

[1]

THE



COMIC COLLECTOR'S
INFORMATION
RESOURCE GUIDE

CONTENTS

Key	3
About the Marvel Comic Collector's Information Resource Guide	4
General Resources	6
Stores	8
Webstores	11
Databases	12
Forums	15
News and Reviews	16
Blogs	18
Books	19
Price Guides	20
Software	22
Art	24
Videos	25
Reflections on this Guide	27

KEY



Recommended for Experienced Comic Collectors



Recommended for Intermediate Comic Collectors



Recommended for Beginner Comic Collectors



Resources available on the Android Marketplace



Resources available on the App Store



Resources that run eBay Stores



Resources available on Amazon.co.uk, or that own a Marketplace store



Resources that support payment by Paypal



Extra information of particular interest

ABOUT THE MARVEL COMIC COLLECTOR'S INFORMATION RESOURCE GUIDE

The Marvel Comic Collector's Information Resource Guide is a collection of resources targeted specifically at the UK-based Marvel Comics collector. It is aimed at collectors of all levels of experience, from beginners who are just starting out building their collections, to the veteran collector who may even be wishing to sell on their collection. Those setting up educational collections for libraries or schools may also find information of interest here.


This Guide compiles a list of a wide range of resources, from stores that sell comics and storage supplies, to online tutorials and computer software. Depending on your experience level, it is likely like you will have different information needs. Therefore, each resource has been tagged for your level of experience, whether veteran, intermediate, or beginner.

Where possible, the listings are designed in alphabetical order for ease of use. Where appropriate, icons have been added to denote extra services the resource provides that may be of use to you.


Please note that this is *not* a comprehensive guide, nor is it attempting to be one. It aims to lay out the most popular and reliable sources in each area of interest, and UK-based resources are given precedence over those that are US- or European-based. Hopefully, you will be able to find a resource that is best suited to your needs.

All web links are working as of 1 May 2012.


FOR EXPERIENCED COMIC COLLECTORS ...

So you have built up your collection, and you are mainly concerned with maintaining it. Or you are adding a few prize pieces now and then and selling on items you no longer require. Perhaps you are looking for a solid piece of software to put your collection onto a database, and finally get rid of the cumbersome pen and paper catalogues you have built up over the years. From dedicated price guides to the best software out there – here you will find more advanced resources to cater for your needs. Just look for the  sign for resources recommended for you.

FOR INTERMEDIATE COMIC COLLECTORS ...





Most comic collectors get to the stage where they want to start: a) recording what they have in their collections and; b) broadening their horizons and looking into new titles. Perhaps you'd like to know a little background history on your favourite characters, or the origins of your favourite team. You may even want to start thinking about how to find out where to buy some old back issues you're missing – at a good price. Here you will find several resources to help you on your way. Just look for the  sign for resources recommended to you.

FOR BEGINNER COMIC COLLECTORS ...

If you have just begun to collect comics, or are thinking of starting, here you will find some resources that will guide you to some of the best places to buy comics, and some of the biggest news sites which will give information on what's currently hot and what's not. You will also find information to ease you gently into the Marvel Universe and all its many intricacies. Just look for the  sign for resources recommended to you.

GENERAL RESOURCES



These are general resources which most collectors should find useful and relevant to their interests


<p>The Comic Book Collecting Association </p> <p>http://www.comiccollecting.org/</p>	<p>A non-profit organisation, run by comic artists, creators and collectors from all over the world. Their aim is to promote comics as an art form and a hobby to people of all ages around the world. Apart from a news section, gallery and forum, the site also promotes special events and offers comic book discount to its members. CBCA is a worthy source of information for fledgling collectors, and a great support for the more seasoned collector.</p>
<p>Marvel.com </p> <p>http://marvel.com/</p>	<p>The home of all things Marvel – the go-to place for Marvel collectors and fans alike. This is the place to go if you want to keep abreast of the latest comic issues and news. Here you may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribe to your favourite comics • Check the solicitations list for future issues • View an extensive character database • View the latest news • Download digital comics and mobile apps • Buy tickets for Marvel movies <p> Android Marketplace  App Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Marvel Comics App</i> – the entire site on your smartphone – plus freebies • <i>The Marvel Events App</i> – access to backstage at comic cons • <i>The Marvel Augmented Reality App</i> – scan in comic barcodes and gain access to exclusive content


