You are asked to write a research paper on the following topic:

**How do superhero and comic book narratives—such as Wonder Woman, Captain America, or the X-Men—reflect social challenges in American history?**

Your professor wants you to find books that address the history of superheroes and comic books in the United States, especially criticism and analysis of how they provide commentary on our society and culture. You also want to read some actual comic books, to decide for yourself if and how they deal with real-life issues.

**Exercise I:** Answer the questions below by using the GCC Library’s online catalog. Go to the GCC Library homepage, then click “Catalog.”

1. You are looking for books about “superheroes” and/or “comic books”. Type these terms into the search box, and note below: How many results does the catalog retrieve for each term?

   comic books: ___________________  superheroes: ___________________

2. Add another search term in the search box. Look for “comic books” and “history”, or for “superheroes” and “history”. Now how many results does the catalog find? By adding another search term, did you find more books, or fewer books? __________________________

3. Search for “superheroes” as your only search term, and look through the first page of results. Choose one book that looks useful for the research topic. Click the title of the book and note the following about it...

   The book’s **Title:** _______________________________________________________________

   The book’s **Subjects:** _______________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________

   The book’s **Location:** _______________________________________________________________

   The book’s **Call Number:** _______________________________________________________________


   Is this book available at the GCC Library? ______________________________

   If yes, what is the Location and Call Number? ______________________________

5. You want to find a Wonder Woman or Captain America comic book to read for yourself. Search for “Wonder Woman” or “Captain America” as the **Title Keyword** (instead of **Keyword Anywhere**).

   Does the GCC Library have a Wonder Woman or Captain America comic book? __________

   If yes, what is the Location and Call Number? ______________________________
You’d like more information before you start to write the research paper, so you decide to check the Los Angeles Public Library, which has over 70 library branches spread throughout the city of Los Angeles, and which offers a free library card to anyone who can show proof of California residency.

**Exercise II:** Answer the questions below by using the Los Angeles Public Library’s online catalog. Go to [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org) and look for the option to “Search the LAPL Catalog.”

6. You are looking for books about “superheroes” and/or “comic books”. Type these terms into the search box, and note below: How many results does the catalog retrieve for each term?

   comic books: ___________________  superheroes: ___________________

7. Add another search term in the search box. Look for “comic books” and “history”, or for “superheroes” and “history”. Now how many results does the catalog find? By adding another search term, did you find more books, or fewer books? ____________________________

8. Search for “superheroes” as your only search term, and look through the first page of results. Choose one book that looks useful for the research topic. Click the title of the book and note the following about it…

   - The book’s **Title**: _____________________________________________
   - The book’s **Subjects**: ___________________________________________
   - The book’s **Location**: ___________________________________________
   - The book’s **Call Number**: _______________________________________


   Is this book available at the Los Angeles Public Library? _____________________________
   If yes, what is the Location and Call Number? _______________________________________

10. You want to check if this library has a Wonder Woman or Captain America comic book to read for yourself. Use the Advanced search option to look for “Wonder Woman” or “Captain America” as the **Title**.

    Does the Los Angeles Public Library have a Wonder Woman or Captain America comic book? __________
    If yes, what is the Location and Call Number? _______________________________________

11. Describe one difference you noticed between what is available at the GCC Library and what is available at the Los Angeles Public Library. Which catalog did you like better, and why?

   ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________