

Comic Books and Graphic Novels F 565

BACKGROUND: Prior to late 2007, all comic books and graphic novels were classified in PN6700-PN6790, regardless of the intended audience. Beginning in late 2007, newly cataloged comic books continue to be classified in PN6700-PN6790, and graphic novels are classified in either PN6700-PN6790 or in subclass PZ, as determined by the publisher's primary intended audience. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for classifying comic books, graphic novels, and related materials.

1. General rule for comic books and graphic novels. Class comic books and graphic novels, as defined below, in the appropriate numbers in PN6700-PN6790 (for works whose primary intended audience is over age 15 or 9th grade), or in PZ (for works intended for juveniles through age 15, or 9th grade, e.g., PZ7.7 for American and English). Do not class comic books or graphic novels in numbers for individual literary authors in the PB-PT schedules.

For purposes of this instruction sheet, the terms **comic book** and **graphic novel** refer only to materials that are published in book or magazine format and that have *all* of the following characteristics:

- The characters and action are portrayed in a succession of panel drawings.
- A series of panels advances a *fictional* narrative line.
- The dialogue is generally presented in "balloons," or their equivalent.

In some cases the narrative is advanced with no dialogue or written material at all, or with written material at the bottom of the panels (e.g., *Prince Valiant*).

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1. *General rule for comic books and graphic novels.* (Continued)

A comic book or graphic novel may be one of the following types:

- A single continuous narrative from beginning to end, created specifically for the publication in hand or compiled for the publication in hand after having been previously published elsewhere.

This category includes comic strip adaptations from other media, such as motion pictures, dramas, or novels, even those that use the exact words of the original.

- A collection of several separate narratives usually compiled for the publication in hand after having been previously published elsewhere.

The collection may consist of a large number of short (e.g., four panels) narratives, or a small number of more extended narratives.

2. *Other materials.* Class materials that have some characteristics of comic books and graphic novels but that do not fully conform to the description in sec. 1, as follows:

a. Collections of single panel cartoons, single photographs with balloon captions, etc., that have no continuing narrative line. Class in NC1300-NC1763.

b. Fictional narratives that consist essentially of text written in book style with occasional illustrations employing comic characters (with or without balloon dialogue). Class as literary works, i.e., in individual literary author numbers, or in PZ if juvenile.

c. Works that are primarily intended to be juvenile fiction or picture books but are presented in cartoon or comic strip format. Class in PZ as juvenile belles lettres.

d. Nonfiction works written in comic book style. Class in the appropriate topical numbers in classes A-Z.

e. "Photo novels," i.e., novels that consist almost entirely of photographs (with or without balloon dialogue). Class in the numbers for comic books, strips, etc., in PN6700-PN6790.