THE PROJECT

Stacy Wyatt and Lisa Longmire created a clearly identified Graphic Novel and Comic Collection for the patrons of Kitsap Regional Library. These books were previously spread across the Adult Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Biography sections making them difficult for browsing patrons to find. The intention of this project was to maximize the use of materials already purchased by making them easy for patrons to find and enjoy.

ORIGIN STORY

Summer 2014: Stacy Wyatt’s Directed Fieldwork created a pilot Graphic Novel and Comic Collection at the Sylvan Way branch of Kitsap Regional Library in Bremerton, WA. This collection gathered 600 books from Adult Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Biography.

Results: Without any advertising, there was a 2% increase in use over six months. 130 items that had not been borrowed in the previous two years, which had been slated for possible discard, were borrowed five times or more.

THE PROCESS

• Defined what “comic” means for this collection
• Created record sets to identify possible items for the collection before visiting each branch
• Visited each library to find items, label them, and update catalog records to reflect new collection
• Items with additional needs were taken back to Sylvan Way for further processing
• Talked with staff at each branch about what to do with additional comics that might be found

CHRONOLOGY

February 11, 2015: Operating Council approved Stacy Wyatt and Lisa Longmire’s proposal to expand the Adult Graphic Novel and Comic Collection to all 9 branches
February 19: Met with Branch Managers and the Collection Management Team to explain collection and process
March: Visited Bainbridge, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Kingston, Little Boston Library, Silverdale, Downtown Bremerton, and Manchester Libraries to find, label, adjust records, and help relocate collection
April: Collaborated with Collection Management and Technical Services to prepare for handing off collection maintenance. Sharon Grant, Collection and Technical Services Manager, updated MARC records

April 18 - May 18: Banner posted on KRL.org showcasing collection in online catalog
June: Collection featured in Kitsap Regional Library “Inspire” publication alongside tracker for Summer Reading for Children, Teens, and Adults

TO BE CONTINUED...

• Set internal guidelines to define comic format
• Analyze usage data and monitor industry activity and news (Eisner Awards, etc) to inform future selections

CREDITS

Stacy Wyatt, MLIS, and Lisa Longmire, MLIS, Kitsap Regional Library employees, Capstone Project Team • Kitsap Regional Library Operating Council, Project Approval • Sharon Grant, Collection and Technical Services Manager, Project Sponsor • Collection Management and Technical Services Team, taking on processing tasks for collection • Grant Perrigo, Youth Services Librarian, previously at Kitsap Regional Library, now at Sno-Isle Libraries, Directed Fieldwork Supervisor • Joanna Blackford, Graphic Design