

Glendale College Library Information Competency Workshops

Searching Online Catalogs

Exercise I: Answer the questions below by using the GCC Library Online Catalog.

1. You are looking for books about **graphic novels**. Graphic novels are very similar to **comic books**.

How many results does each term retrieve when you search for it?

graphic novels: _____ comic books: _____

2. You are writing an essay which will argue that graphic novels are a great form of art and literature. You reason that books of criticism about graphic novels and books about their history will help you to make a strong case in your essay. Search for books in the GCC Library that might help you to make your argument. What words did you type into the search box/boxes?

How many **relevant** records did your search retrieve? _____

Write down the title of the book that looks most promising to you:

3. You would like to use a quotation from ***Watchmen***, one of your favorite graphic novels, in your essay, but a friend borrowed your copy of the book and her dog ate it. Fortunately the GCC Library has a copy of the book.

Where in the library will you find it?

What is the call number for the book?

Is the book currently available? _____

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Exercise II: Answer the questions below, but this time use a different library's catalog. Compare each search in the new catalog with the search you did in GCC's Catalog. How are the catalogs similar? How are they different? Begin with the catalog assigned to you. Try the other catalogs if you have enough time. You can connect to the other libraries from the **Find Books in Other Libraries** link on the GCC Library home page.

	Pasadena City College Library	CSU Los Angeles Library	Los Angeles Public Library
You are looking for books about graphic novels. Graphic novels are very similar to comic books . How many results does each term retrieve?	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog:	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog
You are writing an essay which will argue that graphic novels are a great form of art and literature. You reason that books of criticism about graphic novels and books about their history would help you to make a strong case. How many relevant records did your search retrieve?	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog:	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog:	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog:
Does this library have a copy of Watchmen ?	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog:	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog:	Answer: Compare to GCC's catalog: