Graphic Medicine in the Library: An Educational Outreach Program

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Graphic Medicine is defined as… “the interaction between the medium of comics and the discourse of healthcare”.

- Dr. Ian Williams, founder of www.graphicmedicine.org

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 60 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.

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—the 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.

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.

The Graphic Librarian
www.graphiclibrarian.wordpress.com

A home base for curating information on Graphic Medicine, including 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.