

REPORT OF THE JOINT GNCRT/SAC WORKING GROUP ON SUBJECT HEADINGS GUIDANCE FOR COMICS AND COMIC CHARACTERS

Submitted to the ALA/CORE/Subject Analysis Committee and the ALA/Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table, January 20, 2022. Approved, January 28, 2022. Endorsed by the PCC Standing Committee on Standards, February 9, 2022.

Introduction

In December 2021, the American Library Association's Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) voted to form a joint working group with the Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table's Metadata and Cataloging Committee (GNCRT). This working group is charged with approaching the Library of Congress to request revisions to their Subject Headings Manual instruction H 1430, including allowing "special provisions" for subject assignment and proposals for fictional comics, in line with the "special provisions" in Subject Headings Manual instruction H 1790 for other types of fictional works.

Background

The GNCRT Metadata and Cataloging Committee is drafting a comics and graphic novels cataloging best practices document. They have been stymied by the Library of Congress' Subject Headings Manual instruction [H 1430](#).

Said instruction forbids subject assignment for fictional comics and graphic novels (including manga) except in extremely limited circumstances. The "Background" section of H 1430 spells out these limitations:

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 [e.g., biographical or historical comics, animal comics and nonfiction comics]. Subject headings are routinely assigned only to works about such strips or cartoons, or about graphic novels.

H 1430 has also been used repeatedly as justification for rejecting subject proposals based on fictional comics and graphic novels. An example can be seen in the [Summary of Decisions from the Editorial Meeting on December 16, 2019](#), where proposals for “Superheroes, Asian,” “Asian American superheroes,” “Teenage superheroes,” “Women superheroes, Asian” and “Asian American women superheroes” were all rejected:

The work being cataloged for each of these proposals is a comic book. SHM H 1430 states that subject headings are assigned only to comic books that are biographical fiction, historical fiction, or animal stories. The proposals were not necessary.

However, there is another Subject Headings Manual instruction, [H 1790](#), which includes “special provisions” allowing libraries to assign subject headings to other types of fictional works, and to propose new subjects based on those works. Under the H 1790 “special provisions” all other types of fiction—novels, plays, poetry, picture books, easy readers, board books, and so on—can have subject headings assigned and proposed, but not comics and graphic novels. Given the increasing prevalence of comics and graphic novels in libraries, and the need for subject assignment for collocation, search, and research purposes for these works, the continued presence of this instruction in its current form is counterproductive.

Concerns

Public and school libraries are particularly impacted by the current formulation of H 1430, with its attendant ban on subject provision for fictional comics except in very limited circumstances. The lack of subjects provides uneven access to library collection materials, and leaves increasingly large swaths of public and school library collections inadequately described. It also impedes the ability to do reader’s advisory for students and patrons, or to suggest adequate search strategies for patrons to collocate and retrieve comics of interest on various topics. Libraries like the Yuma High School Library (who [won an Eisner Graphic Novel Growth Grant in 2015](#) to expand their comics collection to improve literacy, serve diverse populations and help English-language learners) or the Ontario Library Service (who [won an Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation Grant in 2020](#) to build and promote an indigenous-created comics collection) would find it difficult to achieve their goals without the ability to adequately describe via subject tracings the diverse and indigenous topics and characters of interest to patrons.

Academic and special libraries are also negatively impacted by the extreme limitations on subject provision for comics, particularly those libraries with research collections of comics and graphic novels such as the University of Iowa (which is hosting a series on [racial reckoning and social justice through comics](#)). Institutions with graphic medicine collections have difficulties with uneven access to fiction versus nonfiction titles on various conditions and medical topics; the fictional *About Betty’s boob*, for example, under the current H 1430 rules wouldn’t be allowed the tracing for breast cancer that the autobiographical *The story of my tits* has. The ban on subject assignment and proposals for fictional comic works impedes scholarly research by

making primary source comics more difficult to search and collocate by topic, character or geographic location, for example. For libraries with research collections based on marginalized creator or character identities, this difficulty is particularly acute. The lack of a subject heading for multiracial superhero characters, for example, likely made the scholarly research in the anthology *Mixed-race superheroes* much more difficult. Similarly, the Muslim women superheroes described by Dr. Sophie Rose Arjana in *Veiled superheroes: Islam, feminism and popular culture* can only be represented in literary analyses by post-coordinating two subject headings of recent vintage (Muslim superheroes and Women superheroes); and they can't even be described using these post-coordinated subjects in any primary source comics in which they're featured. Examples of scholarly works impeded by a lack of subject tracings for comics can be seen in Appendix C of this report.

