City Research Online:  http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/  publications@city.ac.uk
Funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), this collaborative doctoral partnership (CDP) sought to integrate digital humanities areas of interest and methods with those of user-centred research in order to offer an opportunity for a PhD researcher to engage with comics publishers, as well as readers, to gain new insights into the motivation, methods, and behaviour in creating, distributing, collecting, and reading digital comics...

... I talked to my teammates about their experience collaborating in this project and how it related to its topic!

‘Collaborative’ speaks to the partnership between two institutions: City, University of London, and the British Library. The positives included a network of support from the supervisors and beyond. It also meant being able to draw from multidisciplinary expertise. Digital technology has created an environment of immediacy. In research collaboration, for instance writing papers, this can be a benefit: responses, feedback, and revision can be communicated quickly...

... I’ve learned a lot about how readers engage with digital comics. The UK Web Archive will help us support discovery and access to webcomics and if the two institutions had not joined forces none of this would’ve been possible!

Digital comics as a concept can be hard to communicate. Creating a definition for digital comics, and further, UK digital comics, was an initial challenge that was addressed early on, once the student had started. Sharing and refining this definition by the whole team was important. An early insight, from the interviews with creators and publishers, highlighted the strong links between print and digital in publishing - in many cases, even when comics were being published as digital only, the creator was also envisaging a print publication. Self-publishing has had a significant impact on the way comics are created, produced, and read. The theme of reader behaviour around digital comics was developed further through an extended research project made possible by the AHRC Student Development Fund, focusing on the UK Web Archive.

For full references and to download this poster, please go to https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.22717675

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