



Jul 27th, 11:00 AM - Jul 28th, 4:00 PM

## Heroes In the Archives and Classroom: The Creation of a Comic Book Collection and Digital Exhibit

Jennifer A. Shaw  
shawx186@umn.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://pubs.lib.umn.edu/minnesota-elearning-summit>

---

Jennifer A. Shaw, "Heroes In the Archives and Classroom: The Creation of a Comic Book Collection and Digital Exhibit" (July 27, 2016). *Minnesota eLearning Summit*. Paper 82.  
<http://pubs.lib.umn.edu/minnesota-elearning-summit/2016/program/82>

The Minnesota eLearning Summit conference proceedings are produced by the University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing. Authors retain ownership of their presentation materials. These materials are protected under copyright and should not be used without permission unless otherwise noted.



# Heroes In the Archives and Classroom: The Creation of a Comic Book Collection and Digital Exhibit

By Jennifer Shaw



## Why are there comic books in the U of MN Archives?

Archives are repositories for unique historical records and not a place you usually find mass produced items. But comics, comic books, and graphic novels were mass produced, sold nationwide, and usually marketed to children. Mainstream comic books told stories about heroes conquering evil.

These stories were often based around identifying and solving social problems. The heroes of these stories were role models whose morality was unquestionable. The Children's Literature Research Collection at the University of Minnesota believes that their production and intended market are what give them value, as well as entertainment, to patrons.

## Are All Superheroes Straight White Men? The Borger Comic Book Exhibit

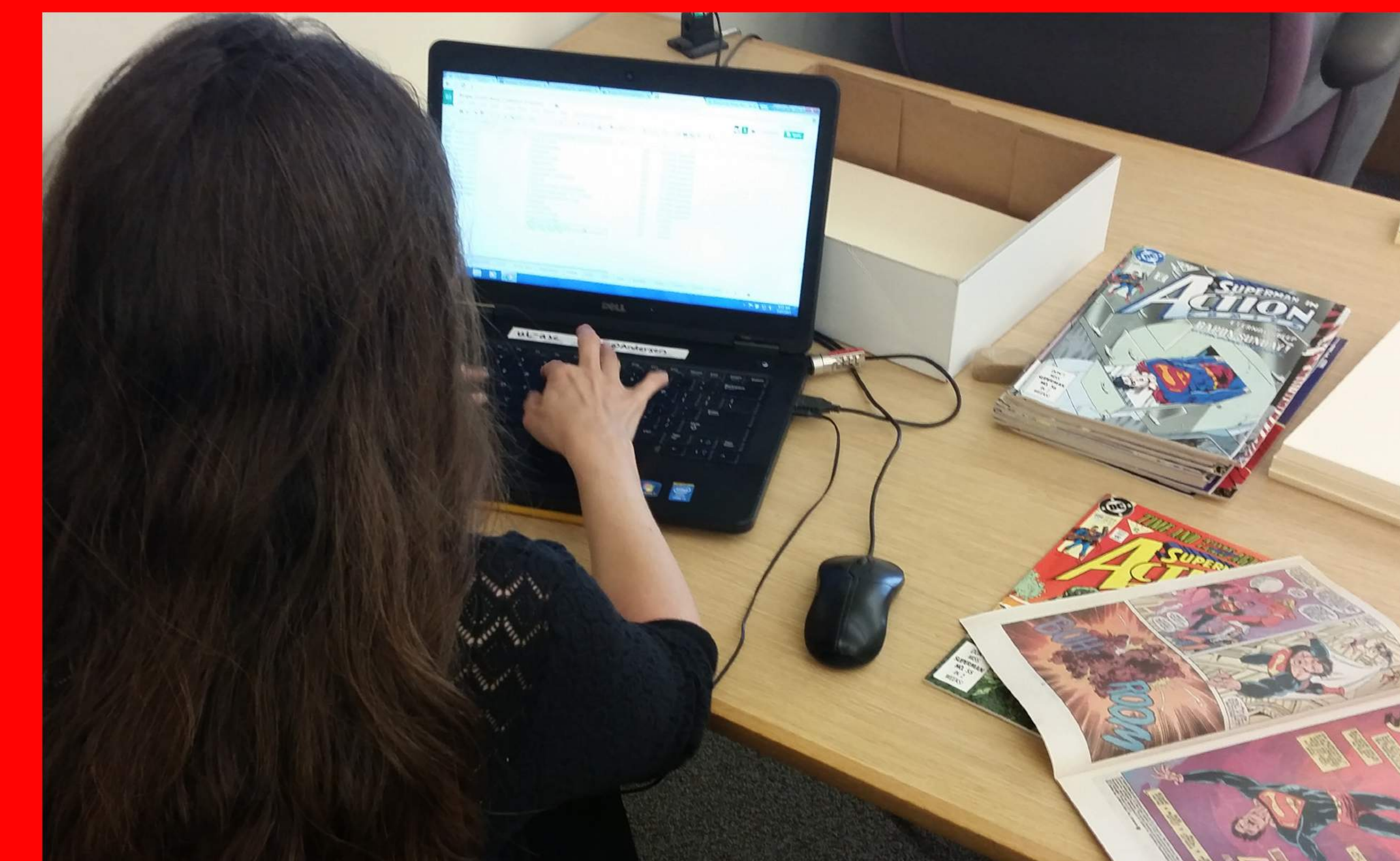
This digital exhibit of the Borger Comic Book Collection created using the content authoring tool Omeka. The Exhibit is intended to aid teachers who wish to use comic books as a teaching aid in their classrooms to show the prevailing public opinions and how they changed over time. The exhibit will showcase examples of themes in the comic books with short text examining representations of underserved populations in comic books and their implications. The Exhibit currently focuses on five themes from comic books pertaining to five underserved populations depicted in mainstream American comic books. There will be twenty five images in total highlighting how one character from each population is affected by each of the themes.

### Populations:

Women  
LGBTQ  
Asian  
Black  
Native American

### Themes:

Stereotypes  
Leadership  
Costumes  
Powers  
Tokenism



## John Philip Borger Comic Book Collection:

John Philip Borger Comic Book Collection houses over 43,000 comic books and includes over 300 linear feet of graphic novels, periodicals and ephemera, and it is still growing!

Mr. Borger began collecting comic books in the 1960s and the Borger Collection contains mainstream comic books ranging from the 1940s to the present day, as well as, comic books from independent publishers.

The Borger Exhibit only includes a fraction of the diverse characters and stories. The Children's Literature Research Collection is a teaching collection, it is free and open to the public, thanks to Mr. Borger's generous gift and the Children's Literature Research Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries.