Comics Archives in the UK

A survey

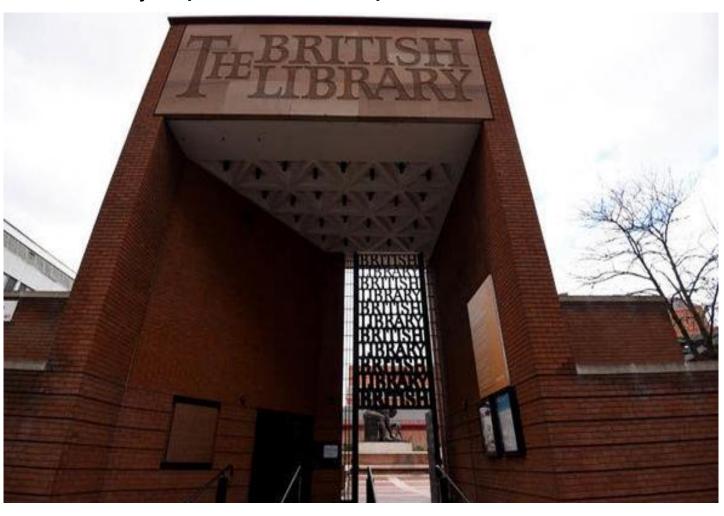
- A coherent government policy?
- Arrangements between institutions? Between producers and archives?
- A visible network?

Denis Gifford (1927-2000)

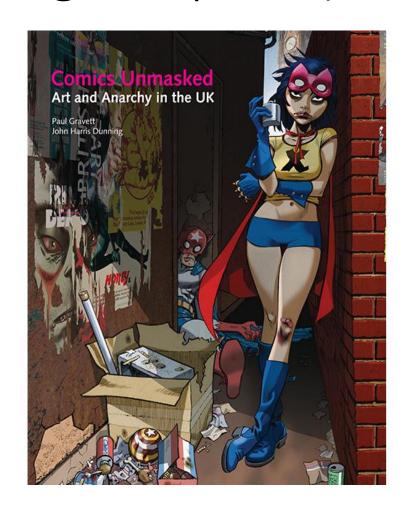


National archives

British Library (London)



British, underground and 'world'. ('Legal deposit')





National Art Library (London)



Paolozzi Collection, Rakoff Collection and others

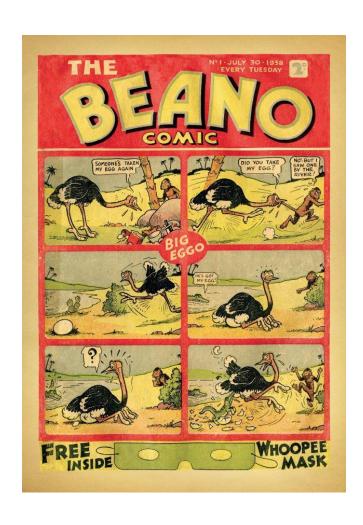


Regional archives

Public libraries in Cardiff, Belfast, Glasgow, Exeter, Norwich, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, etc.

Often 'special collections' of children's literature.

Dundee? A 'national gallery of comics' - but which nation?





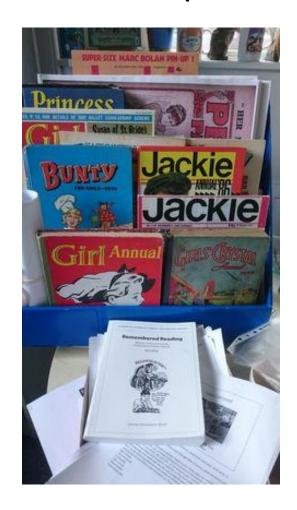
University collections

University of the Arts London 'Coleman Collection' (and others)

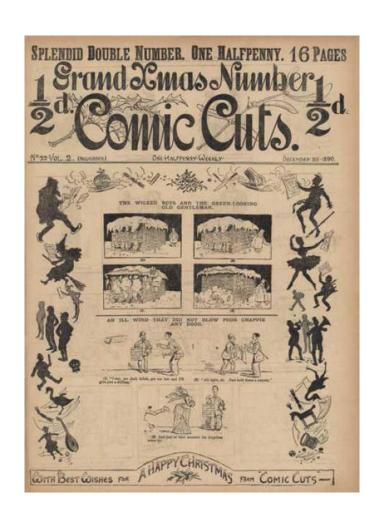




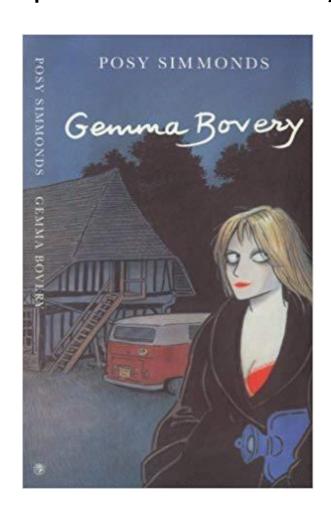
Liverpool John Moore's University 'Femorabilia' Collection (and others)

