

# ComicRack Manual

» 6th Edition July 2013

The Official companion to the ComicRack software

for ComicRack  
0.9.171 & beyond



## Also inside

The default user interface  
& all the basics

**P11 »**

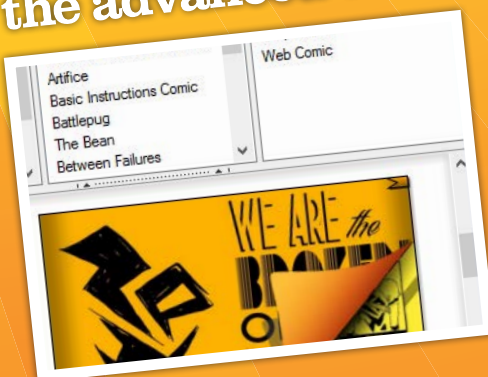
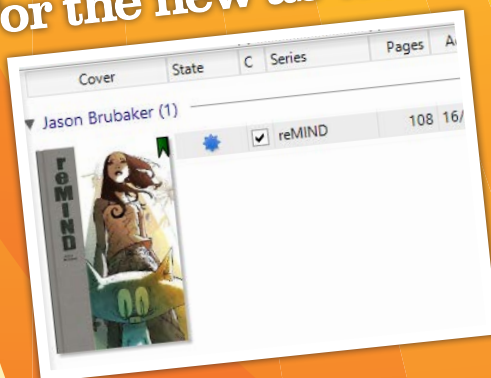
New optional tabs (the  
Catalog & Custom tabs) in  
the Info Panel

**P57 »**

Recommended scripts, and  
the Editor's choice awards  
by the ComicRack team!

**P72 »**

A complete training package  
Full-color, step-by-step, instructional book  
For the new as well as the advanced user





# Preface to the 6th edition of the Manual

"The 6th edition of the ComicRack Manual is before you. This ends a gap of almost 2 years from the preceding edition. We experienced more than 25 builds of ComicRack during this period.

The past 2 years have seen the release of ComicRack apps for Android & iOS (for which we have separate manuals and shall not be discussed anymore). ComicRack for Windows also had a very eventful journey. Notable changes were new metadata fields, multi-click stacks/groups, query language for smart lists, and support for custom fields & shared databases. A large number of new (and very good) scripts were developed. When I sat down to write the scripts chapter, I realised that the scripts are so complicated that they deserve to have manuals & wikis of their own, and hence have limited myself to just providing the reader with overviews.

As I said last time, there is no end to explaining things, and increasing the number of pages with every edition just for the heck of 'detailed' explanation is not worthwhile. So, I have managed to 'trim' the manual to 100 pages (compare with the 179 pages of the 5th edition!). With this edition, I've also merged the 'Tips & Tricks' manual (never mind if you never heard of it!).

The preface will not be complete without me thanking my dear friend kenjio, also a senior member of the ComicRack team. He has 'beta-tested' this edition, giving me his valuable

suggestions & proof-reading the words. May you always stay happy, my friend!

I shall never forget to thank cYo for his ultimate vision of the best comic reading and managing software ever created, and the geniuses at Adobe, for making InDesign, Acrobat, and Illustrator, my tools for creating this humble manual.

Old readers will see a radical change in design of the manual.

Hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed making it!"



-600WPMPO

18 July 2013

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The ComicRack Manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition, July 2013

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# Chapter 01: Introduction

Are you new to ComicRack? This chapter introduces you to the world of eComics & ComicRack. Welcome aboard!

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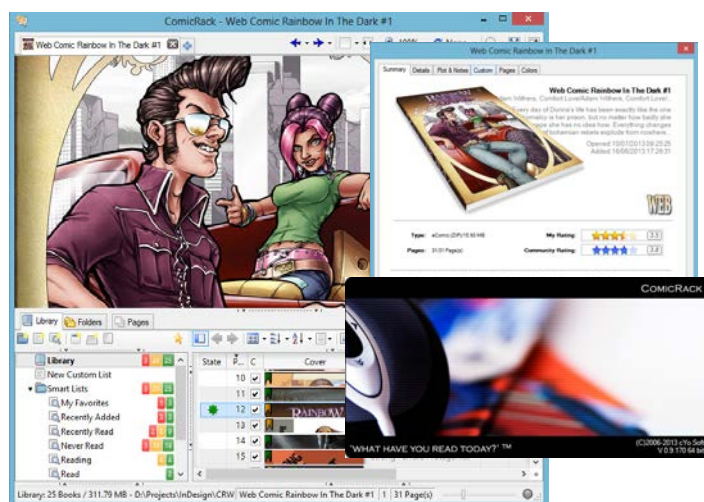




# What is ComicRack?

ComicRack is the best eComic reader and manager for Windows computers. It is an all-in-one solution to read and manage your comic book library. It is actively maintained, has a strong user base and is FREE.

ComicRack uses Comic Book Archive files, which have the extension **.CBR** or **.CBZ** and are simply renamed RAR or ZIP files, respectively. Apart from the standard CBR & CBZ formats, ComicRack supports various other file formats also including **PDF**, **CB7(7z)**, **CBT(TAR)**, **DJVU**, and may add further formats in the future.



## System Requirements

- **Supported Operating Systems:** Windows 8 (Desktop mode), Windows 7, Windows Vista, Windows XP SP3
- **Processor:** 400 MHz Pentium processor or equivalent (Minimum); 1GHz Pentium processor or equivalent (Recommended)
- **RAM:** 128 MB (Minimum); 2 GB (Recommended)
- **Hard Disk:** Up to 40 MB of available space may be required
- **CD or DVD Drive:** Not required
- **Display:** 800 x 600, 256 colors (Minimum); 1920 x 1200 high color, 32-bit (Recommended)
- **Software:** .NET framework 4.0 is required to run ComicRack 0.9.122 and higher, Ghostscript 9 or later (optional) is needed for complete PDF support.



## Languages

ComicRack is multilingual, with most language packs provided & maintained by its active community. The latest release of ComicRack always contains all language packs in the setup. ComicRack is available in the following languages:

- |           |              |             |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| • English | • Dutch      | • Slovak    |
| • German  | • Polish     | • Chinese   |
| • Czech   | • Japanese   | • Hungarian |
| • Italian | • Greek      | • Turkish   |
| • Spanish | • Portuguese | • Russian   |
| • French  | • Finnish    | • Croatian  |

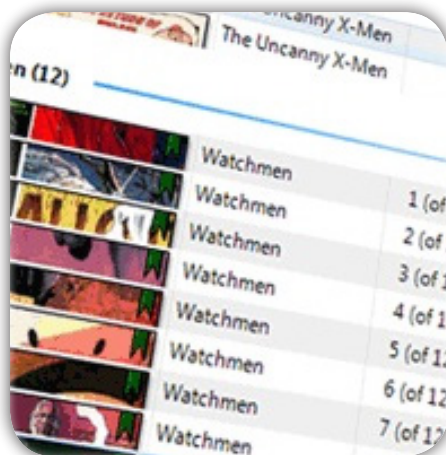


# Feature Overview



## THE READER

Read your comic books the way you want: Fast navigation, auto scrolling, auto rotation, dynamic zooming, automatic page fitting, magnifier, manga mode, full screen reading, dual screen support, multi-tab interface.



## THE LIBRARY

The powerful integrated library allows you to bring your whole collection to life. With different ways to group, sort and present all the data of your comic books, it helps you rediscover your hidden treasures.



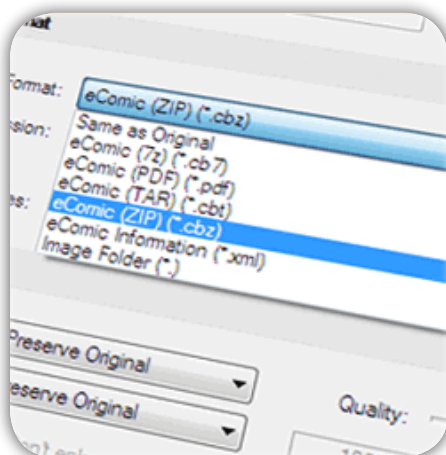
## INFO

ComicRack allows you to edit and show the information of your comic books. You can even change the color and sharpness of comic pages.



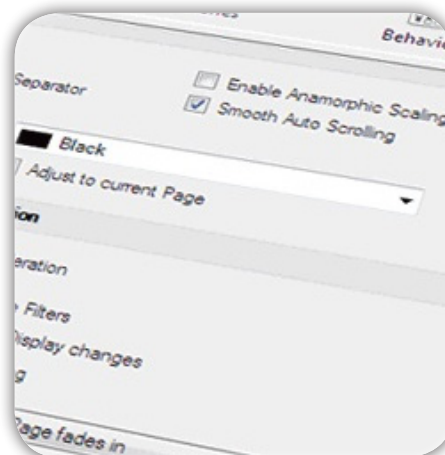
## PAGES

Edit eComic pages, rotate them to your needs, change the reading order or add additional information.



## CONVERSION

ComicRack can batch convert your comic books to all important formats (including PDF). And all this is done in the background while you keep on reading.

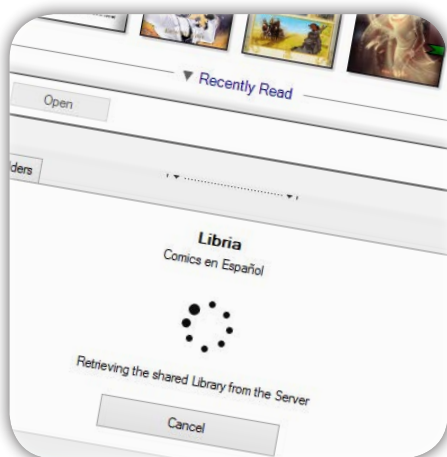


## CONFIGURABLE

ComicRack can be adapted to your needs. Optimize page display, share your library in your local network or change the user interface language.

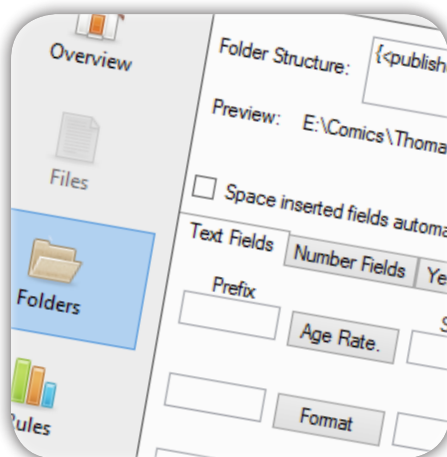


# Feature Overview...



## SHARING

Using the network sharing functionality of ComicRack, you can open the shared library of other ComicRack users over the internet, and share your own library or database with them.



