

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

Better Together: Connecting resources for Comic artists & their readers through creative local cataloging practice — *Kay Kroeff Strenig*, Technical Services Librarian, Minneapolis College of Art and Design

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) is a member of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD). Since 1997 it has offered a BFA in Comic Arts. In support the MCAD Library actively collects the work of classic and underground comic strip artists, national and international artists working in the graphic novel format, instructional material on sequential narrative art techniques and critical scholarship in the field. The collection is organized by the Library of Congress system and housed in two non-adjointing rooms in the Library: A – NC in one, ND – Z the other. This situated works on “caricature, pictorial humor & satire (including technique & history)”, NCs, and actual comic strips and graphic novels, PNs, a significant distance apart. Non-fiction graphic narratives were classed by their subject and located throughout the stacks. Popular interest in graphic novels and increasing numbers of Comic Arts majors guaranteed growth. The separation of comics related materials resulted in confusion and frustration for students and faculty. The chair of the Comic Art program asked us to devise a solution. “Students First” is a motto at MCAD, so we modified standard cataloging practices for these materials. Librarians know that classification rules can be broken. New ones are developed, documented and consistently followed. This poster will explain in visual narrative style our hybrid classification scheme and how it co-locates previously physically disconnected resources. It may inspire other small to medium sized libraries to undertake reclassification projects to improve discoverability, enhance browsing, and increase circulation and customer satisfaction. A take away sample of our local classification scheme will be shared.