The Library of Congress' own collection of comics suffers from the provisions of H 1430, as well. Some bibliographic records for comics in the Library of Congress' catalog include subject tracings despite the provisions of H 1430, while others do not. (A random sampling of bibliographic records from the Library of Congress that include subject headings appear in Appendix B of this report.) This inconsistency provides unequal access to the primary source comics in the Library of Congress' collection, and incomplete search results for scholars searching the Library of Congress' catalog. Given that the Library of Congress' [Comics and Cartoons Collection Policy](#) emphasizes research as one of the primary uses of its comics collection, inconsistent and limited access to primary source comics is problematic, at the very least.

Recommendations

To rectify the problems resulting from the current formulation of Subject Headings Manual instruction H 1430, the joint SAC/GNCRT Working Group recommends revising it to more closely match H 1790, particularly by allowing "special provisions" for the assignment and proposal of subject headings for fictional comics and graphic novels (including manga). A draft revision of H 1430 appears in Appendix A of this report.

The revision of H 1430 to more closely match H 1790 is supported by the LCGFT hierarchization of [Comics \(Graphic works\)](#); it is in the Literature hierarchy, along with fiction, poetry, drama and other types of literature. Policies for subject analysis of literary forms should be as equitable as possible, to best serve all library users. Since comics readers have the same needs as other fiction readers for collocation, selection, and access to fictional materials, having matching subject guidance for comics and other types of literature assures equal access to comics.

Updating the subject guidance in H 1430 would also bring the text into better alignment with contemporary attitudes toward comics and graphic novels. The Comics Code has been completely defunct since 2011. Fredric Wertham's *Seduction of the Innocent* is no longer

considered an authoritative work on comics; scholars like Carol Tilley have amassed evidence that Wertham "manipulated, overstated, compromised, and fabricated evidence" in support of his arguments.¹ Replacing Wertham are seminal texts like Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics*, which explore the cultural significance and artistic/literary merits of the medium. Institutions, including the Library of Congress, have literature collections of comics for both research and recreational reading. Academic institutional presses have comics imprints, like Ohio State University's [Latinographix](#) and Penn State University's [Graphic Mundi](#). As comics are no longer widely considered of lesser value than other forms of literature, subject guidance for comics should abandon the outdated unequal treatment perpetuated by the limitations of subject provision and proposal in the current H 1430 text.

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¹ Tilley, Carol L. "Seducing the Innocent: Fredric Wertham and the Falsifications That Helped Condemn Comics." *Information & Culture* 47, no. 4 (2012): 383-413. <https://doi.org/10.7560/IC47401>.

Appendix A: Revised Text of H 1430

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.*

~~a²~~. *Selections of comic strips or cartoons and original works of fiction, including graphic novels.*

Assign terms from LCGFT (e.g., **Comics (Graphic works)**; **Graphic novels**; **Superhero comics**) according to the guidelines in J 110 of the LCGFT manual.

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 the LCGFT term **Comics (Graphic works)**.

² Removed because b) and c) have been moved into an expanded History and Criticism section.

Assign subject headings according to the following guidelines, which follow general principles for fiction presented in H 1790, sec. 4. ~~The section below describes standard practice followed at the Library of Congress. For an alternative approach to fictional comics, see the section SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INCREASED SUBJECT ACCESS TO COMICS at the end of this instruction sheet.~~

(1) Biographical fiction. Assign the heading **[name of biographee]–Comic books, strips, etc.** Also assign one the following LCGFT terms as appropriate: **Autobiographical comics** or **Biographical comics**.

(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.

Also assign the LCGFT term **Historical comics**.