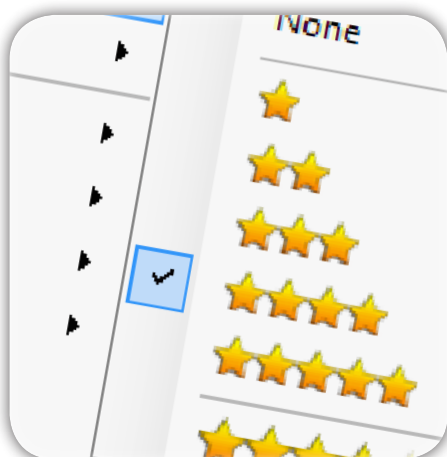
## ADD-ONS

ComicRack is expendable with add-ons (called scripts) that enhance its functionality. With scripts, you can batch process books in ComicRack to accomplish a number of tedious manual tasks with just the click of a button.



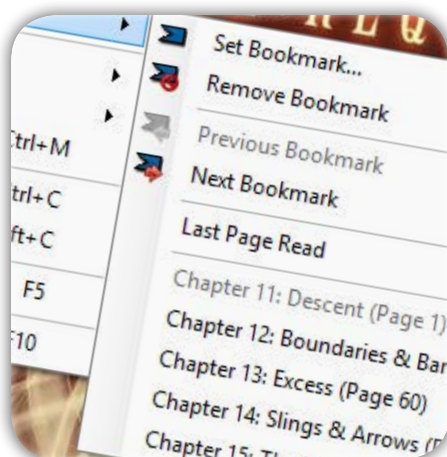
## COLLECTOR

ComicRack supports 'Fileless' comic entries into the database. This way ComicRack can be used as a 'paper' comic database management tool.



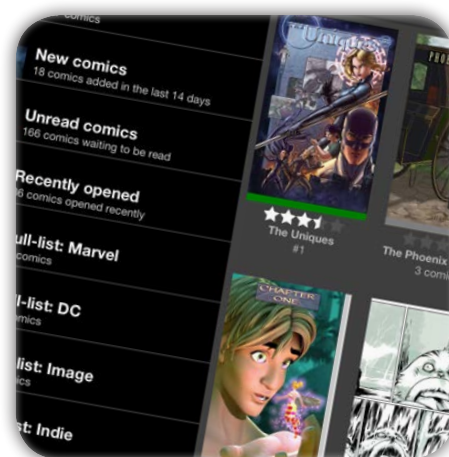
## RATINGS

You can assign ratings to any comic book by simply clicking &/or dragging on the stars. ComicRack supports ratings on a scale of 1 to 5, with 0.1 increments. You can even enter average ratings from other reviewers as community ratings.



## BOOKMARKS

Bookmark your comic books at any (and any number of) pages that you wish. You can use these as 'jump-points' for chapters in a book, and for the next comic in a multi-comic archive.



## SYNC

ComicRack for Windows can synchronize your comics and reading lists with ComicRack for iOS/Android over WiFi. Your synchronized comics will also be converted and optimized to reduce the space required on your device.



## What are eComics?

And how they differ among themselves

eComics are basically archives of individual page images and usually have the extension .CBR or .CBZ. eComics are thus defined as RAR/ZIP/7z files containing JPG, BMP, PNG, or GIF images, with the extension changed to CBR/CBZ/CB7 respectively.



ComicRack organizes eComics by storing metadata as XML snippets (either as part of the big library file [ComicDB.xml](#)) or as single small files (called [Comicinfo.xml](#)) into eComics. As eComics can have a variety of formats (PDF, CBZ, CBR, CB7, CBT), the ability to save metadata differs:

- PDF: No archive at all, no place for ComicInfo.xml or any custom metadata.
- CBR: Rar format can not be written (proprietary)
- CBZ: ComicInfo.xml is updated
- CB7: ComicInfo.xml is updated
- CBT: “Streaming” archive, no update because of performance issues.



The recommended format is CBZ or CB7, as ZIP/7z are freely available formats while RAR is owned by RarLabs. They have released the unRAR capabilities but not the RAR. So, programmers can write software that reads RAR archives (.CBR files) for free, but they can’t write software that creates or edits those files, without paying a license fee. Thus, the [ComicInfo.xml](#) file is changed/added only for CBZ and CB7 eComics, while for all other archive formats (including CBR), it is not touched.

### Metadata Tips

Metadata for all eComics (of any format) that are in your ComicRack library, is stored in the database file ([ComicDB.xml](#)), so you can easily backup/restore their metadata. In case of CBZ (also in CB7, but not in normal zip or 7z) files, ComicRack also stores metadata as the [Comicinfo.xml](#) file within these file formats. Once the Comicinfo.xml file is stored in CBZ or CB7 files, the metadata in these file formats will stay preserved, no matter wherever or how many times you transfer them. However, upon transfer, you will lose non-comic metadata

information: last page read, current page, tags, rating, read percentage, opened count, added/opened date etc.

Technically you can retrieve metadata from CBRs as well, since the metadata is also stored in the secondary stream of a CBR eComic. This means that as long as you don’t move the eComic to a non-NTFS partition or burn it to a CD or something, you will be able to retrieve metadata from CBRs also. This also implies that in case of CBR files, the metadata is lost if you transfer the

file to another computer. However, its metadata (or any file format, for that matter) can be saved by backing up the database ([ComicDB.xml](#)) from the [Preferences](#) dialog.

Backing up the database saves absolutely everything, including the non-comic metadata that is not preserved in the Comicinfo.xml file. For more information, see the section on [Database Backup](#).





# Chapter 02: Getting Started

Are you ready to experience ComicRack? In this chapter, you learn the basics of installing and getting started. Come on in!

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<b>GETTING IT TO WORK</b> .....	<b>9</b>



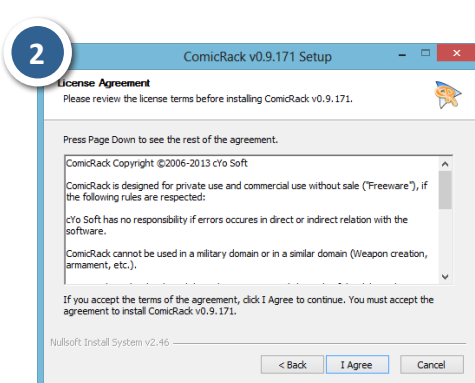


# Installation

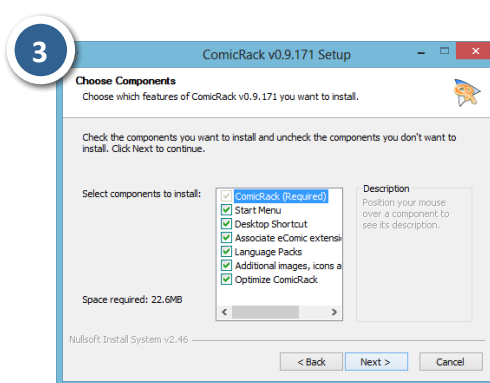
Installing ComicRack is a very simple process. Just follow the step-by-step instructions below to get ComicRack working on your system. The steps below depict the ComicRack installation on a PC running **Windows 8**. If you have a different (supported) operating system, the screens may appear slightly different.



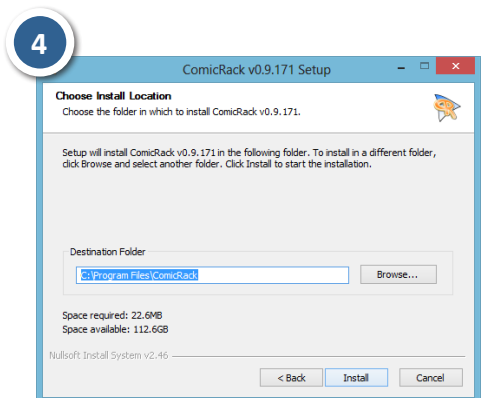
Download the latest ComicRack setup file from the ComicRack download page. Double-click the setup file to open the installation wizard. Click **Next** to continue.



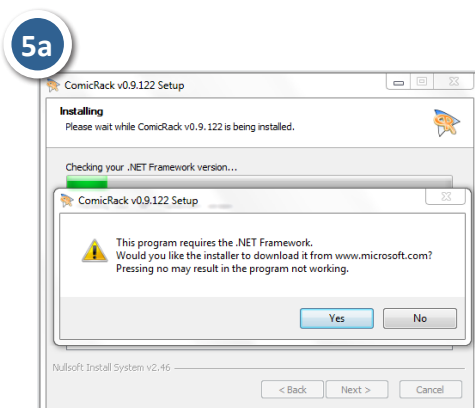
Read the license agreement, and/or click **I agree** to continue.



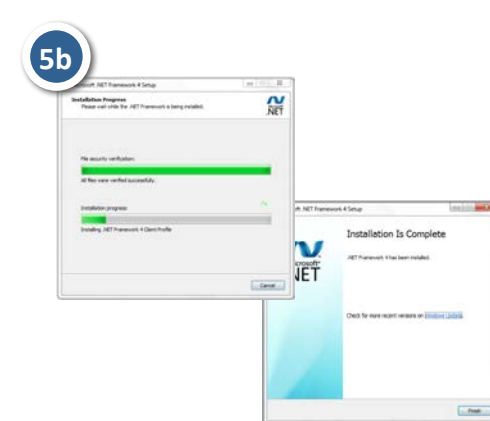
Now you can see the description of the components by positioning your mouse over them. If you wish, you can uncheck (not recommended) the components that you don't wish to install.



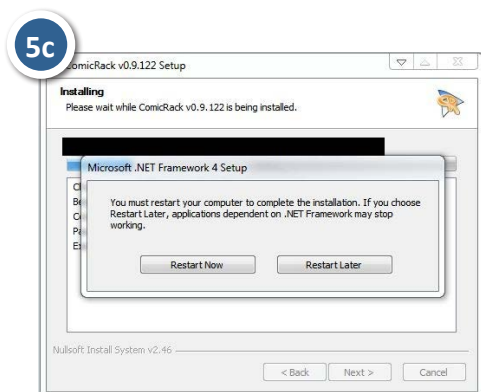
Choose the folder in which to install ComicRack. The default location is:  
**C:/Program Files/ComicRack**



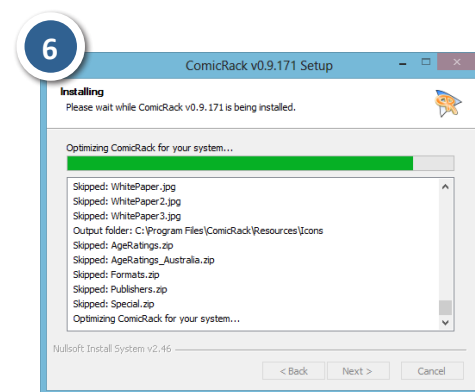
If **.NET framework 4** is not already installed on your system, the ComicRack installer will offer to download it from the internet. Click **yes** when the ComicRack installer prompts you.



Accept the .NET license terms and let it install.



Just after the .NET framework installation completes, a dialog box appears, asking for an immediate system restart. Click **Restart Later**.



Let ComicRack complete its installation. During installation, ComicRack optimizes itself for your system.

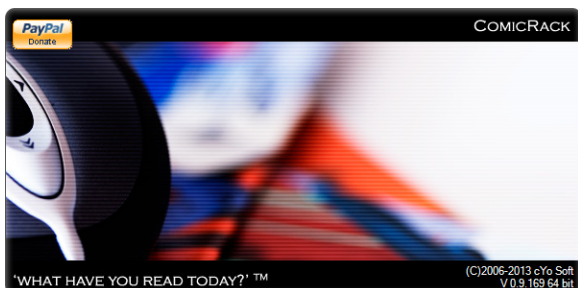


Click **Finish** to complete the installation. If you had installed **.Net** in step 5 above, manually restart your system before running ComicRack.



# First Run

As you are going to start ComicRack for the first time, we would like to welcome you to the ComicRack community. Wishing you a lifetime of comics, with a little help from the most complete and yet incredibly easy software that you have just successfully installed. So, come on, let's start ComicRack!



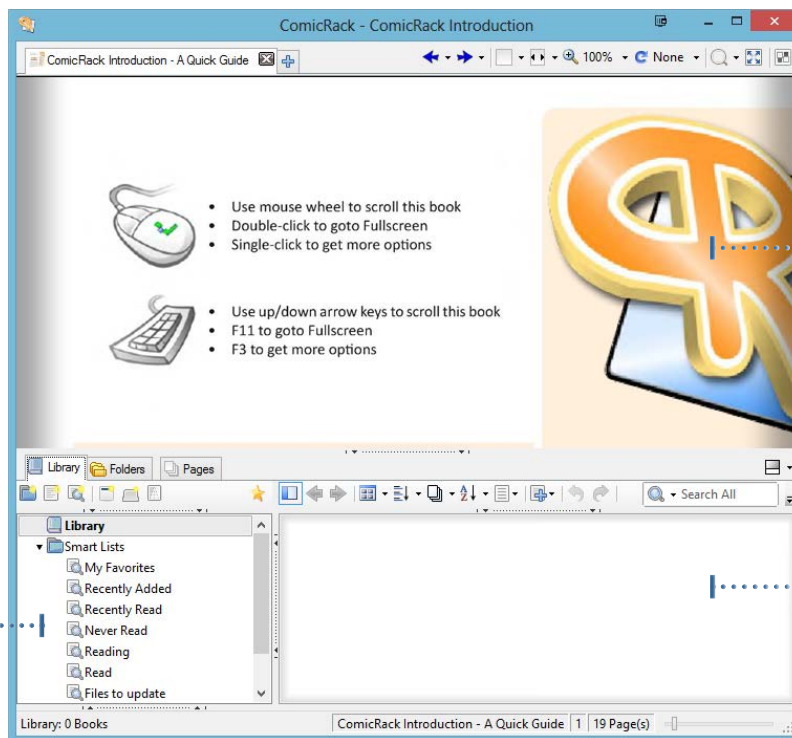
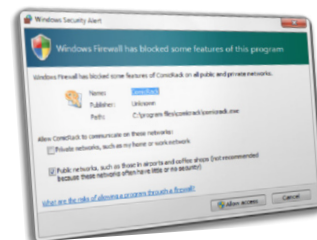
Double-click the ComicRack icon to open the program. It can be found on the desktop or on the Start Screen in Windows 8 or under **All Programs** in the Windows Start Menu of Windows 7. You will be greeted with the ComicRack splash screen.



A dialog may open, requesting you to Donate to ComicRack if you wish. Once you have donated, enter your email address. Click **Validate**, and wait for a moment. The Support dialog shall not bother you again. Even if you decide not to donate, ComicRack is fully functional. In this case, click **Skip for now**.

## Security Alert

On some systems, a Windows Security Alert may pop-up, indicating that Windows Firewall has blocked some features of ComicRack. You may check all options and safely click the **Allow access** button. This is a once-only step and won't be required every time you start ComicRack.



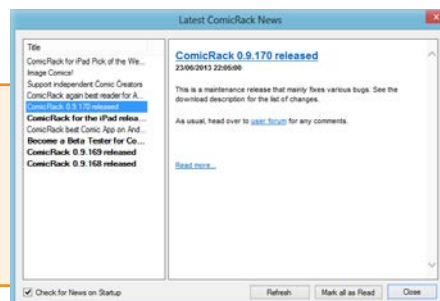
**This is the Sidebar.**  
Here you see a number of quick access lists, akin to playlists in a music player. You will later learn to make your own lists.

**This is the Reader.**  
It shows the book currently being read. When ComicRack opens for the first time, you are greeted with the **Quick Manual**.

**This is the Browser.**  
Here you will see the books that you add to your ComicRack library. You can double-click any book here to open it for reading in the Reader above.

## ComicRack News!

Reading the Latest ComicRack News is the easiest & fastest way to keep in touch with all the latest updates to ComicRack. You can also enable the **Check for news on startup** option to open the news dialog every time ComicRack starts. This way you'll never catch an update late!





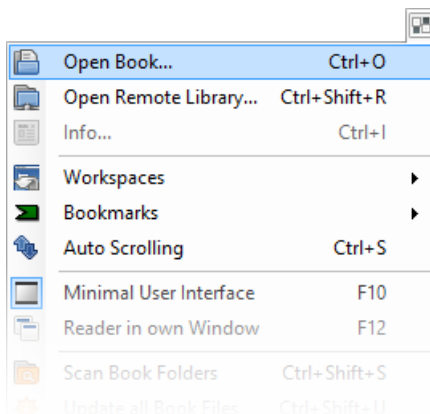
# Getting it to work...

## Opening a new comic

You can also drag & drop!

Opening your first comic book with ComicRack is the quickest way to get started! There are a number of ways to open books with ComicRack:

- From the **Tools menu** at the far end, click **Open Book**.
- From the **Main menu** at the top of the window, click the **File** menu and then click **Open File**.
- Double-clicking any supported comic book archive in windows explorer will launch that file with ComicRack.
- Right-clicking any supported comic book archive in Windows Explorer and selecting **Open with** ComicRack.



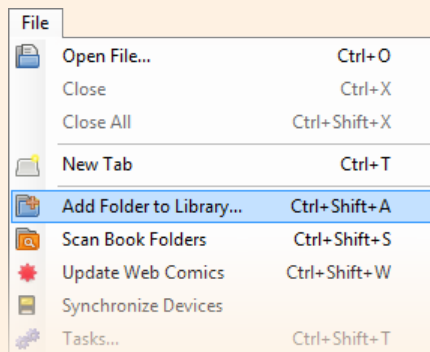
You can also drag and drop your books into ComicRack to read them or to add them to the ComicRack library:

- From an explorer window, select a book. You can even select a batch of books.
- Drag & drop it over the Reader window (if you want to read it) or the Browser window (if you want to add it to the library). Learn more about these windows & the user interface of ComicRack in the next chapter.

## Starting a new library

Adding your comic book collection to ComicRack is the first step in managing/organizing your ever expanding comic collection. Here is a quick startup on how to start a new comic book library with ComicRack:

1. From the **main menu** at the top of the window, click **File** and then click **Add Folder to Library**.
2. Browse to where your comics are. Select your comic book folder, and click **Ok**.
3. ComicRack will scan the folder (and its subfolders) and add all books to the Library.



These steps may have to be repeated if you have your books in more than one folder. The next time you add a book to one of the added folders, you may click the **Scan book folders** button from the file menu, or simply restart ComicRack, and the newly added files will be displayed in your ComicRack library. More advanced features of the library shall be discussed in the forthcoming chapters.

## reading PDF Files with Ghostscript

Out of the box, ComicRack has very limited support for PDF files. Basically it tries to get all the images in it and displays them. Of course, this works for most book PDFs but not for eBooks which also contain a lot of text. However, you can convert ComicRack to a full blown, fully compliant PDF reader and have the advantage of all the built in library functions (cover, page thumbnails and previews, database etc.)

### Enter Ghostscript

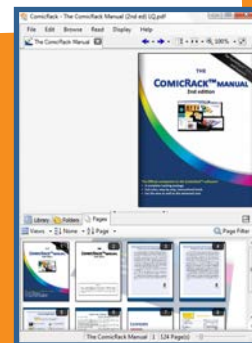


Ghostscript is a suite of software based on an interpreter for Adobe Systems' PostScript and Portable Document Format (PDF) page description languages.

You simply have to [download the official ghostscript release](#) and install it on your system. Make sure to install the correct version. If you run ComicRack as 32 bit, you must install the 32 bit version of ghostscript (the 32-bit or 64-bit info can be found in the lower right-hand corner of the ComicRack splash screen, or in the **About** section of the **Help** menu). After this, ComicRack will automatically use it and display PDFs as nicely as Adobe Reader.



Before Ghostscript



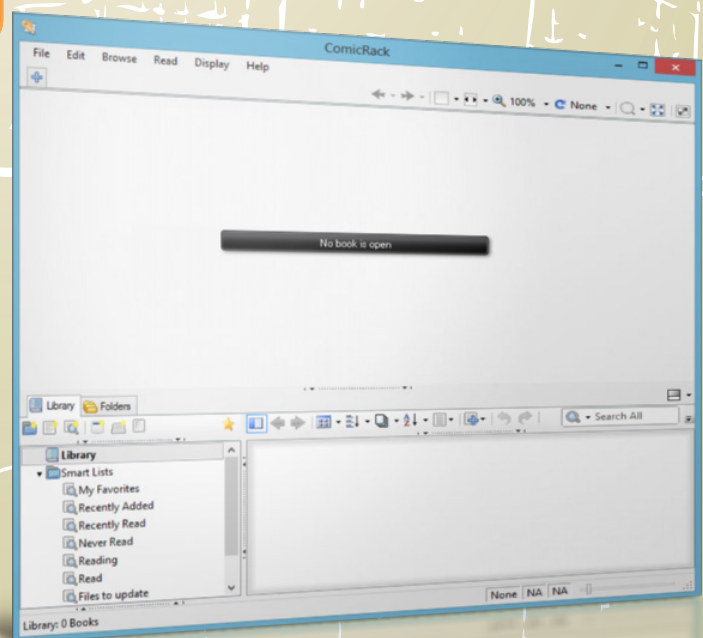
After Ghostscript



# Chapter 03: User Interface

Getting familiar with the interface and terminologies of ComicRack will serve as a primer for later understanding the myriad functionality ComicRack has to offer.

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<b>STATUS BAR</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>MENUS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>STATE INDICATORS</b> .....	<b>16</b>
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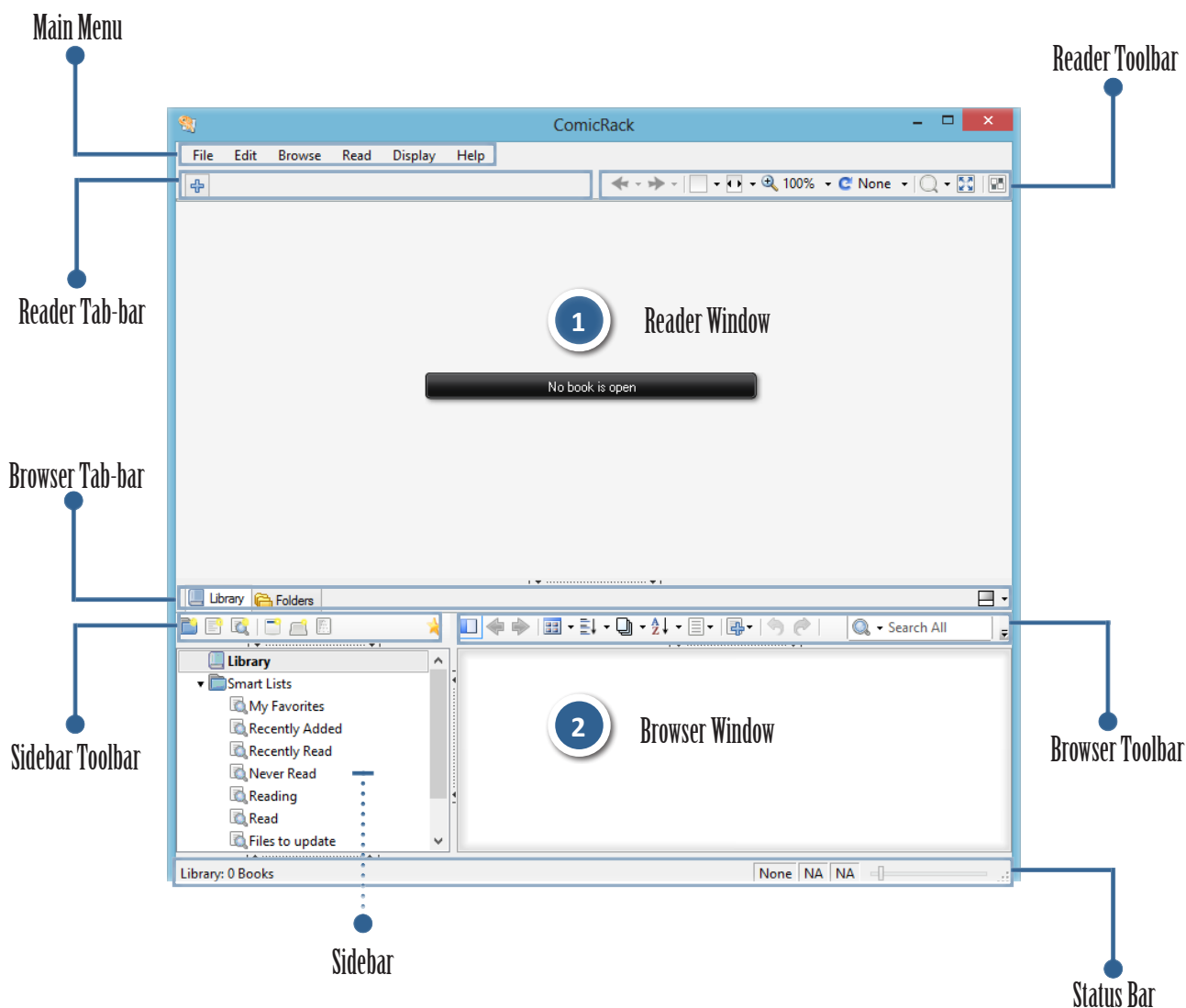




## The Default Interface

Essential reading for new users >>

This chapter is essential for understanding the terminology used to describe the various parts of ComicRack. Take some time to familiarize yourself with the components. Shown below is the default interface for ComicRack:



ComicRack broadly consists of 2 main components, the **Reader** window and the **Browser** window. You manage your comic books in the Browser, and you read them in the Reader. The ComicRack Reader and Browser are supplemented by their respective toolbars and tab-bars. The Browser is supported by the **Sidebar**, which carries the library, plus all the reading lists. At the top of the ComicRack window is the **Main Menu** (which auto-hides when a comic book is opened), and at the bottom lies the **Status Bar**.

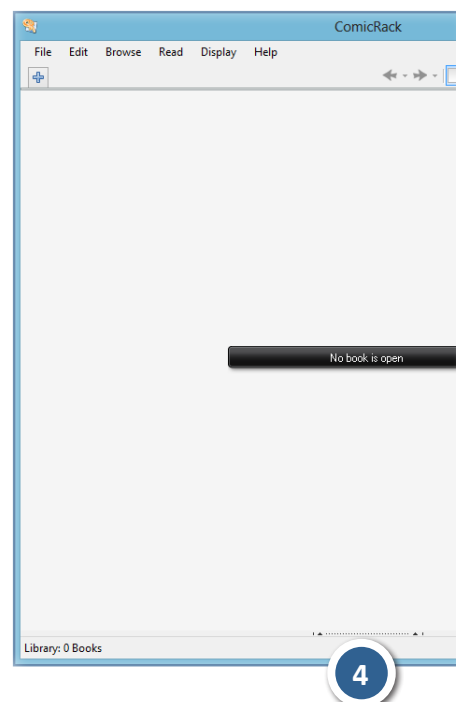
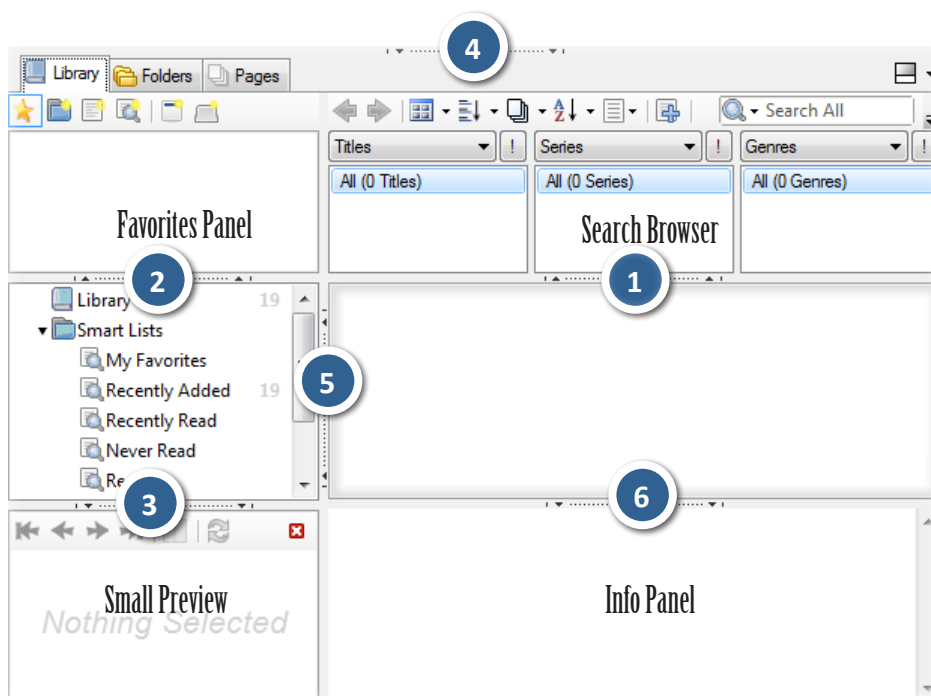


# Docking Grips

In its default layout, ComicRack contains as many as 3 ‘hidden’ or ‘optional’ panels. These can be identified by noticing the dotted extenders known as **Docking Grips**. Clicking on these docking grips toggles off/on the 3 optional panels, viz. **Search Browser**, **Favorites** & **Small Preview**. Apart from these, there are 3 more docking grips that assist in changing the layout of the ComicRack window contents. The locations and names of all the docking grips are tabulated below:

## IN A NUTSHELL

	Location	Name
1	Between the Browser Toolbar above and the Browser window below	Search Browser Docking Grip
2	Between the Sidebar Toolbar above and the Sidebar below	Favorites Docking Grip
3	Between the Sidebar above and the Status bar below	Small Preview Docking Grip
4	Between the Reader Window above and the Browser Tab Bar below	Browser Docking Grip
5	Between the Sidebar on the left and the Reader window on the right	Sidebar Docking Grip
6	Between the Browser window above and the Status bar below	Info Panel Docking Grip

