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# Graphic Medicine in the Library: An Educational Outreach Program

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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. The collection now includes more than 65 unique titles. This collection is one of few available to our public patrons.

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.



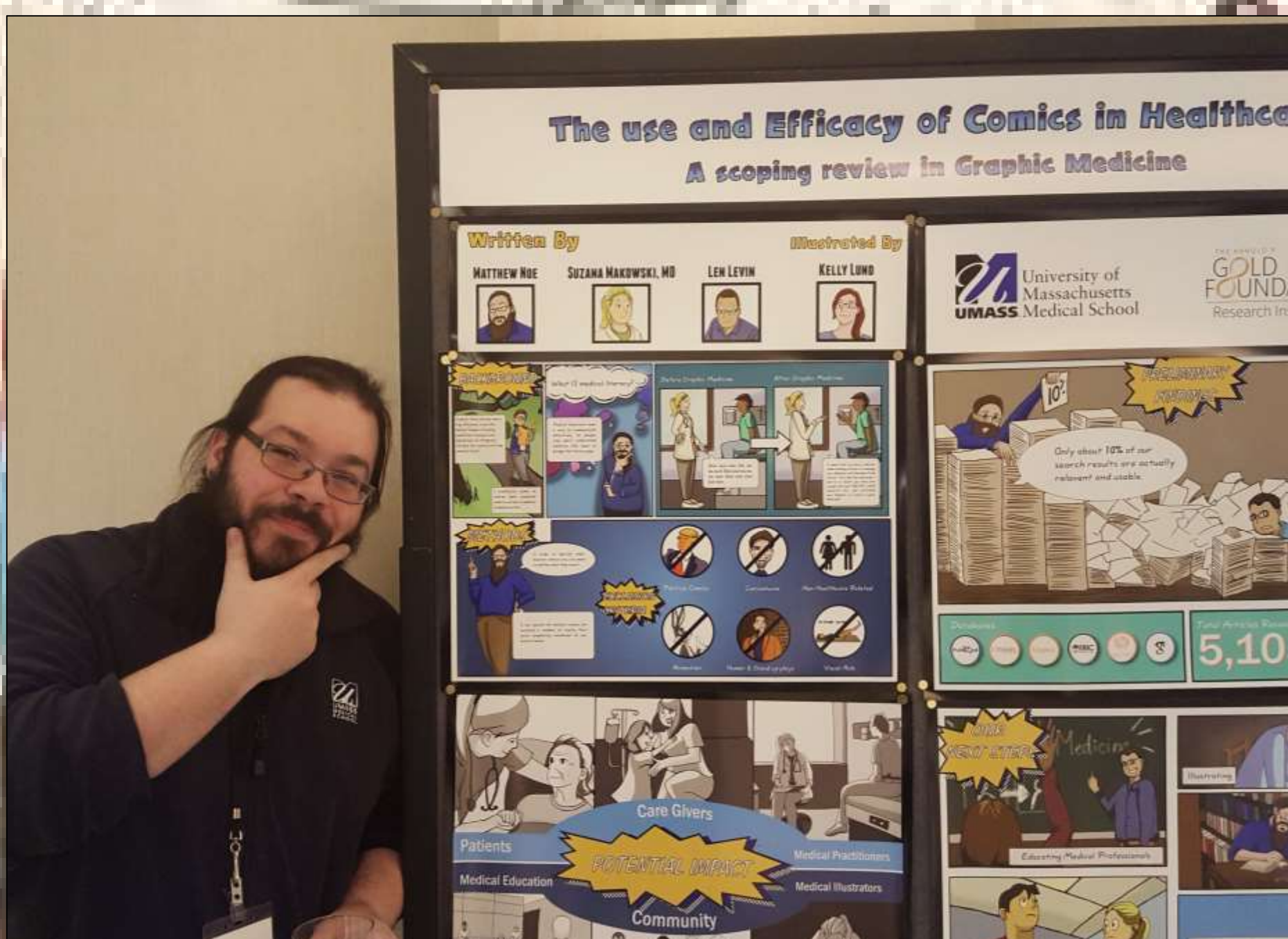
LSL collection and a marketing illustrated by LSL Library Fellow, Tess Grynoch.

