

# Community Library Core Collection Analysis: Adult / Teen: Graphic Novels and Manga

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Poplar Creek Public Library District: Main Branch

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This document will serve as an analysis of what should be included in a core collection of graphic novels and manga for the Poplar Creek Public Library Main Branch for both the adult and teen areas of the library. The teens and adults each have their own different placement in the building, therefore, each section will also list its placement.

**Community Analysis:**

The Poplar Creek Public Library Main branch serves mostly the village of Streamwood and Hanover Park. The following information was gathered as a part of the 2010 Census.

To begin, the village of Streamwood was established in 1957 when there was enough of a residency to declare municipality. The population is 39,858. The median age is 36.6. The Streamwood community has an 85.8% high school or higher graduate rate. There are a total of 14,082 housing units in Streamwood, making the average household size between 2 – 3 people. The average household income is \$74,854. Only 4.8% of the population are below the poverty rate. There are 3,232 businesses in Streamwood.

About 9,500 of the residents were raised Spanish speakers primarily. Of these residents, over 5,000 of them say they also speak English “very well.” Of this group, only about 400 said they don’t speak any English. There are 11,959 residents who were born in a foreign country. There are 24,767 residents who are white or Caucasian (62%). There are 12,276 residents who are of Hispanic descent (30%). 5,300 residents are Asian (13%). 1,350 are black or African American (3%). 1,134 residents reported being of two or more race (2%).

In Hanover Park the population is 37,973. The median age is 33.8. There are 2,397 businesses in Hanover Park. The average income is \$67,650. There are 11,797 housing units in Hanover Park, making the average household size 3 – 4 people. 11.9% of Hanover Park residents are below the poverty level. 76.7% of the residents have a high school diploma or higher.

There are 13,382 residents who were born in a foreign country. 19,325 are white or Caucasian (50%). 14,186 residents are Hispanic or Latino in descent (37%). There are 6,553 who are Asian (17%). 3,323 of the residents are black (9%). 810 people say they are of two or more races (2%). 74% of

residents have reported speaking English “very well” in the 2010 Census. 43% of residents speak Spanish.

This means that while having Spanish materials is very important, the residents of Streamwood are, for the most part, comfortable with English materials as well. Hanover Park residents seem to have a higher reliance on Spanish materials. However, the district has a branch located within Hanover Park to better serve these residents. The branch should have a higher percent of Spanish materials compared with the main branch, if space allows. This will tie into some of the purchasing decisions going forward for some of the main, archival materials.

### **Basis for Selecting Titles:**

While selecting titles for Graphic Novels and comics isn't your average collection, there are some places you can begin to look for reviews. One of those places is Otaku USA magazine for manga. While it is a lot of information, and includes all the anime content associated with each title as well, it is all inclusive. Each of the manga titles included in the list are highly recommended through Otaku USA. It is also useful to see Dark Horse Comics publisher, which is also a part of a larger comics community. Amazon also has joined the conversation with comixology, their own version of the comic community. Finally, The Beat: Comics Culture has some solid reviews and material explanations available, because it can get very confusing when navigating through the super hero worlds of DC and Marvel.

I utilized Otaku USA for most of my manga reviews. I found that each of these series were highly rated. I have also read that true manga readers enjoy doing the entire series front to back. So, having all the titles at least up to a certain point is very important. When deciding what to include with this wide, fairly young reader group, it seemed important to include some classic and current manga titles. For instance, I decided to include *Dragon Ball Z*, rather than the older *Dragon Ball*, as the images are more

interesting and appealing to the current community. I found that typically it is more of a teenage interest, so I decided to place the manga selections in the teen section.

I also decided to include the classic superheroes, the true classics in both Spanish and English. This way, if there is a language barrier these patrons still can access the classic superhero stories in a language they are more comfortable. I found as these worlds get very confusing, it is most important to include the origin volumes, or “archive” version of each super hero character. I found out how many volumes of each there were and kept track in the data below. In some cases, the rebirth storyline seemed to be more pertinent, with the TV shows all interwoven or current movies coming out. I figured it would be more accessible if these were kept with the adult fiction. That way, teenagers could come down and find them, and they are still accessible to adults. Sometimes, it can be awkward for adults to go into the teen area to get something, but teens feel cooler checking out “adult” items. The archival versions were chosen due to good reviews from Comixology and The Beat. These sources, as well as Amazon readers, and Goodreads, found when beginning a collection, these types of collection of character birth and intro stories were key.

