

Comics and Comic Characters H 1430

BACKGROUND: For works that consist of selections from a comic strip or single panel cartoon, as well as for works about a comic strip or cartoon, it is descriptive cataloging policy to provide an added entry for the title of the strip or cartoon when that title differs from the title of the work being cataloged, and to justify the added entry by means of a note if necessary. Descriptive catalogers are responsible for establishing these headings. It is subject cataloging policy to assign a genre/form term to selections from a comic strip or single-panel cartoon, and to graphic novels; headings to bring out their subject content are assigned only in limited circumstances, as described below. Subject headings are routinely assigned only to works about such strips or cartoons, or about graphic novels.

This instruction sheet provides guidelines for assigning genre/form terms and subject headings to represent the content of graphic novels and selections from strips and cartoons; and also for assigning subject headings to works about individual comic strips, single panel cartoons, and comic characters. For classification of comic books and graphic novels, see F 565.

1. *Graphic novels, comic strips, and single panel cartoons.*

a. Selections of comic strips or cartoons and original works of fiction, including graphic novels. Assign one of two genre/form terms in a 655 field with second indicator 0: **Comic books, strips, etc.**, or **Graphic novels**. Consider to be a comic book:

- A collection or selection of comic strips or cartoons;
- A comic book cataloged as a serial; or,
- Selected issues of serial comics that have been collected and republished as monographs.

Consider to be a graphic novel any work created specifically for the publication in hand and that is complete, or intended to be complete, in one or more volumes.

In case of doubt, assign **Comic books, strips, etc.**

Assign subject headings according to the following guidelines, which follow general principles for fiction presented in H 1790, sec. 4.

(1) Biographical fiction. Assign the heading [*name of biographee*]-**Comic books, strips, etc.**

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1. *Graphic novels, comic strips, and single panel cartoons.*

a. Selections of comic strips or cartoons and original works of fiction, including graphic novels. (Continued)

(2) Historical fiction. Assign the headings for specific historical events, periods, etc., with the subdivision **–Comic books, strips, etc.**, e.g. **World War, 1939-1945–Comic books, strips, etc.**, **San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, Calif., 1906–Comic books, strips, etc.**

Do not assign a heading of this type when the event or period is merely the backdrop of the story. Assign it only when the event or period is the principal focus of the work.

Interpret the term **historical fiction** broadly to include works about entities such as movements, corporate bodies or other jurisdictions, camps, parks, structures, geographical features other than regions, ethnic groups, disasters, categories of events, etc.

(3) Animal stories. Assign the heading **Animals–Comic books, strips, etc.** to individual works about animals in general. For a work about a specific type of animal, assign a heading for the type of animal with the subdivision **–Comic books, strips, etc.**, e.g. **Horses–Comic books, strips, etc.**

(4) Assignment of additional form subdivisions. When using **–Comic books, strips, etc.** as a form subdivision, do not add or interpose other form subdivisions. The form subdivision **–Comic books, strips, etc.** denotes both fiction and non-fiction works. For juvenile works, assign an additional heading subdivided by **–Juvenile literature** (for nonfiction works) or **–Juvenile fiction**.

b. Works about individual graphic novels, comic strips or cartoons. Assign the authorized title or name-title heading for a graphic novel, comic strip or single panel cartoon to works about such cartoons.

c. Works about graphic novels, comic strips or cartoons, treated collectively. Assign form and topical headings following the general principles in H 180 to bring out the form (e.g., **Graphic novels; Science fiction comic books, strips, etc.**), place of origin, and/or special topics discussed. Subdivide form headings by **–History and criticism** (e.g., **Graphic novels—History and criticism**).

2. *Comic characters.*

a. Establishing headings for characters. Establish new subject headings for groups of characters in graphic novels, comic strips or single panel cartoons under their names (cf. H 1610). Names of individual characters are established in the name authority file.

b. Assignment of headings for individual characters or groups of characters. Assign such headings to works of criticism about a particular comic or cartoon character. If appropriate, assign also the heading for the strip or cartoon itself. Do not use the subdivision **-History and criticism**. Do not assign headings for characters to fictional works featuring the character.

3. *Nonfiction written in comic book or graphic novel style.* Assign the appropriate subject heading array. Subdivide each heading by **-Comic books, strips, etc.**

4. *Examples.*

Title: *Superman, Batman.*
[selected issues of a comic serial republished as a monograph]
655 #0 \$a Comic books, strips, etc.

Title: *Wonder Woman annual.*
655 #0 \$a Comic books, strips, etc.

Title: *Garfield chews the fat.*
[selections from the comic strip]
655 #0 \$a Comic books, strips, etc.

Title: *The white lama.*
[original work complete in six volumes]
655 #0 \$a Graphic novels.

Title: *The battle of the Alamo.*
[nonfiction work about the Alamo]
651 #0 \$a Alamo (San Antonio, Texas) \$x Siege, 1836 \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

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4. Examples. (Continued)

Title: Peanuts : a golden celebration : the art and story of the world's best-loved comic strip.

600 10 \$a Schulz, Charles M. \$q (Charles Monroe), \$d 1922-2000.
\$t Peanuts.

Title: Webslinger : unauthorized essays on your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man.

[work of history and criticism]
650 #0 \$a Spider-Man (Fictitious character)

Title: Sugar and spice : little girls in the funnies : an exhibition of Peanuts girls and their predecessors, contemporaries, and successors : February 4 to May 29, 2006.

[work of history and criticism]
650 #0 \$a Comic books, strips, etc. \$z United States \$x History and criticism \$v Exhibitions.
650 #0 \$a Girls in literature \$v Exhibitions.
650 #0 \$a Girls in art \$v Exhibitions.
600 10 \$a Schulz, Charles M. \$q (Charles Monroe), \$d 1922-2000.
\$t Peanuts.