

RECENT REVIEWS

Graphic Novels Core Collection

"Graphic Novels Core Collection is the first edition of the H. W. Wilson "Core Collections" series dedicated to graphic novels. Similar in function to its other collections, it is a selective list of fiction and nonfiction comics, graphic novels, and nonfiction works about the history and ethos of comics for all ages. Books are organized by grade levels, and within each level by author last name. Entries include reviews from publications such as *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, and *Booklist*, with summaries sometimes drawn from publisher's notes. Each typically features awards the work has received and whether part of a series, with thoughtful readers' advisory tips such as the existence of dated stereotypes or mature language. Highly recommended works are denoted with a star. The work's contents, plus Lexile measures and additional recommendation levels, are available through subscription, updated weekly, to EBSCO's online database. Inclusion of author, title, and subject indexes make this work ideal for readers' advisories in libraries building collections of graphic novels or supporting library science and education programs. It complements Salem Press's "Critical Survey of Graphic Novels" series from 2012 offering volumes that look back on works that fit in categories such as *Heroes and Superheroes* (CH, Oct'12, 50-0610), *Independents and Underground Classics* (CH, Nov'12, 50-1204), or *Manga* (CH, Aug'13, 50-6496). **Summing Up:** Recommended. All libraries. All readers."

-CHOICE

"H.W. Wilson has expanded its Core Collection series to include a new volume on graphic novels, aimed primarily at school and public libraries. *Graphic Novels Core Collection* provides entries for more than 3,500 titles, divided into four age groups: children, middle school, high school, and adult. The titles were selected by collection development librarians from titles in English, published in the United States, Canada, or the United Kingdom and distributed in the United States. There are also bilingual titles and translated works, including Japanese Manga. The collection covers a wide variety of genres including nonfiction, fantasy, adventure, superhero, mystery, romance, science fiction, and coming of age. The list also includes a selection of works about the history and culture of comics and graphic novels.

Each entry includes bibliographic, grade level recommendations, Dewey classifications, Sears subject headings, ISBN, publisher, availability, and price. In addition to this basic information, there is a short annotation describing each graphic novel, often using information from the publisher. The entries also include quotes and evaluations from reviewing sources when they are available. Series information, which is especially critical for graphic novels, is also provided.

This handbook would be an invaluable tool for beginning or assessing a graphic novel collection, one of the most popular, fastest growing formats for many libraries. An important feature that enhances the value of this list as a collection development tool is that the most highly recommended titles are noted, providing a short list of essential purchases.

Like other titles in the Core Collection series, this volume is made even more useful as a reader's advisory tool by the inclusion of author, title, and subject indexes."

-ARBA

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