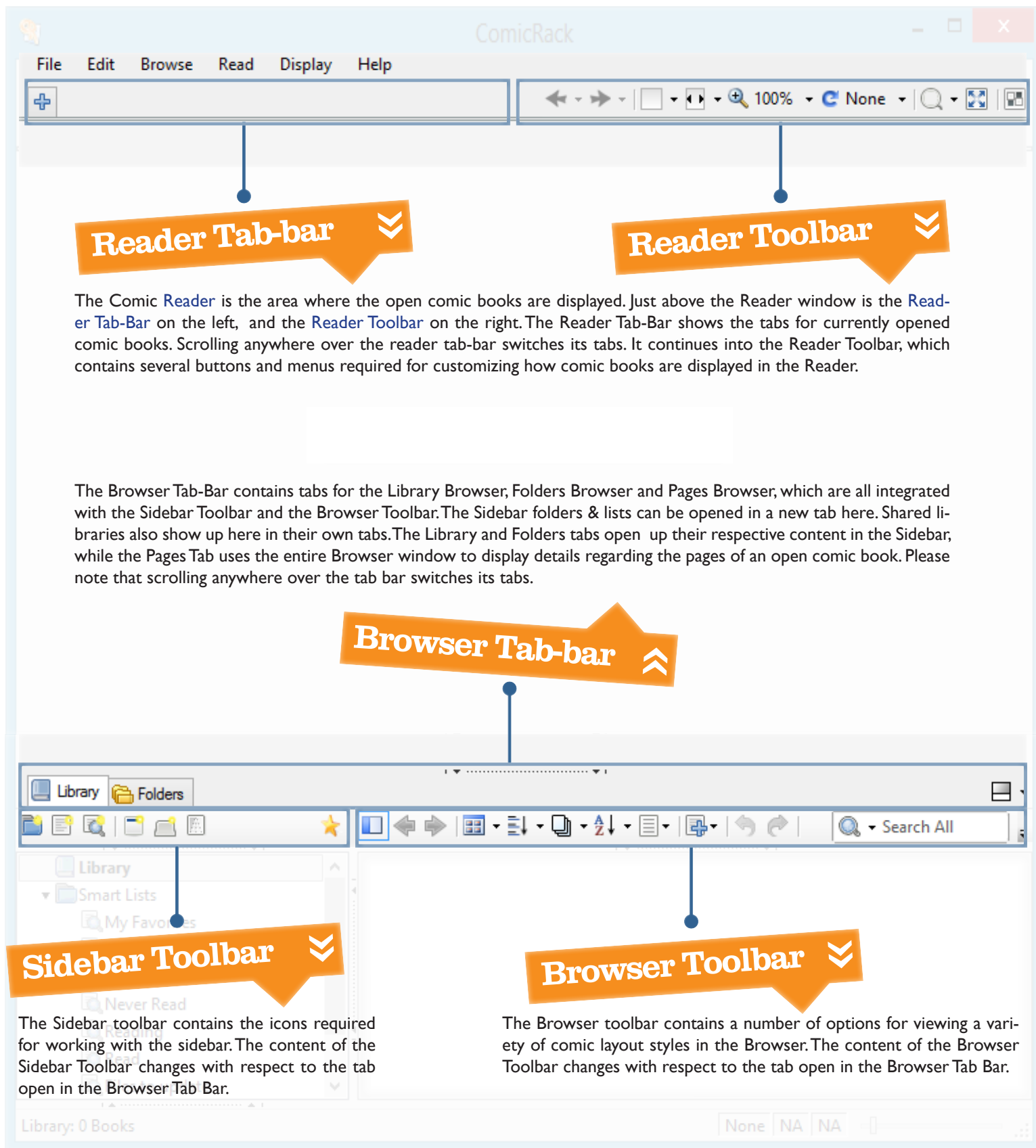


## The essential Sidebar!

Technically speaking, the Sidebar also is an optional panel, yet it is active in the default ComicRack setup. This is due to the essential functionality of the Sidebar (discussed in forthcoming chapters). Please also note that the Info Panel docking grip is not seen in the default setup. It shall be discussed later.



# Toolbars & tab-bars





# Status Bar

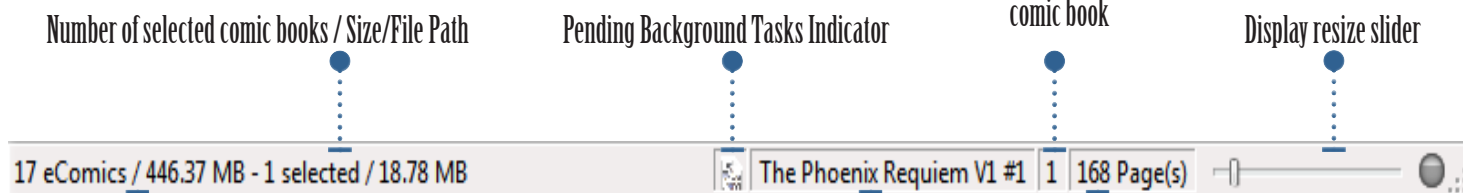
The ComicRack Status Bar is present at the very bottom of the ComicRack window. It displays important information about your comic books.

This is the number (and size) of the comic books currently selected in the Browser window. For some users, this might be the quickest way to find out the size of a particular comic book, or a group of many comic books.

This is the **Pending Background Tasks Indicator**, that shows an animated icon whenever info data from files is being read, or web comics are being updated. Clicking it brings on the **Tasks Dialog** showing the **Background Tasks** tab. It is described in detail later in this chapter.

This is the current page number of the open comic book

At the right end of the Status Bar, the **Display resize slider** is present. This is used when you wish to increase or decrease the size of the comic books view in the Browser window. The resize slider can be dragged to the right to increase the thumbnail or the tile size, and, in case of the details view, the row size.



**Number of selected comic books / Size/File Path**  
**Total comic books displayed in the Browser/Total Size**  
At the very left of the Status Bar, the total number (and size) of comic books displayed in the Browser is seen. This number indicates the number of comic books present in the list selected in the sidebar. The file path of the currently selected book is also seen. The Library list is the default, and reflects your entire comic book collection archived with ComicRack.

**Pending Background Tasks Indicator**  
**Caption of the opened comic book**  
Left to the resize slider is the page count of the opened comic book, followed by the current page number of the open comic book and the caption of the opened comic book, in that order.

**Current Page of the open comic book**  
**Page count of the opened comic book**  
**Display resize slider**  
**Server Statistics**  
If you are sharing your library over the network, you will see a round icon at the extreme right of the Status Bar; this is the **Server Statistics** button, clicking which will open the Server Statistics tab of the Tasks Dialog showing displaying all the detailed server statistics for your shared library.

## FAQ

### » How do I hide the Main menu?

The ComicRack main menu gets automatically hidden when any comic is opened in the reader window. It can be toggled on/off using the **Alt** key or using the **Show main menu** option from the **Tools** menu. Please note that for this feature to work even when no comic book is open, you should turn off the **show main menu if no comic book is open** option from the **Preferences** dialog (**Behavior** tab -> **Application** section).



The ComicRack **Main menu** contains a number of self-explanatory menus. Each menu has a number of sections, containing several functions. All of these functions have been described in relevant chapters. Here is a brief overview of these menus.

File		
	Open File...	Ctrl+O
	Close	Ctrl+X
	Close All	Ctrl+Shift+X
	New Tab	Ctrl+T
	Add Folder to Library...	Ctrl+Shift+A
	Scan Book Folders	Ctrl+Shift+S
	Update all Book Files	Ctrl+Shift+U
	Update Web Comics	Ctrl+Shift+W
	Tasks...	Ctrl+Shift+T
	Automation	
	New fileless Book Entry...	Ctrl+Shift+N
	New fileless Book Series...	Ctrl+Shift+F3
	Open Remote Library...	Ctrl+Shift+R
	Open Books	
	Recent Books	
	Restart	Ctrl+Shift+Q
	Exit	Ctrl+Q

The **File** menu can be used for opening or closing comic books, creating a new tab, organising and updating the library folders and files, fileless comic book entries, opening remote libraries, accessing the history, and to exit or restart.

Edit		
	Info...	Ctrl+I
	Undo	Ctrl+Z
	Redo	Ctrl+Y
	My Rating	
	Page Type	
	Page Rotation	
	Bookmarks	
	Copy Page	Ctrl+C
	Export Page...	Ctrl+Shift+C
	Refresh	F5
	Devices...	
	Preferences...	Ctrl+F9

From the **Edit** menu, you can open the comic book Info dialog, Undo / Redo actions, change comic book page types, rate and bookmark comics, copy/export pages, refresh ComicRack, and open the Preferences dialog.

Browse		
	Browser	F3
	Library	F6
	Folders	F7
	Pages	F8
	Sidebar	Shift+F6
	Small Preview	Shift+F7
	Search Browser	Shift+F8
	Info Panel	Shift+F9
	Previous List	Ctrl+J
	Next List	Ctrl+K
	Workspaces	
	List Layout	

The **Browse** menu helps you toggle ComicRack components on/off shift back and forth the comic lists and browse / edit workspaces and list layouts.

Read		
	First Page	Ctrl+B
	Previous Page	Ctrl+P
	Next Page	Ctrl+N
	Last Page	Ctrl+E
	Previous Book	Ctrl+Alt+P
	Next Book	Ctrl+Alt+N
	Random Book	Ctrl+Alt+O
	Show in Browser	Ctrl+F3
	Previous Tab	Ctrl+Shift+J
	Next Tab	Ctrl+Shift+K
	Auto Scrolling	Ctrl+S
	Double Page Auto Scrolling	Alt+Shift+S
	Track current Page	Alt+Shift+T

From the **Read** menu you can shift between comic book pages, between individual comic books and between tabs, and options for Autoscrolling.

Display		
	Book Display Settings...	F9
	Page Layout	
	Zoom	
	Rotation	
	Minimal User Interface	F10
	Full Screen	F11
	Reader in own Window	F12
	Magnifier	Ctrl+M

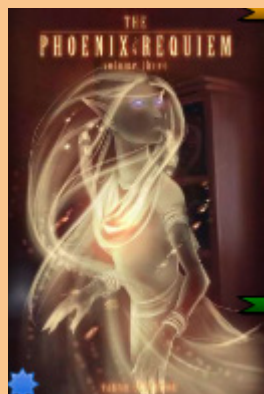
The **Display** menu contains the Comic Display Settings dialog, page customization options (Layout, zoom, rotation), and user interface customization options. The Page Layout options can also be accessed from the Reader Toolbar.