<p>Panini Comics http://www.paninicomics.co.uk/web/guest/home</p>	<p>Panani owns the Marvel UK brand and publishes Collector's Editions (CE) which contain collected reprints of Marvel comics. These editions are not sold outside the UK. At the website you may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subscribe to your favourite comics• View a catalogue of back issues• Check the latest releases• Find a list of local stockists
<p>The Marvel Channel - YouTube http://www.youtube.com/user/MARVEL</p>	<p>YouTube's Marvel Channel hosts many trailers for its latest and upcoming movies, but for collectors there are also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issue reviews and news on their Weekly Watcher playlist• Interviews with comic creators and access to exclusive artwork via their Marvel Hotline playlist


STORES

The basic – this is a listing of UK stores where you can go to buy your comics. Please note – due to space constrictions, this listing only cites major, well-known stores. For a comprehensive list, please go to the highly recommended <http://comicshops.co.uk>

<p>A Place in Space </p> <p>101 Church Street Croydon CR8 1RN 020 86862400</p>	<p>A popular little comics shop with friendly and knowledgeable staff. Users can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a subscription • Buy comic storage supplies • Buy rare and variant items <p>A Place in Space also runs an eBay outlet, with regular additions and great customer service.</p>
<p>Comicana</p> <p>237 Shaftesbury Avenue London WC2H 8EH 020 7836 5630</p>	<p>Specialising in collectible comics and graphic novels, Comicana is a small store in the heart of London with a vintage feel. It is quiet but run by a small number of dedicated and personable staff. The shop is noted for its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vintage and rare Gold, Silver and Bronze Age issues • Special edition graphic novels • Collectible toys
<p>Dave's Comics </p> <p>http://www.davescomics.co.uk</p> <p>5 Sydney Street Brighton BN1 4EN 01273 691012</p>	<p>A great store that features give-aways and goodies often. Also home to a blog with extensive comics lists, solicitations, reviews and articles. Their eBay store also sells a wide selection of comics.</p>




