

Seduction of the Innocent

**Bringing UMBC's hidden
comic book collection into the light**

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- **6,000+ Comic books and graphic novels**
- **Books about comic book art and culture**
- **Original Art**



The UMBC Comics Collection

- **UMBC was founded in 1966**
- **The early Special Collections mission: collecting the uncollected**
- **Science Fiction**
 - **Pulp magazines**
 - **Novels**
 - **Fanzines**
- **With the science fiction came the comic books!**

Why Comic Books?



The Hidden Collection

- Originally catalogued as individual books
- Re-catalogued using ANSI/NISO Z39.71 2006 (R2011) standards



Action Comics
#415



Action Comics
#416



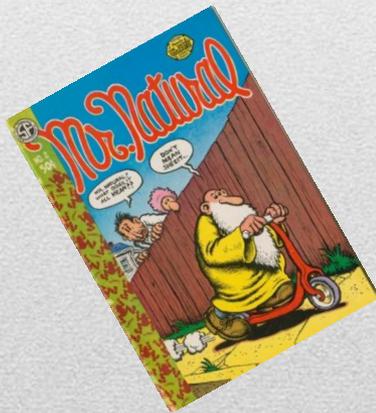
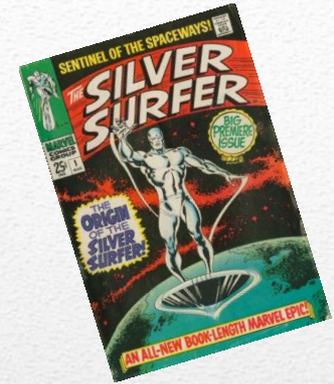
Action Comics
#417

Project One: Re-Cataloguing

- **Wrong volume number**
- **No volume number**
- **Wrong issue number**
- **No issue number**
- **Nonsensical issue number**
- **Torn out splash page**
- **No cover**
- **Change of publisher**
- **Title change**
- **Issue number reset**
- **Volume number reset**
- **Variant covers**
- **Free hand-out issues**
- **Magazine vs. comic book**
- **Spinoffs**
- **Giant-Size collections**

They Don't Want to be Catalogued!

- Seeing the collection as a whole
- Adult view of children's culture
- Definitely not just ephemera



It's no archive, but...

- **Understanding relevant cultural themes**
- **Finding passion**
- **Showing the relevance of popular culture**

“You Must be in Love With Your Subject”

- **Listening**
- **Expand your own idea of what is exhibit-worthy**
- **Provoking a reluctant academic community**

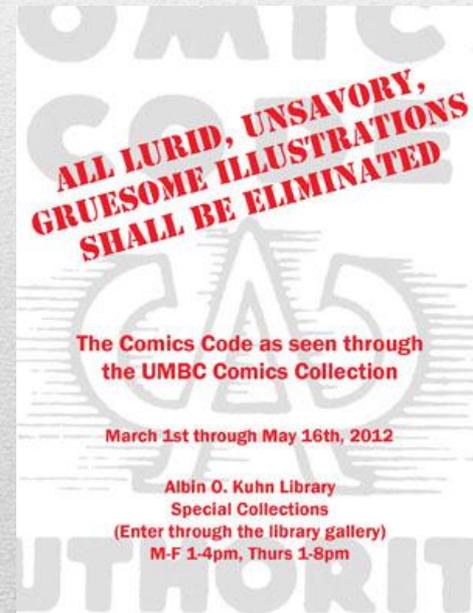
“And in Tune With Your Fellow Man”

- **Colleagues receptive to new ideas**
- **Staff willingness to trust students**
- **Engaging faculty**

Shared Authority

- **Outreach to the wider community**
- **Meeting the audience where they are**
- **Acknowledging rules as barriers**
- **FOOD.**

Invitation



- **Teasing out a theme**
 - **The Comics Code**
- **Doing the research**
 - **Fredric Wertham, Senate hearings, modern reinterpretation**



Putting on a show



The Collection Revealed

- **Making use of Online Resources**
- **Plain old publicity**
- **Closing lecture**

Spreading the Word

- **Increased foot traffic**
- **Better collaboration with faculty**
- **Raising the profile of Special Collections**

What's it all for?

- **Wertham, Fredric. *Seduction of the Innocent*. New York: Reinhart & Company, Inc, 1954.**
- **Hajdu, David. *The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic-Book Scare and How it Changed America*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.**
- **Nyberg, Amy Kiste. *Seal of Approval: History of the Comics Code*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1998**
- **Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. www.cbldf.org**
- **Comics Vine. www.comicvine.com**

Recommended Sources