## Educational Opportunities

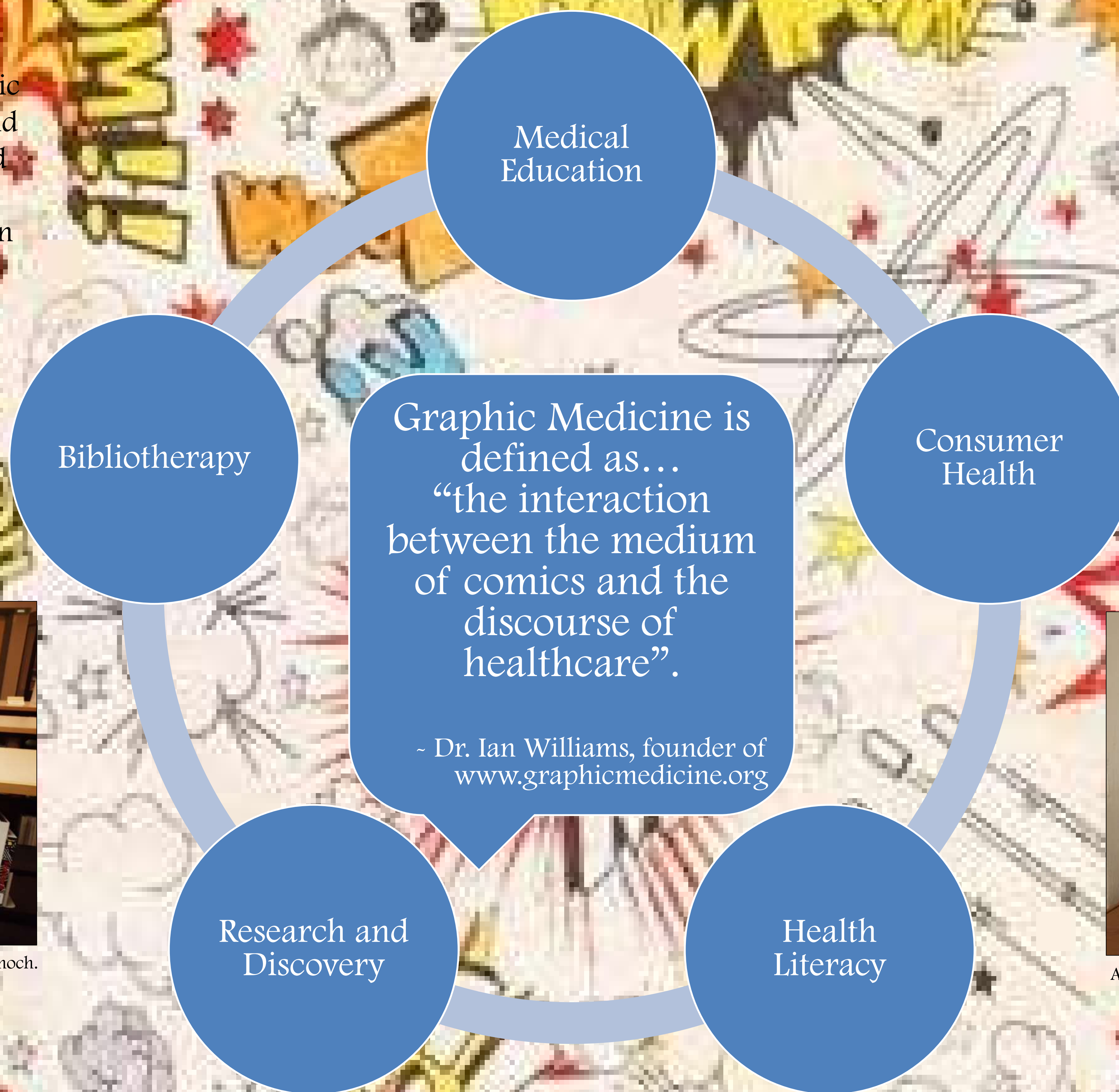
In December 2016 the NNLM/NER and LSL hosted James Sturm, Director of the Center for Cartoon Studies. James spoke on Graphic Medicine, focusing on a CCS partnership with White River Junction VA.

In March 2017, the NNLM/NER sponsored a webinar titled "Introduction to Graphic Medicine" – which drew in more than 100 live-participants.

Beginning in June 2017, UMMS students can take a week-long, intensive course on Graphic Medicine and Health Literacy!



Matthew presenting at the 2017 Gold Foundation Mapping the Landscape Symposium. Poster's illustrated by Kelly Lund.



## Book Club Kits

Launched in March 2017, the NNLM/NER is now lending Graphic Medicine Book Club Kits to the region. Designed to be appropriate for a variety of settings – from medical school to public libraries – these kits are a convenient, free way for organizations to test-drive graphic medicine.

Each kit includes 6 copies of a graphic novel, discussion questions, an introduction to reading comics, and evidence-based consumer health information.



A selection of the Graphic Medicine titles to be included in the book club kits!

## 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.

### Graphic Medicine Book Club Kit

NIH | NNLM | NNLM [nml.gov/ner/kits](http://nml.gov/ner/kits)

Graphic medicine is the combination of comics and healthcare. Comics help with understanding illness and health.

How kits work

1. Pick a health comic
2. You receive a kit in the mail
3. Read and learn together!

These kits are available to any organization in New England for free.

**Kits include:**  
6 Graphic Novels  
Discussion guides with questions  
Valuable NLM resources on the selected topic

Questions? [Matthew.No@umassmed.edu](mailto:Matthew.No@umassmed.edu)  
Graphic Medicine Specialist

Left: Marketing flyer for the NNLM/NER Book Kit program; Top Right: Marketing for talk with James Sturm; Bottom Right: A sketch-panel from James Sturm's work in Graphic Medicine

## The Graphic Librarian

[www.graphiclibrarian.wordpress.com](http://www.graphiclibrarian.wordpress.com)

A home base for curating information on Graphic Medicine, including a categorized book list, social media directory, and a weekly update capturing news, webcomics, social media posts, research, and more. In essence, a living, multifaceted bibliography.

Illustration of Research Findings, Kelly Lund

## Acknowledgements

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