Help		
	ComicRack Documentation...	F1
	Choose Help System	
	Quick Introduction	
	ComicRack Homepage...	Shift+F1
	ComicRack User Forum...	Ctrl+F1
	News...	
	Support ComicRack...	
	About...	Alt+F1

The **Help** menu contains important links to the ComicRack forum and homepage. The ComicRack documentation links to the wiki page. You can use the **Choose Help System** sub-menu to make either the [Online ComicRack Manual](#) (recommended) or the [Wiki](#) the default help system on your ComicRack.



# State Indicators



## RIBBONS

The **green** ribbon indicates the last page read in a comic book. The **yellow** ribbon is the current page open in the comic book. If the current page being read is earlier than the last page ever opened, the yellow ribbon scrolls down as the comic book pages are read, till the green ribbon is reached. From there on, the green ribbon takes over till the end of the comic book.

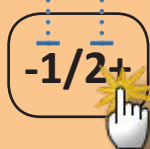


## STARS

- Red:** The Web comic has been updated with new pages. The number is the number of new pages. Once the new pages are read, the red stars disappear.
- Blue:** The comic book in the current list that was last opened in the reader.
- Green:** The comic book is currently open in the reader. If no comic book is open, the green star will not be seen.
- Orange:** Data is pending to be written to the Comicinfo.xml file in the comic book archive. This includes changes to the metadata, information on the page images, changes in comic book attributes (like file size and file modified time). Updating your comic book files makes the orange stars disappear.
- Violet:** A fileless comic book. These are simply ComicRack database entries for comic books which are not actually present on the hard disc.

Cover number currently selected for display as thumbnail

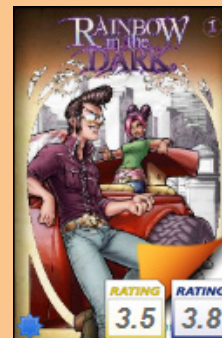
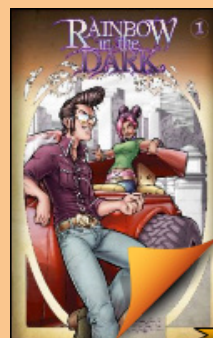
Total number of front covers in the comic book



Click on the **+** sign to browse forward the front covers. Click on the **-** sign to move back. Please note that once you reach the last front cover, clicking on the **+** sign will move you on to the first cover.

## COVER BROWSER

The cover browser is represented by the the little **-/+** signs over the comic book thumbnails & tiles in the browser. This indicates the number of pages in the comic book marked as front cover. It can be used as a visual indicator to identify comic books with variant covers, browse through the covers, and choose the cover to be displayed as the thumbnail/tile.



RATING 3.5

RATING 3.8

## RATINGS

You can rate your comic books in ComicRack on a scale of 0 to 5, with 0.1 increments. Based on your preference, the ratings on the comic book thumbnails can be displayed either in a numerical manner (at the bottom right of the thumbnail), or as rating stars (below the thumbnail). The community ratings are blue-colored, while ratings assigned by you are yellow-colored.



# Background Tasks

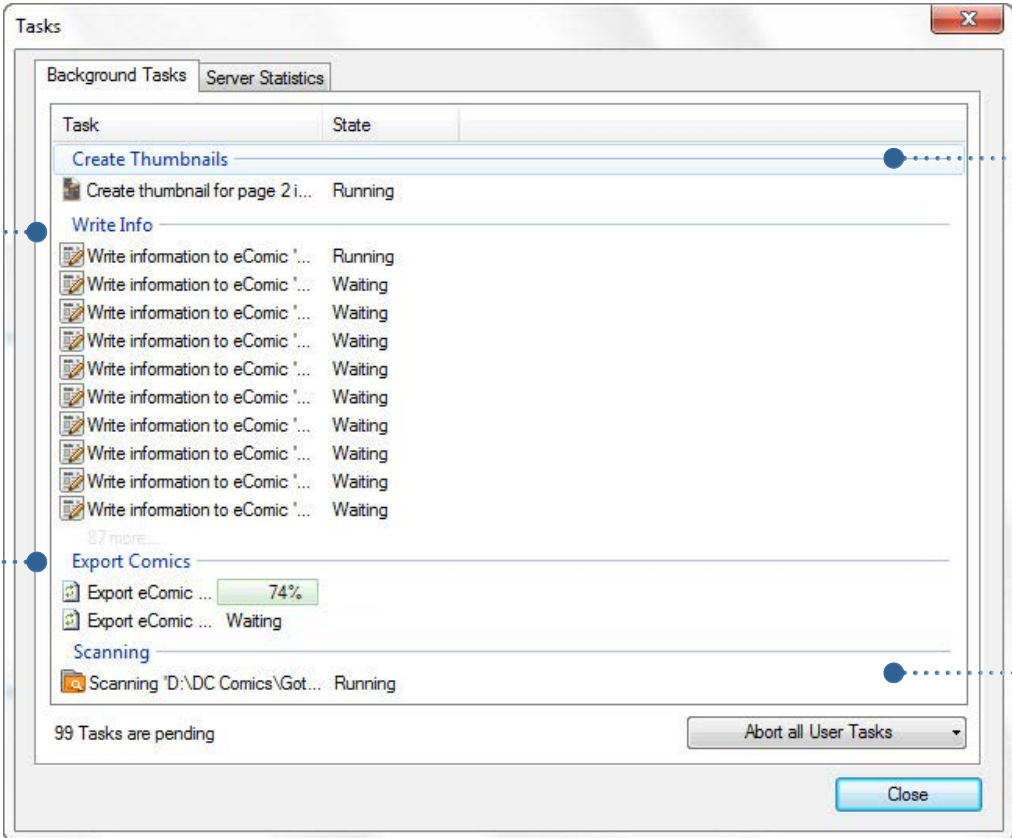
If there are any currently under-process assignments (called Pending Tasks), then corresponding animated icons are displayed in the Status Bar. These are the **Pending Background Tasks Indicators**. Double-clicking any of these opens the **Pending Background Tasks** dialog. Currently, there are 4 types of pending background tasks indicators, any or all of which can be seen running in the status bar, depending on the state of the pending tasks.

**Export**  
When the **export comic books** function is used to convert comic books from one format to another, this indicator will be seen in the status bar.

**Write**  
This indicates that ComicRack is writing information to the comic book files

**Scan**  
This indicates that ComicRack is currently running a scan on your library folders, searching for new comic books.

**Thumbnails**  
This is an indicator depicting that ComicRack is currently getting info and creating thumbnails for the comic books being viewed in the browser. It also appears when you update Web Comics over the internet.



The screenshot shows the 'Tasks' dialog box with the 'Background Tasks' tab selected. It contains a table of tasks with columns 'Task' and 'State'. The tasks listed are:

Task	State
Create Thumbnails	
Create thumbnail for page 21...	Running
<b>Write Info</b>	
Write information to eComic '...	Running
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
Write information to eComic '...	Waiting
57 more...	
<b>Export Comics</b>	
Export eComic ...	74%
Export eComic ...	Waiting
<b>Scanning</b>	
Scanning 'D:\DC Comics\Got...	Running

At the bottom of the dialog, it says '99 Tasks are pending' and there is an 'Abort all User Tasks' button. A 'Close' button is at the bottom right.

The **Pending Background Tasks Indicators** also integrate with the Windows taskbar, providing you at-a-glance information about the current status of ComicRack just by looking at the taskbar.

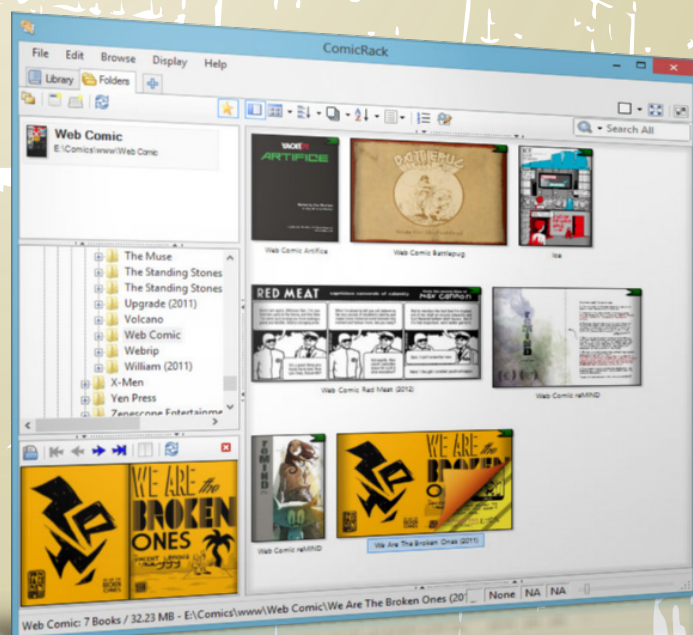




# Chapter 04: Browser

Having problems managing your comic book collection? Suffering heartaches while spending hours organizing them? Look no further, the ComicRack browser is here to rescue you!

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>19</b>
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<b>PAGES BROWSER</b>	<b>27</b>
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<b>SEARCH BROWSER</b>	<b>29</b>
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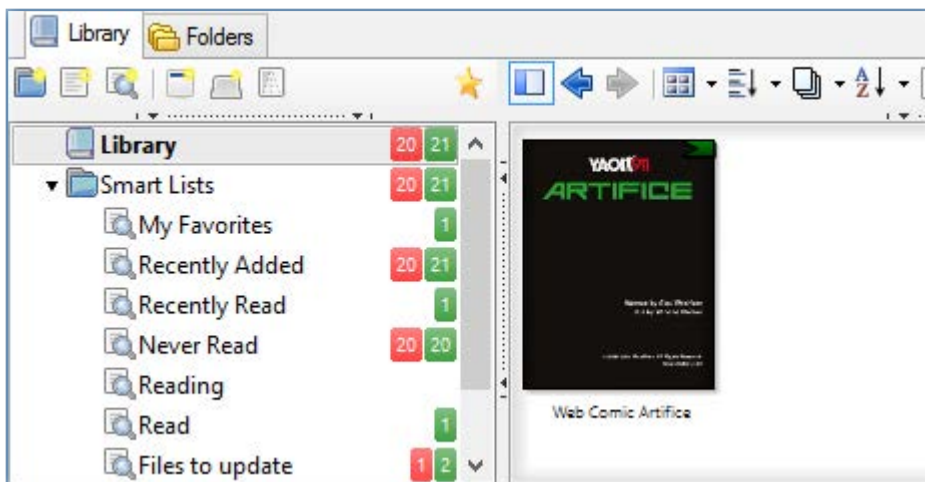