(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.~~³ 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.~~

³ Removed because this does not seem to be borne out in subject assignment. See, for instance, \$v Biography \$v Comic books, strips, etc., as used in <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021012709>. Or \$v Comic books, strips, etc. \$v Periodicals, as used in <https://lccn.loc.gov/sf95093170>.

~~**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**~~).⁴~~

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, **unless applying the SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INCREASED SUBJECT ACCESS TO COMICS below.**⁵

3. Nonfiction written in comic book or graphic novel style. Assign the appropriate subject heading array. Subdivide each heading by **–Comic books, strips, etc.** Also assign **a** genre/form terms from LCGFT (e.g., **Graphic novels; Nonfiction comics**) according to the guidelines in the LCGFT manual.

4. History and criticism.⁶

a. Works about graphic novels, comic strips or cartoons, treated collectively. For works about particular themes in comics, 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**).

⁴ Parts b) and c) have been incorporated into an expanded History and Criticism section matching the subject provisions for histories and criticisms of all other types of literature, per H 1790.

⁵ The ban on assigning headings for characters to fictional works featuring those characters does not seem to be borne out in practice. See, for example: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2013272196>, <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021218698>, <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021200422> and <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020203515>. So although we've left the guidance in place and added a reference to the special provisions section, we'd prefer that this ban/sentence be stricken entirely.

⁶ In order to bring subject provision for nonfiction works about comics more in line with the history and criticism of all other forms of literature, we have created a *History and Criticism* section matching the subject guidance in H 1790; some provisions of this section are expanded versions of text originally found in 1 b) and 1 c) of H 1430.

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, as well as a heading for the theme, e.g.,

600 10 \$a Spiegelman, Art. \$t Maus.

650 #0 \$a Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in literature.

and/or

650 #0 \$a Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in art.

c. Fictional comics about individual persons or families. For criticism of fictional comics about particular individuals or families, including dynasties and royal houses, assign the name of the person or family with the free-floating subdivision **–In literature**, e.g., **Romanov, House of–In literature; Bender family–In literature.**

d. Fictional comics about imaginary persons. For criticism of fictional comics about particular imaginary individuals, assign the name of the person. Also assign if appropriate for the work the name of the author with the subdivision **–Characters** (cf. H 1610). *Example:*

600 10 \$a Ellis, Warren \$x Characters.

600 10 \$a Jerusalem, Spider \$c (Fictitious character)

e. Fictional comics about individual corporate bodies, places, and sacred works. For criticism of fictional comics about particular corporate bodies, places, or sacred works, assign the name of the entity with the free-floating subdivision **–In literature**, e.g. **United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation–In literature; Guadeloupe–In literature; Bible–In literature.**

f. Fictional comics about wars and similar events. For works about the fictional comics of a specific war, revolution, uprising, etc., assign **[name of event]–Literature and the war, [revolution, uprising, etc.]** as a topical heading (cf. H 1200).

5. Examples.

Title: Superman, Batman.

[selected issues of a comic serial republished as a monograph]

655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Superhero comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: Wonder Woman annual.

655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Superhero comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: Garfield chews the fat.

[selections from the comic strip]

655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Humorous comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Funny animal comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: The white lama.

[original work complete in six volumes]

655 #7 \$a Graphic novels. \$2 lcgft

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.

655 #7 \$a Graphic novels. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Historical comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a War comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Nonfiction comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: J. Edgar Hoover : a graphic biography.

600 10 \$a Hoover, J. Edgar \$q (John Edgar), \$d 1895-1972 \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

610 10 \$a United States. \$b Federal Bureau of Investigation \$x Officials and employees
\$v Biography \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650 #0 \$a Police \$z United States \$v Biography \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650 #0 \$a Government executives \$z United States \$v Biography \$v Comic books,
strips, etc.

655 #7 \$a Graphic novels. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Biographical comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Nonfiction comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: Korean War comic books.

[work of history and criticism]

650 #0 \$a Comic books, strips, etc. \$z United States \$x History and criticism.

650 #0 \$a Korean War, 1950-1953 \$x Literature and the war.

650 #0 \$a Censorship \$z United States \$x History \$y 20th century.

650 #0 \$a War in literature.

655 #7 \$a Literary criticism. \$2 lcgft

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]

600 00 \$a Spider-Man \$c (Fictitious character)

655 #7 \$a Essays. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Literary criticism. \$2 lcgft

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 \$v Exhibitions.

655 #7 \$a Literary criticism. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Exhibition catalogs. \$2 lcgft

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INCREASED SUBJECT ACCESS TO COMICS

1. Application of special provisions. The Library of Congress allows for special provisions for increased subject access to fiction by other institutions. As of [date], these provisions may be applied to fictional comics and graphic novels (including manga).

2. General principles. The assignment of subject headings to individual works of fictional comics is intended to provide library users with an additional method of discovering and selecting comics. Several types of subject headings are available to provide this access. Any, all, or none of the following categories of headings may be appropriate for an individual fictional comic: form/genre, character, setting, topic.

3. Form and genre headings.

a. Source of headings. Select one or more appropriate terms from Library of Congress Genre/Form Terms for Library and Archival Materials (LCGFT), for example, **Biographical comics; Spy comics**. Assign terms from LCGFT in accordance with the instructions in J 235 of the LCGFT manual.

b. MARC 21 content designation and input conventions. Form/genre headings for individual works use the MARC tag 655, not 650. For terms from LCGFT, the second indicator contains the value 7 and the code lcgft in a subfield \$2 following the term. When assigned, these headings are input following other LC subject headings and following any AC juvenile subject headings.

4. Character(s).

a. Individual characters. If the work prominently features a real person, a legendary character, or other major character not created by the author of the work, assign a subject heading for the name of the character with the subdivision **–Comic books, strips, etc.** If the primary character is a fictitious character created by the author, assign a subject heading only if the character appears in three or more works. For instructions on establishing subject headings for fictitious characters see H 1610.

Note: Fictitious characters may be borrowed by an author from another author, or from another source, and used in the creation of a new work. Assign the same heading to works by the original creator of the character and to works by others in which the character appears.

Assign a separate heading when characters share a name but are clearly unrelated to each other. *Example:*

600 00 \$a Guardian \$c (Fictitious character from DC Comics, Inc.) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

or

600 00 \$a Guardian \$c (Fictitious character from Marvel Comics Group) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

b. Classes of persons. A heading may also be assigned for the class of persons to which the primary character belongs if that class of persons is established and is likely to be sought by users, for example, women detectives or teenage superheroes. Generally follow the same principles that are used for selecting class-of-persons headings for individual biographies.

5. Setting. Assign a subject heading for a place, event, or time period that is featured prominently in an individual work. Since almost all fictitious works have a specific place and time, assign these headings only if the place or time is significant. Generally do not assign headings for a time period that is contemporaneous to the period in which the work was written, for example, do not express the 19th-century setting of a work that was written in the 19th century. Assign a subject for an imaginary place or organization only if the place appears in three or more works. The place featured in a work may also be included as a subdivision of a topical heading, in accordance with normal subject cataloging practice, either in addition to a separate heading for place or as a substitute for a separate heading.

6. Topical access. Assign headings for specific topics that are the focal point of an individual literary work. Assign headings only for topics that have been made explicit by the author or publisher, such as those topics that are mentioned in the title, series, introductory matter, dustjacket, or other prominent location. The purpose of the topical heading is to provide access for those topics that distinguish the work from most other works. The same principle of specificity should be applied as is used in non-literary cataloging. Do not assign both a broader

and more specific heading to the same work; assign only the most specific heading that is appropriate.

7. Examples:

Title: Scooby apocalypse.

[monthly comic book]

600 00 \$a Scooby-Doo \$c (Fictitious character) \$v Comic books, strips, etc. \$v Periodicals.

650 #0 \$a Dogs \$v Comic books, strips, etc. \$v Periodicals.

655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Apocalyptic comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Horror comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Periodicals. \$2 lcgft

Title: Superman smashes the Klan : the graphic novel.

[graphic novel for young adults set in the 1940s]

600 00 \$a Superman \$c (Fictitious character) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

600 00 \$a Superman \$c (Fictitious character) \$v Juvenile fiction.

