

Comics Workflow

In no way trying to automate all of this right now just trying to give you an idea of what we do and what I think we could do better. I'm also wondering if we are just making too much work for ourselves because I'm pretty confident most of the people doing this are not putting in this much effort. Also any ideas for any of the steps would be just as helpful as brainstorming a program

Inventory

- Scan/Enter all books into CLZ app

- Utilize several Fields

 - Unique Index # - we're not utilizing this well currently

 - Purchase Store - our name for the lots

 - Storage Box - how we physically locate the comic and make it easier to organize sales. Usually theme (X-Men, Star Wars) or price (\$1,\$2,\$5)

 - Condition - Usually more effort than it is worth to do in the app

 - Notes -

 - Tag -

 - Covrprice - Sales estimating service, usually gives us a ballpark

Pictures

- \$1,\$2 books

 - Not worth posting or selling individually. Take pics in grids of 4 books in bag.

- Roughly every other sale depending on how many books sell

- \$5 books

 - Individual pic of book outside of bag

- \$10+ books

 - Individual pic of book outside of bag front and back and any significant damage.

Also record condition which the fastest way has been to just take an additional picture. We made a little gauge that you can just indicate the condition and place that next to a book in a picture that is for our use only and does not get posted

- Sets

 - Typically one big spread, maybe a few grids, and if there are bigger keys

- individual pics of those

This is where I think the most improvement could be made to our process. Being able to link the pictures of a book to the individual book in clz would prevent us from having to retake stuff. I think using the Index # would be best. Each index # could link to a folder with the pics for that book. Could have multiple pictures per index # or multiple index #s per picture

Sales

- Facebook

 - Consists of a massive thread where we post a picture with a description, and people will purchase in the comments for each individual picture (or for a grid reference the books A, B, C, or D)

If we decide to sell Star Wars books, CLZ can be filtered for those books then export a .csv file

.CSV -> Google Sheet

Sheet concatenates relevant information into a description to be copied into facebook post usually something like:

SeriesName #IssueNumber (VariantInformation) - Condition \$Price

Getting the pictures to line up with the sheet number is sometimes a struggle. Most of the time we just take the pictures in alphabetical order so that the timestamps just sort them correctly. This sucks for combining old books because now the timestamps are out of order. So you could rename pictures or make sure the line items are numbered in the order that you want them posted. If we were using the index numbers and could highlight a column of all index numbers, dump that into a program, that then spits out the first picture in the linked folder that would save a ridiculous amount of time

Potentially an overlay with the Facebook grid pattern or being able to put a price in the corner would be sick as well

Or for individual books putting the description and price along the top or bottom

Then at that point we could essentially dump in a spreadsheet sorted by index# and it could prep all the sales pics for us by grabbing the price, putting the grid on, or adding the description

Most of the other issues are due to facebook being facebook and I'm not seeing a way to improve that currently

When a book sells, add buyer to buyer list and mark in sheet. There is a checkout sheet that helps us automate the invoice somewhat

Ebay/Mercari

\$10+ books and sets are a priority, then \$5 books if there is time/space

Usually just copy highest selling recent post and add our line item description into a template

Post all pics for the item

Individual sales with an easily accessible history

In person

Keeping track of books sold was a big hurdle

For our current inventory it doesn't make sense to go back and retroactively put on barcodes or qr codes. But if we were doing that as new books came in when we have to handle them anyway it would not be that big of a deal to help with linking pictures to an item #

While doing live stuff would be cool it could just be that a phone reads in a bunch of strings and saves them for later to lookup on a pc along with a total price for that customer

Bookkeeping

Facebook

Sucks for this also. Move info from our active sales sheet to a sales tracking sheet so we can see what was made on each lot. Trying to record \$5 and up individually, then just say 48x bulk books at \$56 or whatever it comes out to be

Ebay/Mercari

Quick mostly because they are individual sales

Individual

Sucked for this trying to keep track of all the books and what was paid