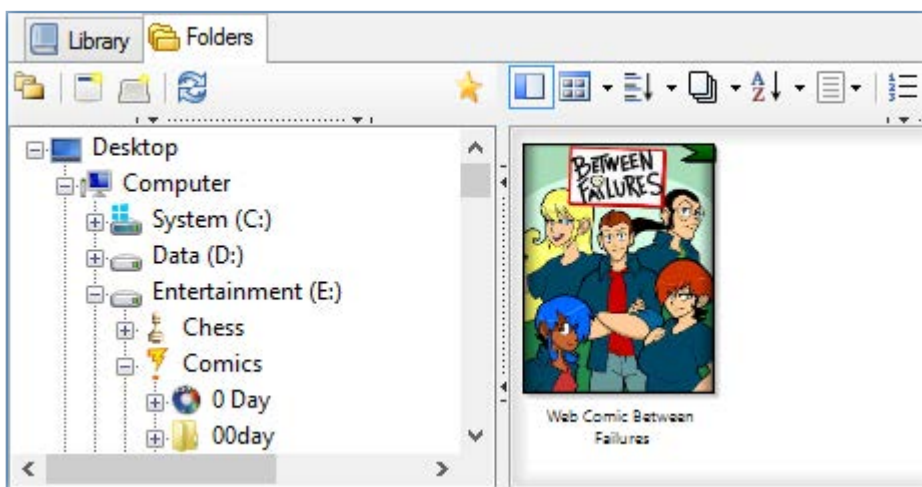
# Introduction

The **Browser** is the section of ComicRack that helps you manage / organize / browse your comic book collection. All (or selected) comic books are displayed in the Browser window in the form of thumbnails, tiles, or details view. The Browser window is ably supported by the **Browser Toolbar** and the **Browser Tab bar**.

The **Sidebar** is an essential component of the Browser, and changes its content according to the tab open in the Browser Tab Bar. The **Search Browser**, **Favorites panel**, and the **Small Preview** are the 3 optional panels of the Browser, and can be toggled off/on using their respective [Docking Grips](#).



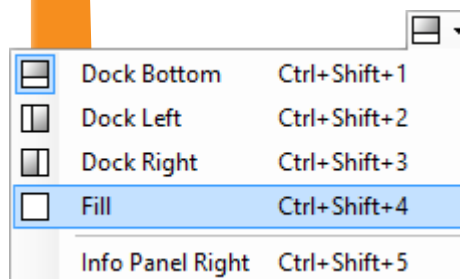
There are 2 tabs in the Browser Tab Bar, viz. Library and Folders. The Pages tab appears only when a comic is open in the Reader window. Out of these, the Library and the Folders tabs are integrated with the sidebar, while the Pages tab does not contain the Sidebar.



The Browser window is often referred to as the Library Browser, Folders Browser or Pages Browser, depending on which tab is open in the Library Tab Bar. Here you see the Folders Browser window.

## DOCKING the browser

The position of the Browser in the ComicRack window can be changed to suit the user's choice. The Dock menu present on the extreme right of the Browser tab-bar can be used to place (dock) the Browser to the left, right or bottom position in the ComicRack window. The Browser docked at the bottom is the default setting.



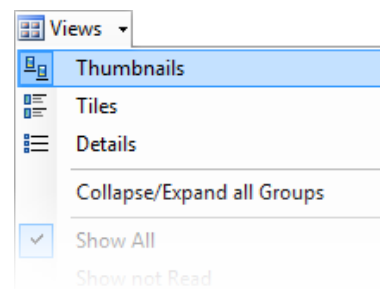
One important setting is the **Dock Fill** option, which unifies the Browser tab-bar with the Reader tab-bar and the Reader Toolbar. In this setting, comic books open on this Unified Tab bar.

## Info Panel Right

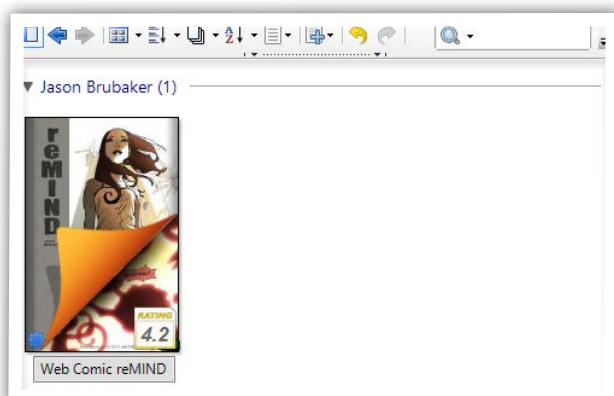
The Dock menu also contains the **Info Panel right** option. You can use this option to dock the Info Panel (docked at bottom of the browser by default) to the right side of the browser. The Info Panel is an optional panel that can be used by various scripts to display customized info. The Info panel opens in the browser, but without any complementary scripts enabled, it doesn't show up. To know more about the Info panel, see the corresponding section at the end of this chapter.



The **Views** button helps choose how and what comic books are displayed. Basically, you get to choose from 3 different views: **thumbnails**, **tiles** & **details**. Click the **Views** button to toggle between the thumbnails, tiles & details views. Clicking the small downward-pointing arrow beside the views button opens up the **views** menu.



## Thumbnails



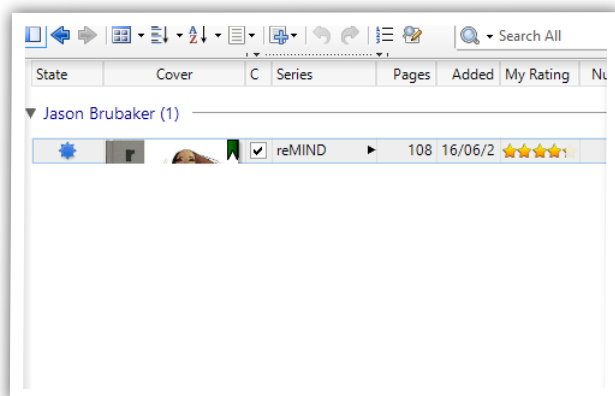
The thumbnails view is the most commonly used view, and is enabled by default. Double-clicking on a (unstacked) thumbnail opens up its comic book in the reader. It is possible to increase or decrease the size of the comic book view by using the **comic book display resize slider** present on the status bar, or by holding **CTRL** and scrolling the mouse wheel.

## Tiles



The tiles view is relatively more informative than the thumbnails view. Double-clicking on a (unstacked) tile opens up its comic book in the reader.

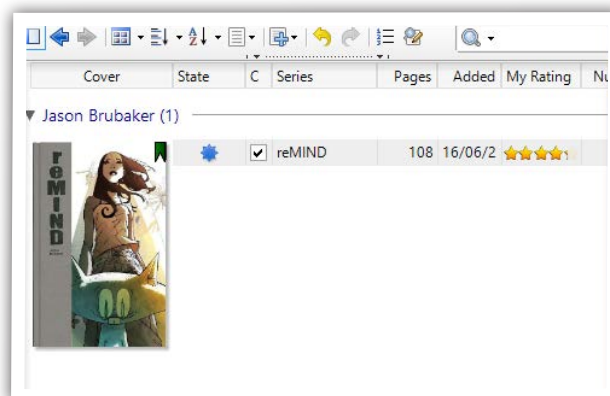
## Details



The details view is the most informative view. Double-clicking on a comic book column in the details view opens up its comic book in the reader. You can not stack comic books in the details view. The comic books of a group are arranged by your specified metadata field, seen as a small arrow on the column heading. A single-click on this arranging

column-head toggles the order from descending to ascending (notable from the direction of the arrow: pointing downwards or upwards, respectively). You can change the column positions by a simple drag and drop using the mouse. Right-clicking the header of any column in the details view brings about the details context menu.

## Extended Cover



The new expanded cover view in detailed mode can be turned on by moving the cover column to the first or last column.

We will learn more about the details view on the next page.

