Implied Consent

May 4, 2022

Title of the study: With Great Comics Comes Great Responsibility: Academic
                        Libraries and Comics Collection Development

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Invitation to Participate: You are invited to participate in this research study about acquisition and collection development of comics.

The literature on comics in libraries is a currently developing area but it rarely focuses on the collection development and acquisition elements, especially within academic libraries.. As you are a librarian who is responsible for acquisition and collection development, we would appreciate your opinion about how one acquires and develops comic book collections in university or college libraries.

Purpose of the Study: From this research we wish to gain an understanding of how librarians decide to acquire comic books and use them in their collections. Similarly, we want to know your understandings and perceptions of users' needs.

Participation: If you wish to participate in this study, please complete the survey using the survey link provided. The survey should take you approximately 15 minutes or less to complete. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. Once you have completed the survey, please submit the survey using the 'submit' option.

Benefits: The results of the survey may benefit the participants in that they will have an opportunity to learn how their academic colleagues think about the value and place of comic books in the libraries of postsecondary institutions.

Risks: The possible risks / discomfort are minimal, and you are free to not answer any or all of the survey questions; the survey is voluntary.

Confidentiality and Anonymity: As a participant, you have the right to decide whether or not you want to be identified in publications or presentations that we produce. If you choose not to be identified, then we will not identify you or your institution and instead use the Alberta government's classification system for higher education institutions at https://www.alberta.ca/types-publicly-funded-post-secondary-institutions.aspx

Your answers to the open-ended questions may be used verbatim in presentations and publications but neither you (nor your organization) will be identified.

Data Storage: Electronic copies of the survey will be encrypted and stored on a password protected computer in the department of Education at the University of Alberta.

Voluntary Participation: You are under no obligation to participate and if you choose to participate, you may refuse to answer questions that you do not want to answer. **Should you choose to withdraw midway through the electronic survey simply close the link, and your responses will be deleted.** Given the anonymous nature of the survey, once you have submitted your responses it will no longer be possible to withdraw them from the study.

Information about the Study Results: If you would like the results of the survey, please email the principal researcher indicating you would like a copy of the survey report at anuik@ualberta.ca

Contact Information: If you have any questions or require more information about the study itself, you may contact the researcher at anuik@ualberta.ca or the phone number mentioned above.

The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant or how the research is being conducted you may contact the Research Ethics Office at 780-492-2615 or by email at reoffice@ualberta.ca

If you would like to keep a copy of this form, please contact me at anuik@ualberta.ca and I will send a PDF of this form.

Completion and submission of the survey means your consent to participate.