Comics and Medicine: Building Collections and Raising Awareness

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Library Collection

The Lamar Soutter Library began a Graphic Medicine collection in August of 2016 and it has continued to grow, both in size and popularity. Dr. Ian Williams’ The Bad Doctor, a memoir about a physician with OCD, and Allie Brosh’s Hyperbole and a Half, stories about life with depression, are among the most popular titles.

Educational Opportunities

On December 5, 2016 the NNLM/NER and LSL hosted James Sturm, Director of the Center for Cartoon Studies. James spoke on Graphic Medicine, focusing on a CCS partnership with White River Junction VA. An anthology of comics from this partnership is available in the Lamar Soutter Library.

On March 7th, 2017, a webinar titled “Introduction to Graphic Medicine” will be sponsored by the NNLM/NER. This will be an introduction to the field with a focus on librarianship and medical education. Register using the QR code above!

Beginning in June 2017, UMMS students can take an FCE on Graphic Medicine and Health Literacy!

Book Club Kits

Launching on March 7th – Graphic Medicine Book Club Kits! Sponsored by the NNLM/NER, these kits will be borrowable by any organization in New England.

Each kit will include 6 copies of a graphic novel, book club questions, and evidence-based information from MedlinePlus!

Research & Outreach Initiatives

Matthew Noe, with Len Levin and Suzana Makowski, were awarded a Mapping the Landscape grant to conduct a scoping review of the literature on Graphic Medicine to explore current uses and potential impacts of comics in medicine.

With a focus on health literacy, the NNLM/NER has designated Graphic Medicine as a special initiative. Through this initiative, Matthew will travel the region to conduct outreach and education on the uses of comics in medicine, with a focus on educating medical librarians.

A collection of resource lists are in-progress to aid in discovery of Graphic Medicine titles and research.

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