650 #0 \$a Justice \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650 #0 \$a Justice \$v Juvenile fiction.

650 #0 \$a Identity (Philosophical concept) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650 #0 \$a Identity (Philosophical concept) \$v Juvenile fiction.

650 #0 \$a Immigrants \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650 #0 \$a Immigrants \$v Juvenile fiction.

610 20 \$a Ku Klux Klan (1915-) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

610 20 \$a Ku Klux Klan (1915-) \$v Juvenile fiction.

655 #7 \$a Graphic novels. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Superhero comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Historical comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: Power & magic : the queer witch comics anthology.

650 #0 \$a Sexual minority women \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650 #0 \$a Minority women \$v Comic books, strips, etc.

650 #0 \$a Witches \$v Comic books, strips etc.

655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Witch comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Fantasy comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Romance comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Lesbian comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Genderqueer comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: Superb. Vol. 1, Life after the fallout.

[selected issues of a comic serial republished as a monograph]

650 #0 \$a Superheroes \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Superheroes with disabilities \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Teenage superheroes \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Down syndrome \$x Patients \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Robots \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 651 #0 \$a Youngstown (Ohio) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft
 655 #7 \$a Superhero comics. \$2 lcgft
 655 #7 \$a Science fiction comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: The empty man : recurrence.

[selected issues of a comic serial republished as a monograph]

650 #0 \$a Pandemics \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Families \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 610 10 \$a United States. \$b Federal Bureau of Investigation \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 610 20 \$a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Cults \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Quarantine \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft
 655 #7 \$a Medical comics. \$2 lcgft
 655 #7 \$a Dystopian comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: Midnight days.

[selected issues of a comic serial republished as a monograph]

600 00 \$a Sandman \$c (Fictitious character from DC Comics, Inc.) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 600 00 \$a Sandman \$c (Fictitious character from Gaiman) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 600 00 \$a Swamp Thing \$c (Fictitious character) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #7 \$a Ghosts \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft
 655 #7 \$a Horror comics. \$2 lcgft
 655 #7 \$a Ghost comics. \$2 lcgft

Title: Death note. Vol. 4, Love.

[selected issues of a manga serial republished as a monograph]

650 #0 \$a Death \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Death (Personification) \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Criminals \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Students \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Police \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 650 #0 \$a Serial murder investigation \$v Comic books, strips, etc.
 655 #7 \$a Comics (Graphic works) \$2 lcgft
 655 #7 \$a Paranormal comics. \$2 lcgft

655 #7 \$a Detective and mystery comics. \$2 lcft

Appendix B: Examples of Library of Congress bibliographic records for comics including subject tracings

Adventure time. Jake (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2019297959>), with subjects:

Jake (Fictitious character from Ward)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Finn (Fictitious character from Ward)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Dogs--Comic books, strips, etc.

Boys--Comic books, strips, etc.

Human-animal relationships--Comic books, strips, etc.

Friendship--Comic books, strips, etc.

Adventure and adventurers--Comic books, strips, etc.

Air : flying machine (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2010502984>) with subjects:

Women air pilots--Comic books, strips, etc.

Man-woman relationships--Comic books, strips, etc.

Terrorism--Comic books, strips, etc.

All dressed up (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2013412167>), with subjects:

Little Lulu (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Archie's big book. Volume 7, Musical genius (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2021285196>) with subjects:

Andrews, Archie (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Lodge, Veronica (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Cooper, Betty (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Jones, Jughead (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Josie and the Pussycats (Musical group)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Archies (Musical group)--Comic books, strips, etc.

High school students--Comic books, strips, etc.

Teenagers--Comic books, strips, etc.

Rock groups--Comic books, strips, etc.

Teenage musicians--Comic books, strips, etc.

Avatar the last airbender. Book 1, Water. Volume 1 (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2021289611>) with subjects:

Superheroes--Comic books, strips, etc.

Superheroes--Juvenile fiction.

Friendship--Comic books, strips, etc.

Friendship--Juvenile fiction.

Avatars (Religion)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Avatars (Religion)--Juvenile fiction.

Martial arts--Comic books, strips, etc.