<p>Forbidden Planet http://forbiddenplanet.com/</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="191 321 472 472"> <p>London 179 Shaftesbury Avenue London WC2H 8JR</p> <p>0207 420 3666</p> </td> <td data-bbox="472 321 753 472"> <p>Croydon 43 Church Street London CR0 1RH</p> <p>020 8688 7190</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="191 526 472 677"> <p>Birmingham 38 Priory Queensway Birmingham B4 7LA</p> <p>0121 236 3026</p> </td> <td data-bbox="472 526 753 677"> <p>Liverpool 92 Bold Street Liverpool L1 4HY</p> <p>0151 707 1491</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="191 730 472 881"> <p>Bristol Units 4&5 Clifton Heights Bristol BS8 1EJ</p> <p>0117 929 7767</p> </td> <td data-bbox="472 730 753 881"> <p>Newcastle 59 Grainger Street Newcastle NE1 5JE</p> <p>0191 261 9173</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="191 935 472 1086"> <p>Cambridge 60 Burleigh Street Cambridge CB1 1DJ</p> <p>01223 301666</p> </td> <td data-bbox="472 935 753 1086"> <p>Southampton 24 Hanover Buildings Southampton SO14 1JU</p> <p>023 8022 4761</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="191 1140 472 1291"> <p>Coventry 31 Cross Cheaping Coventry CV1 1HF</p> <p>024 7622 9672</p> </td> <td data-bbox="472 1140 753 1291"></td> </tr> </table>	<p>London 179 Shaftesbury Avenue London WC2H 8JR</p> <p>0207 420 3666</p>	<p>Croydon 43 Church Street London CR0 1RH</p> <p>020 8688 7190</p>	<p>Birmingham 38 Priory Queensway Birmingham B4 7LA</p> <p>0121 236 3026</p>	<p>Liverpool 92 Bold Street Liverpool L1 4HY</p> <p>0151 707 1491</p>	<p>Bristol Units 4&5 Clifton Heights Bristol BS8 1EJ</p> <p>0117 929 7767</p>	<p>Newcastle 59 Grainger Street Newcastle NE1 5JE</p> <p>0191 261 9173</p>	<p>Cambridge 60 Burleigh Street Cambridge CB1 1DJ</p> <p>01223 301666</p>	<p>Southampton 24 Hanover Buildings Southampton SO14 1JU</p> <p>023 8022 4761</p>	<p>Coventry 31 Cross Cheaping Coventry CV1 1HF</p> <p>024 7622 9672</p>		<p>The world's largest cult and collectibles store, selling everything from comics to artbooks to T-shirts to statuettes. Forbidden Planet has a number of items of interest to collectors, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed comics, books and graphic novels • Variant and rare editions • Bags, backing boards, storage boxes and other supplies • A handy bestsellers shelf for quick access to the most popular titles • Regular signings and special events • Weekly newsletters • Competitions, with prizes including tickets to world-class comic conventions <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Android Marketplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mobile Forbidden Planet</i> – buy via smartphone • <i>Barcode Scanner</i> – scan comic barcodes • <i>Store Locator</i> – locate your nearest store • <i>Freebies</i> – sign up for giveaways </div>
<p>London 179 Shaftesbury Avenue London WC2H 8JR</p> <p>0207 420 3666</p>	<p>Croydon 43 Church Street London CR0 1RH</p> <p>020 8688 7190</p>										
<p>Birmingham 38 Priory Queensway Birmingham B4 7LA</p> <p>0121 236 3026</p>	<p>Liverpool 92 Bold Street Liverpool L1 4HY</p> <p>0151 707 1491</p>										
<p>Bristol Units 4&5 Clifton Heights Bristol BS8 1EJ</p> <p>0117 929 7767</p>	<p>Newcastle 59 Grainger Street Newcastle NE1 5JE</p> <p>0191 261 9173</p>										
<p>Cambridge 60 Burleigh Street Cambridge CB1 1DJ</p> <p>01223 301666</p>	<p>Southampton 24 Hanover Buildings Southampton SO14 1JU</p> <p>023 8022 4761</p>										
<p>Coventry 31 Cross Cheaping Coventry CV1 1HF</p> <p>024 7622 9672</p>											

<p>Gosh! http://www.goshlondon.com/</p> <p>1 Berwick Street London W1F 0DR 020 7636 1011</p>	<p>A trendy London store owned by TV host, Jonathan Ross, which specialises in quirky comics and special events. You can find your staple superhero comics here too. They also offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscription via standing order • A release calendar for future issues • Signed comics and artwork • Vintage and rare issues • Signings and special events <p> Gosh! also works with libraries across the country, providing them with cheap bulk graphic novels and advice on how to start their own graphic novel collections. Please contact them if you are starting your own educational collection.</p>
<p>Limited Edition Comix http://www.ltd-edition-comix.com/</p> <p>10 Market Place Stevenage New Town Centre Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 1DB 0143 364083</p>	<p>Priding itself as purveyors of ‘the best selection of comics in the whole of Herts, Beds and Bucks’, Limited Edition Comix is a merger between the Limited Edition Comix store and the erstwhile webstore comix-shop.co.uk. Registering your details allows you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a standing order • Subscribe to a weekly newsletter <p>Other resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance orders • Back issues • Bags, boards and other comic supplies • Signings and events

<p>Mega-City Comics http://megacitycomics.co.uk/</p> <p>18 Inverness Street Camden Town London NW1 7 HJ 020 7485 9320</p>	<p>Also home to an excellent webstore. They also buy. Here you may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribe and set up standing orders • Check for back issues • Buy bags, boards, boxes, and other supplies <p> Mega-City Comics also works with schools and libraries to build up their graphic novel collections. Their website includes themed lists suitable for building collections for children and young adults. Contact them for more details.</p>
--	---

WEBSTORES


Most towns do not host comic stores. If so, you may be one of many with no option but to buy your comics from the Web. Here are some of the best places to buy comics online.





