



**OFFICE OF FILM
& LITERATURE
CLASSIFICATION**

Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tubituhinga

Information Sheet for LIANZA 2009

Graphic Novels

Target audiences

As many librarians are aware, graphic novels tend to deal with adult themes, and in some cases include depictions of sexual activity. It is important to remember that the target audience of the majority of graphic novels is adults aged 18-30, not children. For this reason, the Office advises libraries not to shelve or display graphic novels in or near to their children's section.

Restricted graphic novels

Graphic novels which have been given a restricted classification should be managed in the same way as other restricted books. The restriction means that it is illegal to supply the graphic novel to an underage person.

The 2005 amendments to the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 mean that all books, including graphic novels, classified from 2005 onwards must carry an official New Zealand classification label. Library staff should be aware of the meanings of classifications and what to do to ensure that restrictions are not breached.

Submitting a graphic novel for classification

If you have concerns about the content of a graphic novel and would like to submit it for classification, you can do so under section 13(1)(c) of the Classification Act. This involves writing to the Chief Censor to seek leave to have the graphic novel classified and outlining your reasons for wanting a classification, supplying a copy of the graphic novel if possible, and paying a fee of \$25. This fee is refunded if leave is not granted.

Recent graphic novels classified by the Office of Film and Literature Classification which must have an official New Zealand classification label:

- *Chobits v.1* - R13
- *Chobits v.2* - R13
- *100 Most Infamous Criminals* - R13
- *Ghost World* - R16 Contains offensive language and sexual themes
- *The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen Volume II* - R13 Contains violence and sex scenes

You can search for classifications on graphic novels using the NZ Censorship Decisions Database, available through the home page of our website. Graphic novels are included in the Restricted Books spreadsheet which is sent out with the library newsletter. This list is also available in the Libraries section of our website.

Contact information

For more information on the classification of graphic novels, or to be added to the newsletter mailing list, contact the Information Unit:

Freephone: 0508 CENSOR (236 767)

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Email: information@censorship.govt.nz

Website: www.censorship.govt.nz