Martial arts--Juvenile fiction.

Batman: Joker's asylum. Volume 2 (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2011283399>) with subjects:

Batman (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Joker (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Bite maker: the king's Omega. Volume 2 (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2021289784>) with subjects:

Man-woman relationships--Comic books, strips, etc.

Pheromones--Comic books, strips, etc.

Desire--Comic books, strips, etc.

Black Panther (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2017218742>) with subjects:

Black Panther (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

African Americans--Comic books, strips, etc.

Superheroes--Comic books, strips, etc.

Call of Cthulhu (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2017046270>) with subjects:

Lovecraft, H. P. (Howard Phillips), 1890-1937. Call of Cthulhu--Adaptations.

Cthulhu (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Diana Prince, Wonder Woman. Volume 2 (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2009275257>) with subjects:

Wonder Woman (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Elders : Batman volume three (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2018288501>) with subjects:

Good and evil--Comic books, strips, etc.

Guardians of the galaxy. Volume 9, We are family (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2018965975>) with subjects:

Rocket Raccoon (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Guardians of the Galaxy (Fictitious characters)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Superheroes--Comic books, strips, etc.

Space rescue operations--Comic books, strips, etc.

Life on other planets--Comic books, strips, etc.

Rocket Raccoon (Fictitious character)--Juvenile fiction.

Guardians of the Galaxy (Fictitious characters)--Juvenile fiction.

Superheroes--Juvenile fiction.

Space rescue operations--Juvenile fiction.

Life on other planets--Juvenile fiction.

Holy terror (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2011933316>) with subjects:

Terrorism--Comic books, strips, etc.

Superheroes--Comic books, strips, etc.

Qaida (Organization)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Incredibles 2. Crisis in mid-life! & other stories (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2018287573>) with subjects:

Incredibles 2 (Motion picture)--Juvenile fiction.

Superheroes--Comic books, strips, etc.

Families--Comic books, strips, etc.

Brothers and sisters--Comic books, strips, etc.

Joker (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2009277628>) with subjects:

Joker (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Let down your hair (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2018288842>) with subjects:

Princesses--Comic books, strips, etc.

Hair--Comic books, strips, etc.

Lissa : a story about medical promise, friendship, and revolution

(<https://lccn.loc.gov/2017298222>) with subjects:

Americans--Egypt--Comic books, strips, etc.

Female friendship--Comic books, strips, etc.

Politics and culture--Egypt--Comic books, strips, etc.

Culture conflict--Comic books, strips, etc.

Breast--Cancer--Comic books, strips, etc.

Arab Spring, 2010---Comic books, strips, etc.

Maydān al-Taḥrīr (Cairo, Egypt)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Lumberjanes. Campfire songs (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2020276523>) with subjects:

Teenage girls--Comic books, strips, etc.

Female friendship--Comic books, strips, etc.

Camping--Comic books, strips, etc.

Adventure and adventurers--Comic books, strips, etc.

Supernatural--Comic books, strips, etc.

Teenage girls--Fiction.

Friendship--Fiction.

Camps--Fiction.

Fairies--Fiction.

Man Boy : it's your party, I'll play if I want to

(<https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=20935236>) with subjects:

Arcades--Comic books, strips, etc.

New 52 zero omnibus (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2012462161>) with subjects:

Legion of Super-Heroes (Fictitious characters)

Sergio Aragonés' Groo vs. Conan (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2015297163>) with subjects:

Conan (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Swordsmen--Comic books, strips, etc.

American wit and humor, Pictorial.

Spawn of dykes to watch out for (<https://lccn.loc.gov/93037734>) with subjects:
 Lesbians--United States--Comic books, strips, etc.
 Lesbianism--United States--Comic books, strips, etc.
 American wit and humor, Pictorial.

Superman : exile (<https://lccn.loc.gov/98226122>) with subjects:
 Superman (Fictitious character)--Comic books, strips, etc.

Yokai girls (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2021289811>) with subjects:
 Yōkai (Japanese folklore)--Comic books, strips, etc.
 High school graduates--Japan--Comic books, strips, etc.
 Man-woman relationships--Comic books, strips, etc.
 Supernatural--Comic books, strips, etc.
 Spirits--Comic books, strips, etc.
 Monsters--Comic books, strips, etc.

Young love. Volume 1 (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2012374610>) with subjects:
 Man-woman relationships--Comic books, strips, etc.
 Courtship--Comic books, strips, etc.

Appendix C: Examples of scholarly works on comics impeded by lack of subject tracings

Mixed-race superheroes, 2021.

No subject in LCSH for “Racially-mixed superheroes”; even if existent couldn’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430.

Muslim superheroes : comics, Islam and representation, 2017.

Arjana, S. R. *Veiled superheroes: Islam, feminism and popular culture*, 2019.

Rhett, M. E. *Representations of Islam in United States comics, 1880-1922*, 2020.

Subject heading for “Muslim superheroes” not in LCSH until 2020; still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. No subject tracing for Muslim women superheroes (must post-coordinate Muslim superheroes and Women superheroes, and can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430). Other comics about Muslims can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Panuska, S. *The bulge that dare not speak its name : camp, clones, and the evolution of the gay superhero*, 2013.

Boys' love manga and beyond : history, culture, and community in Japan, 2015.

Abate, M. E. *"Suffering Sappho!" : lesbian content and queer female characters in comics*, 2022.

Subject headings for “Gay superheroes” and “Lesbian superheroes” not in LCSH until 2020; still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. Other comics about gay people can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Andrae, T. *Siegel and Shuster's Funnyman : the first Jewish superhero, from the creators of Superman*, 2010.

Strömberg, F. *Jewish images in the comics : a visual history*, 2012.

Buhle, P. M. *Jews and American comics : an illustrated history of an American art form*, 2008.

Subject heading for “Jewish superheroes” not in LCSH until 2020; still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. Other comics about Jews can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Saalfeld, J. *Black superpower : African and African American superheroes in U.S. mainstream comic books*, 2013.

Nama, A. *Super black : American pop culture and black superheroes*, 2011.

Davenport, C. *Black is the color of my comic book character : African-American superheroes from 1970-1994*, 1994.

The blacker the ink : constructions of black identity in comics and sequential art, 2015.

Black comics : politics of race and representation, 2013.

The content of our caricature : African American comic art and political belonging, 2020.

Subject headings for “African American superheroes” and “Superheroes, Black” not in LCSH until 2019; still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. Other comics about Black people can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Valdez, J. A. *Unmasking identities: superhero representations of Asian Americans in graphic narratives*, 2013.

Chiu, M. *Drawing new color lines : transnational Asian American graphic narratives*, 2015.

Lugtu, S. M. S. *Issues of (in)visibility : the Asian-American presence in mainstream and independent comics*, 2016.

Subject heading for “Asian American superheroes” not in LCSH until 2020; still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. Other comics about Asian Americans can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Uncanny bodies : superhero comics and disability, 2019.

Disability in comic books and graphic narratives, [2016]

Subject heading for “Superheroes with disabilities” not in LCSH until 2021; still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. Other comics about people with disabilities can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Aldama, F. L. *Latinx superheroes in mainstream comics*, 2017.

Your brain on Latino comics : from Gus Arriola to Los Bros Hernandez, 2012.

Subject heading for “Hispanic American superheroes” not in LCSH until 2020; still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. Other comics about Latinx people can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Brown, J. A. *Dangerous curves : action heroines, gender, fetishism and popular culture*, 2013.

Robinson, L. S. *Wonder women : feminisms and superheroes*. 2004.

Kirtley, S. E. *Typical girls: the rhetoric of womanhood in comic strips*, 2021.

Subject heading for “Women superheroes” has existed in LCSH since 2012; yet still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430. Other comics about women and feminism can only have subjects if they’re nonfiction.

Brown, J. A. *Panthers, Hulks, and Ironhearts : Marvel, diversity, and the twenty-first century superhero*, 2021.

Flegel, M. *Superhero culture wars : politics, marketing, and social justice in Marvel Comics*, 2021.

Subject headings for various diverse superheroes not in LCSH until 2019-2021 (see examples above); still can’t be applied to primary source comics under H 1430.