<p>The Comic Book Store  http://www.thecomicbookstore.co.uk/</p>	<p>A UK-based webstore that offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-ordering • Comic supplies • Variant editions • Artwork and other collectibles
<p>IncognitoComics   http://www.incognitocomics.co.uk</p> <p>01304832335</p>	<p>A webstore that specialises in selling back issues. If you're missing a few hard-to-find issues from a particular story arc, this is the place to go. You can also find:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original art and autographs • Storage supplies • Information on how to get your comics professionally graded <p>IncognitoComics both buys and sells, and hosts a fully searchable database. Call for quotes.</p>



<p>Silver Acre   </p> <p>http://www.silveracre.com/</p>	<p>Silver Acre is the largest comics webstore based in the UK, with a reputation to match. Especially useful to collectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discounts on bulk postage at home and overseas• A PHP/Java based catalogue to shop from• Original art and signed item sales• Comic supplies• A comic grading guide• Bulk deals
--	---

DATABASES

Databases are useful for tracking back issues, reading synopses, and learning about certain characters. This is useful for finding out which issues are missing from your collection, and also for discovering other titles that may be of interest to you.



<p>Comic Book Realm </p> <p>http://comicbookrealm.com/</p>	<p>A huge database of comics which specialises in the valuing individual issues. This is very useful for collectors wanting to sell on their collections. Also hosts previews, a cover art gallery, and forums.</p>
---	---

<p>The Complete Marvel Reading Order </p> <p>http://cmro.travis-starnes.com/</p>	<p>Currently a work-in-progress, this site aims to list all Marvel comics in a logical, readable order, so that events taking place in one issue will lead on smoothly to the next. A monumental task indeed. Perfect for collectors who are searching for interconnected stories, but not sure where to look. Registration allows you to list reading orders according to your own preferences.</p>
<p>Grand Comic Database </p> <p>http://www.comics.org/</p>	<p>A non-profit organisation seeking to catalogue and record every comic ever. A fully searchable database. Each entry includes all sorts of valuable information, such a country of origin, cover art and publishing date. Perfect for finding rare issues.</p>
<p>The Marvel Chronology Project </p> <p>http://www.chronologyproject.com/</p>	<p>An unofficial site recording every Marvel comic in reading order by character. If you are following one particular character and want to know every issue they've been in, this is the first place to go.</p> <p>Regularly updated.</p>
<p>The Marvel Comics Database </p> <p>http://marvel.wikia.com/Main_Page</p>	<p>A wiki-based database, and the largest dealing with the Marvel Universe. Search or browse by issue, character, team, or comic title. Also includes extensive galleries.</p>

<p>UncannyXMen.net http://uncannyxmen.net/</p>	<p>An X-Men focused database; nevertheless it includes other Marvel comics, and so cannot be ignored, as it is one of the largest databases out there. Famous for its detailed, illustrated issue synopses.</p>
<p>The Unofficial Handbook of Marvel Comic Creators  http://www.maelmill-insi.de/UHBMCC/</p>	<p>A fully searchable, Marvel-endorsed database which is especially useful if you are looking for comics by a certain writer or artist. Listings give full details of each issue. Search filters also include character, storyarc, dates and appearances. The database is also fully downloadable.</p>
<p>Wikipedia – Marvel Comics  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marvel_Comics</p>	<p>Wikipedia possesses its own Marvel Comics category, which gives some useful background history and character digests. While there are no individual issue entries, there is a list of Marvel publications, current imprints and now-defunct lines.</p>

FORUMS


Places to get in contact with the comics community

<p>Comic Book Resources – Marvel Forums http://forums.comicbookresources.com/forumdisplay.php?10-Marvel-Comics-Forums</p>	<p>A large online community with the regular reviews, previews, interviews and story discussion. Registration required. Special features of interest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threads for new fans and collectors who want to get acquainted with the Universe • Character-tracking threads • Recommended issues
<p>Comixfan  http://comixfan.net/</p>	<p><i>The place to go for getting in touch with the wider comics community, and one of the largest comics forums out there. Registration required. Features:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue reviews • Interviews with creators • The latest news • Previews of future issues • Polls which may (or may not) influence the outcome of your favourite comics <p> Many creators, creators and artists also hang out here, so if you feel like getting something straight from the ‘horse’s mouth’, this is the place to go.</p>
<p>Super Hero Hype http://forums.superherohype.com/forumdisplay.php?f=114</p>	<p>A nice community of comics lovers, with a small section devoted to beginners. Registration required. Also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of recommended issues • Polls • Reviews under the DIAL Bought/Thought threads

