS facultyn I take that as a positive sign for the future of comics & libraries #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Dave Carter  
@davereadscomics

"Drama" by Raina Telgemeier; "Building Stories" by Chris Ware; "Boxers and Saints" by Gene Luen Yang; "The Property" by Rutu Modan; "Here" by Richard McGuire; "The Walking Man" by Jiro Taniguchi; "Awkward and Definition" by Ariel Schrag #critlib 3/3

3 MONTHS AGO
Violet Fox @violetbfox

@MidniteLibrary Yeah, this isn’t uncommon, I wish catalogers would think outside the rules more frequently when it comes to stuff like that. Unfamiliarity with comics standards + publisher complexity + rigidity = suboptimal cataloging. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Olivia Miller @ohelmiller

@davereadscomics Here by Richard McGuire is outstanding! "Boxers and Saints" by Gene Luen Yang is also cool. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Naomi Binnie @libnaomi

Q5 read the "funnies" as a kid, was not a fan of superhero comics, I have a million recs but Persepolis/Marjane Satrapi was my gateway & a good place to start. followed by memoirs/journalism/travel works #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

A5 Please buy Madgermanes by Birgit Weyhe and convince a US publisher to translate it! 🙌 #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Walter Schlect @WalterSchlect

They can even apply for a translation grant from us goethe.de/ins/us/en/m/ku... #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Naomi Binnie @libnaomi

Q5 for nonfiction some of my faves are Joe Sacco's journalism work, Guy DeLisle's travel writing around Asia & Israel, David B.'s Epileptic, memoir work from Julia Wertz, Nicole J. Georges (currently reading Fetch, so great) #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Q5 Also: I’m a little out of my webcomics loop, but it’s a medium that’s ripe with beautifully-told (and beautifully-drawn) stories. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Naomi Binnie
@libnaomi

Q5 Sandman, Papergirls, Saga, opened my mind to reading more fiction comics. highly recommend. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Walter Schlect
@WalterSchlect

A5 also My favorite thing is Monsters by Emil Ferris is my fav graphic novel this year, with fabulous queer child detective #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Kelly Swickard
@k_swickard

#critlib I created a search limit for our graphic novels (among other things) in our search box drop down menu, helps people directly narrow their search.

3 MONTHS AGO

Violet Fox
@violetbfox

One more #critlib comics recommendation: @IndigenousCon & @Indigenerdity often feature Native-made comics. And check out these recommendations: comicsbeat.com/four-native-an...

3 MONTHS AGO

Naomi Binnie
@libnaomi

Q5 also Osamu Tezuka’s Buddha series is gold. I have 1000 other comic book recs but I'll leave it there. Oh and Mimi Pond and Kate Beacon! and so many other lesser known artists. could go on forever but who wants that, goodnight! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Naomi Binnie
@libnaomi

comics discussion on #critlib intersecting with my own recent falling back in love with comics. so cute.

3 MONTHS AGO

Stephanie
@stephliana

Also, #critlib folks, y'all might be interested in this: twitter.com/neekaneeks/sta...

3 MONTHS AGO

Mara Thacker
@marathacker

@WalterSchlect Yes! Wish I could extra super star this! And if anyone in the #critlib Twitterverse wants to start buying South Asian comics and needs pointers hit me up!

3 MONTHS AGO

Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1

Checking out the #critlib chat from earlier this evening (I was on-desk) & I have a few thoughts on #comics in #libraries.

3 MONTHS AGO

Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1

BTW I'm Gina. I work in a public library & have an academic library background. I read #comics & #graphicnovels for fun. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Gina Murrell
@GinaMurrell1

A1. #Comics in libraries can be used as examples for programs centered on drawing, for reader's advisory ("If you enjoyed this, here are books/movies on the same topic"). #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
A1.2 #Comics can also be read for age-appropriate book clubs & used to foster discussion on topics such as the Holocaust, gender expression, #socialjustice, civil rights & more. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A3. At my library, #comics are shelved in 3 different areas: juvenile, YA & adult, based on subject matter. This hinders discovery. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A3.2 Bulk of #comics are in YA...on another floor. I've told patrons "There's more in YA. Let me show you." Otherwise they wouldn't know. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A3.3 Most #comics & #graphicnovels are shelved in YA, but adult patrons also browse these shelves (myself included). #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A3.4 And if a teen or middle schooler wants to check out Fun Home (shelved in adult #comics), I'm not going to stop them. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A4. Keep #comics collections weird by looking beyond superhero stories. Follow small presses & attend #zine fests, where you'll also find alt comics & their publishers/creators. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
A4.2 And go to indie bookstores & browse "Graphic Novels," "New Releases." If there's a local #comics shop, go there to keep up with what's new/different. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO


3 MONTHS AGO

missed the #critlib about #comics because I was sleeping :(  

3 MONTHS AGO

Unfortunately I missed #critlib chat last night even though I set a reminder for it... Reading the threads now!  

3 MONTHS AGO

ARGH!!! How the Tuonela did I miss last night's chat?!? Of all topics!! COMICS! #critlib  

3 MONTHS AGO

critical librarianship and comics | critlib
From Kittens and cats : a book of tales / Eulalie Osgood Grover (1911)  

VIOLET
Stephanie @stephliana

Thank you for pulling this together! #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe @NoetheMatt

Thread answering all of last night's #critlib questions:

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe @NoetheMatt

A1: I use comics to teach empathy, reflection, and issues of health literacy to medical students. We also lend "book club kits", a ready made health programming tool. #GraphicMedicine

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe @NoetheMatt

A1.5: I also spend a great deal of time advocating for the creation of comic collections in #medlibs of all kinds. It's an entire medium we often ignore.

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe @NoetheMatt

This is a use I see often in @historycomics classes (public school level). Using comics as a sociocultural artifact is a fascinating area. #critlib twitter.com/k_swickard/sta...

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe @NoetheMatt

@stephliana @chelleinthebib Our medical students are often at a loss at first, but we spend the week doing related activities - drawing with crayons (forgiving), studying shape and comp with construction paper - and other med student examples help shed the fear. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
Matthew Noe
@NoetheMatt

A2: We discuss the role of (health) literacy for an entire day, using comics as an example of bridging educational/cultural gaps. Hoping to find more voices in #GraphicMedicine to make use of in the future. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe
@NoetheMatt

A2.5: Our collection is entirely focused on medical comics, but I have made a point to include titles like March because they speak to life that impacts medical care even if it isn't *strictly* medical. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe
@NoetheMatt

A3: We have separated #GraphicMedicine from the rest of the collection, giving it its own space in the library and collection within the catalog. Academic medical print collections aren't "browsed" much now, so this is vital to visibility here. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe
@NoetheMatt

A3.5: I strongly argue for separating comics out as their own medium the way we do DVDs/Games/etc, but it does at times make it harder to engage the folks weary of comics (quite common in a #meded setting). #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Kelly Swickard
@k_swickard

#critlib #comics this comic Deliver by a Baltimore artist Mike Riley, is so fun. UPS driver trying to deliver a package in Bosch's Garden of Earthly Delight. His stickers are so great too: kickstarter.com/projects/riley...

3 MONTHS AGO
Matthew Noe
@NoetheMatt

A4: I do my best to find ways to get small print/indie/organizational #GraphicMedicine titles into our collection however possible. Keeping an eye on who is doing what in the field BEYOND traditional publisher marketing is vital. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe
@NoetheMatt

A4.5: Given the relative rarity of comics in medical schools right now, I think it is even more important to gather as much as possible and make the collection ILL’able. Argument that it is a unique collection tends to help. #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO

A5: Oh man, there are too many! I’ll split this up. This video covers my go-to recommendations for #GraphicMedicine – and Taking Turns by @ComicNurse will be particularly relevant for #critlib I think. vimeo.com/242629165?ref=...

MATTHEW NOE @NOTHEMATT :: 3 MONTHS AGO

Matthew Noe
@NoetheMatt

A5.5: On the more comic studies side, Syllabus by Lynda Barry is required reading. Understanding Comics and 99 Ways to Tell a Story are also important (particularly if you are quite new to the medium). #critlib

3 MONTHS AGO
A5.PS: To me though, the best thing to do if you are new to comics is to find ones in a genre/subject you already enjoy and just dive right in. Comics, even when read for academic purposes, are just damn fun to read. #critlib