Finally, I included various artist books and other more single issue books which should also be considered when looking at graphic format books for a public library. There are endless number of these types of materials, so I tried to include some resources which were reviewed as a part of the Graphic Novels special topics course I completed over Summer 2017. Also, I wanted to find books which were held highly in the differing comics discussion communities I have previously discussed. The ones I have included, such as *The Walking Dead* and *Saga*, for example have graphic content but also bring out aspects of family and sticking together. There are themes throughout these stories that bring readers back. Or the incredible visual creations of Moebius in *The Sandman*. These materials deserve highlighting and deserve to be a part of a core collection, in addition to many others, but the ones I decided to pick were all highly reviewed and held highly in the different comic communities.

**In Conclusion:**

Considering a Core collection for graphic novels, comics and manga can get a bit confusing. Especially as you dive into the worlds of DC and Marvel comic publishers. These two giants have battled with leading characters and franchises as long as they have existed. The idea that you should own all their printed content is very overwhelming. We decided to get the basics, see how those circulate. The items that are in the core collection in this regard, should be considered an archival item, something that is necessary to understand the storyline. Then, the library can always expand certain characters, purchase more of their side stories, DVDs, other content, later as they notice specific interest. The goal with the core collection is to cover the basis. We need to know that the young comic enthusiasts can get the back story of any character out there in either world.

We also need to make sure it is covering manga series which would otherwise offend if left out. Once again, this is an entire world in itself, and choosing only a handful of series to include, was very difficult. I interviewed one of the teen librarians who selects the manga titles who indulged his biggest tip is to ask the users what they want if you are unsure. Patron input is the most sure bet of getting the right thing. Obviously, make sure it is the best use of the library's funds, and not just a niche interest of a handful, but will serve the better community at large. When in doubt, survey and get input from those you are serving.

**Bibliography:**

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Fact Finder: [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

Otaku USA Magazine. <http://www.otakuusamagazine.com>.

Streamwood.org: History: <http://www.streamwood.org/Community/History.aspx>

The Beat: Comics Culture. <http://www.comicsbeat.com>

<b>MANGA (in Teen area)</b>			
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>VOLUMES</b>	<b>PRICE (Lib Discount assumed)</b>	<b>Lib Total:</b>
Black Butler (Yana Toboso)	24	7	168
Bleach (Tite Kubo)	72	7	504
Deathnote (Tsugumi Ohba)	12	7	84
Dragon Ball Z (Akira Toriyama)	26	7	182
Fairy Tail (Hiro Mashima)	62	7	434
Fruits Basket (Natsuki Takaya)	12	7	84
Naruto (Masashi Kishimoto)	71	7	497
Oh My Goddess (Kousuke Fujishima)	48	7	336
Akira (Katsuhiro Otomo)	6	7	42
Nana (Émile Zola)	21	7	147
Ouran High School Host Club (Bisco Hatori)	18	7	126
Lone wolf & cub Kazuo Koike)	28	7	196
Yotsuba&! (Kiyohiko Azuma)	13	7	91
<b>Super Heroes (in Adult area)</b>			0
<b>Marvel:</b>			0
Captain America	7	8	56
Captain America (Spanish)	7	8	56
Deadpool	5	12	60
Iron Man	5	12	60
Iron Man (Spanish)	5	12	60
Hulk	3	6	18
Thor	4	8	32
Spiderman	11	12	132
Spiderman (Spanish)	11	12	132
Avengers	6	8	48
X-men	4	12	48
X-men (spanish)			
<b>DC:</b>			0
Batman (archives)	6	8	48
Batman (archives Spanish)	6	8	48
Superman (archives)	7	8	56
Superman (archives Spanish)	7	8	56
Flash (archives)	3	15	45
Green Arrow	8	10	80

Wonder Woman (rebirth)	4	10	40
Wonder Woman (rebirth Spanish)	4	10	40
Justice League	9	15	135
Green Lantern	7	25	175
			0
<b>Other (in Adult area):</b>			0
Hot Dog Taste Test	1	20	20
The Making Of	1	20	20
Poetry is Useless	1	20	20
Panther	1	20	20
The Sandman (omnibus)	1	60	60
Exit Wounds	1	20	20
Maus	1	12	12
Percepolis	1	12	12
Ghost World	1	12	12
Saga	1	12	12
The Incal	1	12	12
Locke & Key	1	12	12
Fun Home	1	12	12
The Watchmen	1	12	12
The Walking Dead	29	15	435
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>4985</b>