NEWS AND REVIEWS

Dedicated sites giving all the latest comic-related news

<p>Comic Book Resources http://www.comicbookresources.com/</p>	<p>One of the largest and best comic news sites around, established in 1995. It includes several specialised columns, the latest comic related news, blogs and reviews. It is also famous for its extensive previews of to-be-released issues. Collectors may also wish to make use of their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter subscription • Comic shop locator • Comic Twitter directory
<p>Comic Vine http://www.comicvine.com/</p>	<p>Apart from the standard news, reviews and issue run-downs, Comic Vine also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its own podcast • A wiki for quick reference to issues, characters and teams • An extensive gallery of concept art
<p>Comics Alliance http://www.comicsalliance.com/</p>	<p>A quirky news site with some added extras, including sections for humour and the more cultural side of comics. It also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previews • Comic con news

<p>The Guardian http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/comics</p>	<p>The Guardian has its own section on comic books, and its own incisive reviews on the subject. If you're curious about what they have to say about your favourite comic, they're worth a look.</p>
<p>IGN Comics http://uk.comics.ign.com/</p>	<p>The comics portal for the IGN UK website. Thorough news items, 'Best Of' lists, and galleries. Also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews • Previews of to-be-released comics • Character guides
<p>Newsarama  http://www.newsarama.com/</p>	<p>Highly recommended – very user friendly and attractively presented. Includes in-depth articles, interviews and much useful information. Best bits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly comic solicitations • Comic previews in their First Look section • In-depth reviews

BLOGS

The best blogs for comics-related news

Collected Comics Library

<http://www.collectedcomicslibrary.com/>

An interesting and well-maintained blog with some excellent information for the experienced collector. As well as informative posts, you can read articles, reviews, interviews, industry news and other tidbits collected from around the internet weekly.

ComiXology

<http://blog.comixology.com/>

ComiXology gives an exhaustive list of all the latest releases each week, plus other news articles and other tech-related articles. It also has its own webstore, and sells its own comics related software to sellers and collectors.

GeekDraw


<http://geekdraw.com/marvel-comics/>



GeekDraw focuses on comic artwork, with relevant news and galleries. This is a useful resource for collectors seeking to further develop their artwork collections.

<p>io9 http://io9.com</p>	<p>Io9 is an online pop culture news blog, which has some good Marvel related articles. Just search for posts with the 'Marvel' and 'Marvel Comics' tag.</p>
<p>Underwired http://www.wired.com/underwire/tag/marvel-comics/</p>	<p>The Wired blog, Underwired, has extensive Marvel comics news. Whilst weeding out the movie-related information may be a little tedious, there are some nuggets in there for the experienced collector to find, such as news on variant and rare comics, and comic art auctions. You have to dig to find what interests you though.</p>

BOOKS


Information on Marvel Comics in good old-fashioned print





<p>The Marvel Chronicle  amazon.com Dorling Kindersley, 2008 ISBN: 978-1405332637 RRP: £30.00</p>	<p>An encyclopedia of the Marvel Universe in chronological order. There is little information on individual issues here, but it is very useful for anyone looking into the history of Marvel Comics.</p>
---	--

<p>The Marvel Encyclopedia </p> <p>Dorling Kindersley, 2009 ISBN: 978-1405344357 RRP: £30.00</p>	<p>An encyclopedia of the Marvel Universe in alphabetical order. Again, little information on regular issues, but useful for collectors interested in a particular character, title and/or team.</p>
<p>The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe </p>	<p>Not really a book, but a series of books which began in 1982 and have continued to be updated to the present day. For a complete run-down of issues, please consult the Wikipedia page at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_Handbook_of_the_Marvel_Universe</p>

PRICE GUIDES

If you're thinking of selling your collection, or simply curious about how much a particular issue costs, here are some useful guides.

