Internet Archive Comic Books and Graphic Novels

Description: essentially a category page within the wider Internet Archive, a non-profit initiative that has been building a free digital library of internet sites and cultural artifacts in digital form since 1996. The comic books category page is one of hundreds which is used to organize the information collected by IA and uploaded by its users, and part of the more than 38 million books and texts it holds.

Tech:

* Metadata schema is based on DC w/ ability to add any key/value pair to make searchable in engine (<http://blog.archive.org/2011/03/31/how-archive-org-items-are-structured/>)
* Includes read aloud functionality (based on OCR?)
* OCR does allow to grab text from drawn pages with hover cursor changes to indicate text

Positives:

* About page detailing creator of category, contributors, and stats for views, items uploaded, regions accessing content, and collection (category) metadata (identifiers, language, mediatype, filters).
* Same as above applies to item pages with more metadata details on OCR / scanning process.
* Scanning is generally of good quality and the IA’s built in reader makes it easy to view content in browser.
* Multiple download options for formats, from text / pdf files to OCR and torrent files.
* Collection page has a set of basic filters for media types, publishers, years, topics etc…
* Metadata powers recommendation system.
* Collection is international, allows inclusion of other collections (for specific comics/publishers)
* Review functionality

Negatives:

* About pages for collections sometimes lack textual information, often limited to one line when it’s a top level collection like comics.
* Non comics/graphic related material included in collection, likely due to open access. It’s an open library, so it’s messy.
* Styling across the entire IA site limits the possibilities of what could be done for specific types of assets.