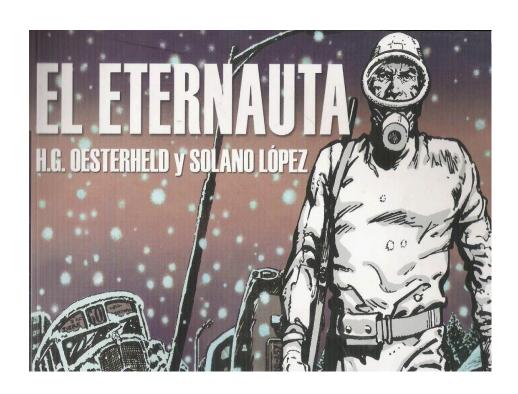


Bodleian Library, University of Oxford



Cardiff University 'Comics and Graphic Novels Collection' (includes the 'Santander Collection of Hispanic Comics')





'Radical'/political collections

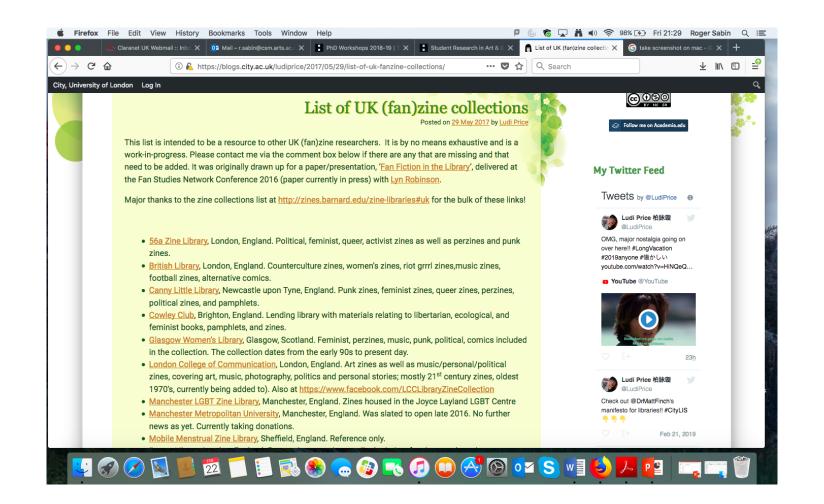
Bishopsgate Institute (London)



Clifford Harper Archive



Fanzine libraries and archives



Specialist archives that happen to contain comics

Bill Douglas Cinema Museum (Exeter)





No. 643.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN, KING OF THE KINEMA.

July 24, 1926.



1. Dear Lassies and Lads,—A friend introduced me to the Mayor of Barnacle Bay t'other day, and the Mayor introduced me to a soft job. Now, soft jobs are hard to get, so I grabbed it and the broom and paper prodder with both hands. "Make yourself useful on the beach!" said the Mayor pleasantly.



2. And there I was, prodding about on the beach, picking up bits of lunch wrappings and keeping my peepers pecled for stray pound notes, when along galloped the Kid, cuddling a nice ice-cream cornet. "Hallo! Business is picking up, I see!" said the Kid. "Just look what I've got, Charlie!"



3. But, like the conscientious son of toil I am, I was paying too much attention to my job to hear what the Kid said, and, bother my braces, if I didn't trip the little fellow up with my prodder. My! He was upset, and so was I, when I saw where that ice-cream cornet landed—right on an old gent's face!







Online archives

Publishers, digitization projects, etc.



The future

An active academia Questions include:

- What to collect?
- Inclusivity?
- Avoiding or co-opting a canon? ('Graphic novels' as a distraction.)
- Preservation/ensuring permanence (archives tied to individuals)
- 'Emerging formats' and future-proofing a system

Major bid (2017) rejected.

One success story:

British Library / University of the Arts London

Funded PhD

The research theme

This PhD will focus on content policy: the questions that shape decisions taken by cultural institutions in building digital collections. Your research will look at cultural and social, as well as technological, factors that influence what libraries collect and how they build and make available collections. This will include:

- * Research into definitions for digital comics and web comics, taking into account the differences between digital comics. For example, comics that are adaptive, hypertextual, interactive, multimedia, motion-based and experimental, as well as more conventional examples;
- * An analysis of how form and features interact with (and influence) subject matter, and how this reflects social and cultural change; and
- * Research into practice across different cultural institutions, including how ethical questions raised by the content of digital comics are resolved.

Finally... the new Gifford?



'Heritage Lottery Bid'





Thank you.