<p>Comic Book Checklist and Price Guide 2010 </p> <p>Krause Publications; 16th Revised edition, 2009 ISBN: 978-1440203862 RRP: £16.99</p>	<p>Organised alphabetically by title – it covers dates, publishing information, and prices for comics which are in mint condition. Listings only until 2008.</p>
---	--

<p>The Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain </p> <p>http://www.comicpriceguide.co.uk/</p>	<p>This site is especially for British collectors with currency conversions and other useful information such as grading and restoration features.</p> <p>Registration required.</p>
<p>ComicsPriceGuide.com </p> <p>http://www.comicspriceguide.com/</p>	<p>A free online service which catalogues millions of titles. Browse by titles, issues or storyarc. Includes a grading guide.</p> <p>Registration required.</p>
<p>Comics Shop: The Fan's Guide to Comic Book Values </p> <p>Krause Publications, 2010 ISBN: 978-1440212833 RRP: £16.99</p>	<p>For novices thinking about selling off their collection or certain items, this is a good book for easing into the market. It has a detailed grading guide and explains current market trends.</p>
<p>Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide # 42 </p> <p>Gemstone Pub, 2012 ISBN: 978-1603601375 RRP: £18.75</p>	<p>The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide is the oldest serving and most reliable guide to comic pricing. Highly recommended.</p> <p>To be published, 30 July 2012.</p> <p>Available for pre-order at Amazon.</p>

SOFTWARE

Programs that enable digital cataloguing of your collection

Collectorz.com Comic Collector - Comic Book Database Software

<http://www.collectorz.com/comic>

Standard: £17.95

Pro: £29.95

Free 30-day trial included

A highly recommended, user-friendly cataloguing software with a myriad of features and functions:

- PC and Mac compatible
- Browsing, searching and sorting functions
- Smart editing functions
- Barcode scanner function
- Pro versions of the software allow uploading and sharing of your database online – a great way to meet potential buyers and sellers.



Android Marketplace



App Store

- *CLZ Comics Mobile App* – view your collection on your smartphone or tablet

ComicBase 15

<http://www.comicbase.com/>


Express: \$59.95

Pro: \$129.95

Archive: \$299.95



This software is built around a database of comics from the 1800s to the present. High quality but very pricey. There is a free version which can handle collections of up to 500 comics, and upgrades are substantially cheaper than buying a new version outright.

- Supports uploads to AtomicAvenue.com for the selling of your collection
- Price valuations
- Handles special edition comics
- Barcode scanner function

<p>ComicBookLover http://www.bitcartel.com/comicbooklover/</p> <p>\$24.95</p>	<p>Cataloguing software for digital comics. Mac users only. Allows the user to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create custom lists of their favourite comics • Bookmark pages • Import issues from ComicBookLover’s online library • Tag comics • View and search issue metadata <hr/> <p> App Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ComicBookLover</i> – view your collection on your smartphone or tablet
<p>Comic Collector Live http://www.comiccollectorlive.com/GetOrganized.aspx</p> <p>\$29.95 Free 30-day trial included</p>	<p>Software that deals not only with comics, but other collectibles. Installation is limited only to XP and Vista. Supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variant edition tracking • Wishlists • Buy or sell using the Comic Collector Live store • Gap view – automatically see the issues missing from your collection


ART


For comic collectors who also collect comic art

<p>Comic Art Shop </p> <p>http://www.comicartshop.com/</p>	<p>An excellent webstore that specialises in selling quality comic art originals. Regularly updated, with a dedicated eBay feed of their current auctions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must have premium membership to sell artworks. Annual fee is \$50.00.
<p>Comic Art Depot </p> <p>http://www.comicartdepot.com/</p>	<p>The Comic Art Depot has been going for a while now, and is respected in the community. Whilst it also sells comic books, it specialises in original art. Features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An art investors guide and resources An appraisal service A glossary of special terms Sell your art

VIDEOS

From tutorials to the guides to the latest in motion comics

<p>Comic Book Collecting Q&A http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RY6lWmdsao&feature=relmfu</p>	<p>A very useful video for beginners by a UK-based collector. The video addresses all the frequently-asked questions, from how to grade your comics, to which types of comics are likely to become money-spinners in the future.</p>
<p>How to sell your comic books – About.com  http://video.about.com/comicbooks/How-to-Sell-Comic-Books.htm</p>	<p>A simple and to-the-point guide of what you need to do if you plan to sell your comics.</p>
<p>Minutia Minute http://www.youtube.com/user/minutiaminute</p>	<p>High quality, weekly reviews on the latest comics. Very long and in-depth – not called ‘minutia’ minute for nothing.</p>

<p>Stadium Comics http://www.youtube.com/user/StadiumComics</p>	<p>The channel of a Toronto-based comic store that posts weekly reviews of the latest comics. Very in-depth, with knowledgeable contributors – recommended.</p>
<p>The Totally Rad Show  http://www.youtube.com/show/thetotallyradshow?</p>	<p>An online show which reviews TV shows, videogames and comics. There aren't many comic reviews at the moment, but the ones that are there are good quality and light-hearted.</p>

REFLECTIONS ON THIS GUIDE

The creation of this guide was a lesson in both information retrieval, information classification, and in the presentation of that information. The domain of comics is a difficult one to pin down, because whilst it deals with populist, seemingly typical 'every day' information, it is also considered a niche, hobbyist subject that is rather ill-defined, with current resources put together by mostly fans and amateurs. As far as is known, there is not yet a precedent for a comics user guide available.

Users come from all backgrounds, and all seem to have different needs. For example, there are the dedicated, serious collectors who often make a business out of buying and selling issues. Then there are those that hold onto their collection and hoard. Casual readers may dip in and out of the domain, reading a large amount for a few months, then buying nothing for years before they decide to wade back in. These users often find they have to play catch-up. Satisfying all these broad information needs is a challenge. This drove the need for a system of 'tagging' certain entries of the guide which would appeal to a certain kind of user – the experienced, the intermediate, and the beginner.

What soon became evident was the need to whittle down the vast amount of resources that were gathered for the collection. There were so many potential entries that were relevant that ultimately there was no space for. As such, a ruthless system of paring down was needed. This involved careful analysis of what information users would *really* be looking for and what they would really be interested in. So whilst graphic novel sections in book shops and libraries could have been added as a section, they would be of no real use to collectors as they could not be added to a collection.

Geographical resources, such as comic stores section, were a challenge to write. They involved knowledge of stores that I did not possess, and therefore the section in question was very London and the South-East-centric. A more 'professional' guide would need to be the work of several people, as this particular guide was limited mostly to the extent of my own knowledge of the domain. Therefore, the resources are more likely to be biased toward stores in a certain area, or blogs about a certain character, or so on. I tried to minimise this effect as much as was practicably possible.

It became increasingly clear in the writing of the guide that additional information was needed – information that would be of great importance to users. Thus, the idea of 'tagging' certain entries with icons was born. Users are particularly concerned with features that make

their search experience more efficient. They like to know when they can use Paypal, or shop through eBay, or get a smartphone app when they have the available technology or an appropriate account. Therefore, the pertinent icons were added to the resources that had access to such services, e.g. the official Marvel website has several mobile phone apps, so Android and App Store icons were added to the entry.

Presentation was also an issue at several points, and had to be changed often. Presenting information must be done in a logical order, yet in a manner that users find most useful and easy to understand. Knowledge of the domain is essential for this. For example, one resource may be classed both as a forum *and* a webstore – perhaps also as a blog, or a bricks-and-mortar shop. Under which section should it be placed? It is vital to know what the average user's perception of the resource is beforehand in order to make a sound judgement. The creator of the guide should ask him or herself how most people use the resource, and what they most often go to it for. This can be a complex task with resources that have multiple functions.

To sum up, creating an information resource guide is a challenge – an enjoyable one – but one that requires much forethought and planning. It is easy to see how they can become cluttered, illogical and irrelevant to users' information needs. Each entry must be succinct and easy to read, yet provide detail that is as rich as possible. Lastly, it must seek to be objective and unbiased. These are all hurdles that the information professional must pass successfully in order to create a reliable guide that is meaningful to its users.