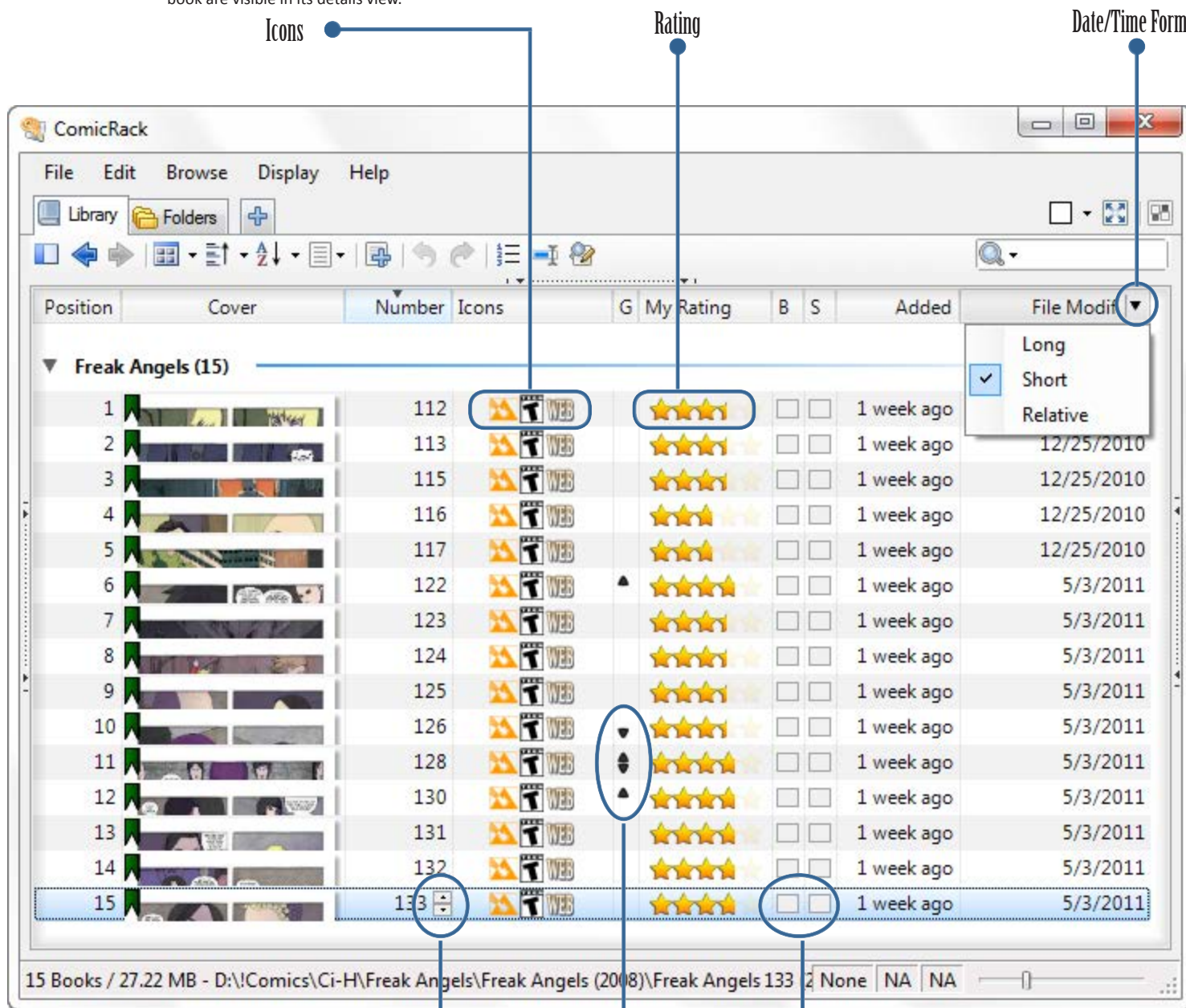


# The Details View

ComicRack supports display of a variety of icons for Publisher, Imprint, Format and Age Rating categories. All the icons for a particular book are visible in its details view.

The now-familiar rating stars in the details view allow a quick assignment of the rating by clicking at them.

ComicRack supports long/short/relative time formats for date-related metadata fields, specially the **File Modified** field. Just hover your mouse at the field header to get a drop-down arrow, clicking which reveals the options.



## Spin Buttons

Spin buttons are displayed alongside metadata fields that have a numeric value. Example of these fields include **Number**, **Read**, etc. You can simply click at the up/down spinners to increase/decrease the respective values. Please note that the spin buttons are seen only on the activated (clicked) rows.

## Gap Information

The Gap Information field in the details view shows visual information about missing issues of a series.

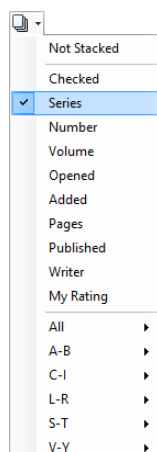
- gap starts here
- gap both before & after this issue
- gap ends here

## Checkboxes

Metadata fields that can have a Yes/No value are displayed as checkboxes in the details view. These include fields like **Series Complete**, **Read**, **B&W**, etc. You can simply click at them to toggle yes/no. You can also select more than 1 books, and use the checkbox fields in a single go.

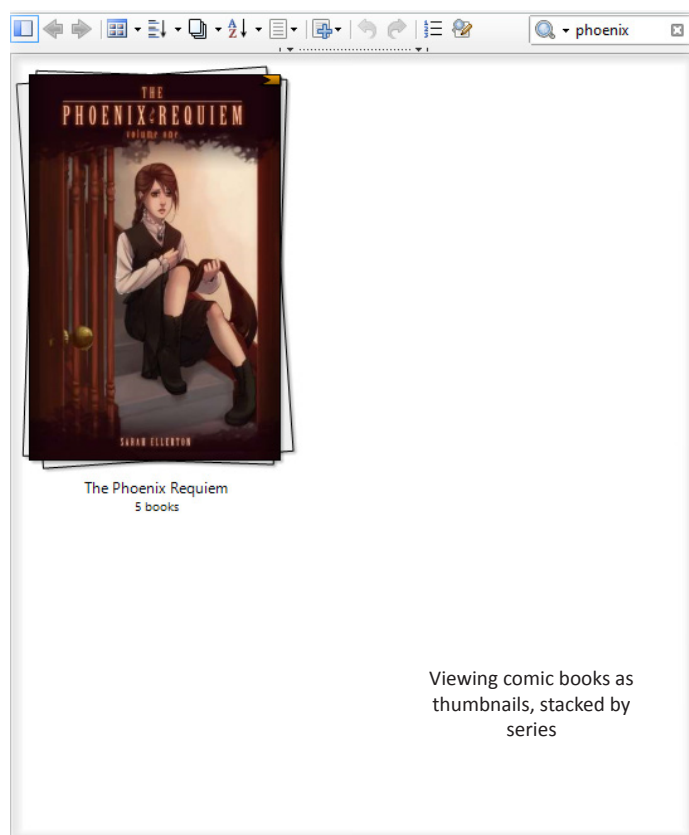


# The Stacks Layout

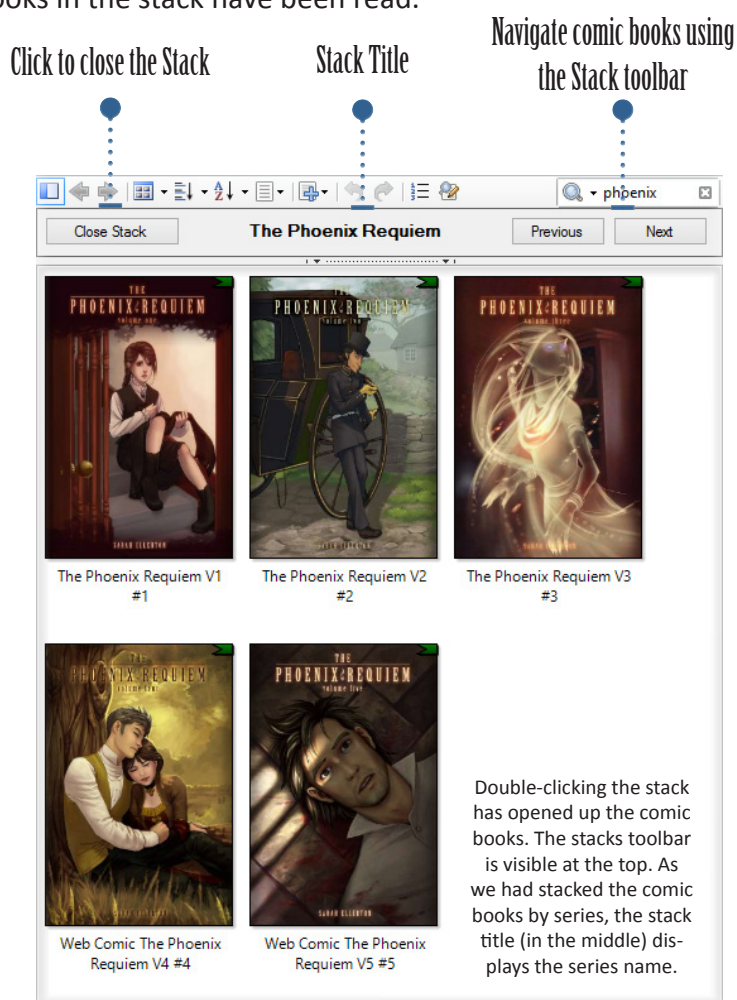


Stacking implies placing books one above the other in the ComicRack browser. To stack books in ComicRack, just click the **Stack** button on the **Browser toolbar**, and choose the metadata field that you wish to use as the criterion for stacking your books.

Stacking comic books in the thumbnail & tiles views brings forth few additional features. Double-clicking on a stack opens up its individual comic books in the browser, and additionally the **Stacks toolbar** appears on top of the browser window. Stacks display the average (community) rating of the stack. Bookmarks on stack display how many of the books in the stack have been read.



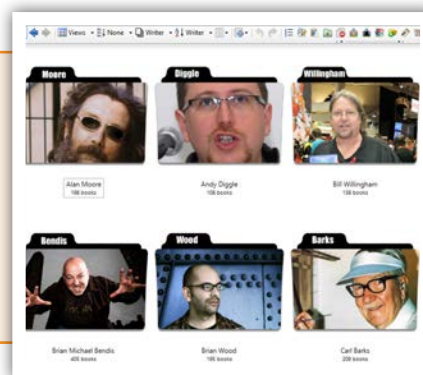
Viewing comic books as thumbnails, stacked by series



Double-clicking the stack has opened up the comic books. The stacks toolbar is visible at the top. As we had stacked the comic books by series, the stack title (in the middle) displays the series name.

## Stack Customization

- Use the **Set Custom Stack Thumbnail** option from the **Browser Context Menu** to set any picture file of your choice as the stack cover.
- Open up the stack by double-clicking it. Now, right-click any comic book to get the browser context menu (see next page), with an additional option: **Set as top of stack**. You can use this option to select any comic book (from all the comic books constituting the stack) to appear as the stack cover.

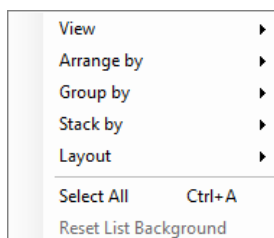




# Browser Menus

## » Layout Menu

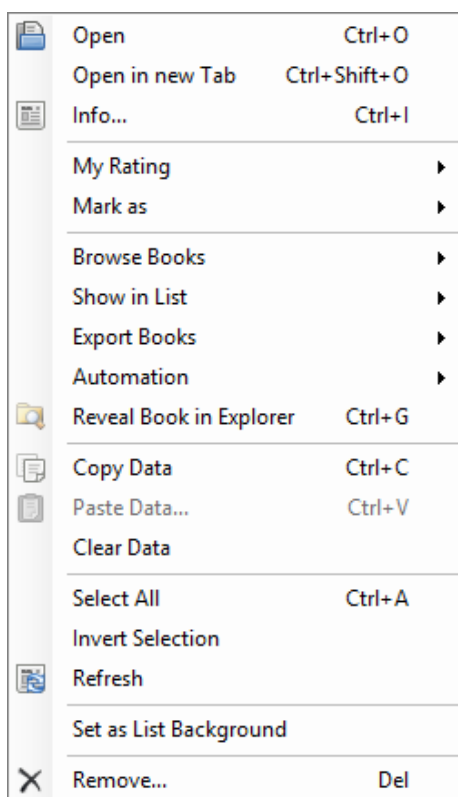
Right-clicking in any empty space in the browser brings about the **Layout menu** that carries over most of the features of the browser toolbar. This includes the view, arrange, group and stack menus.



## » Context Menu

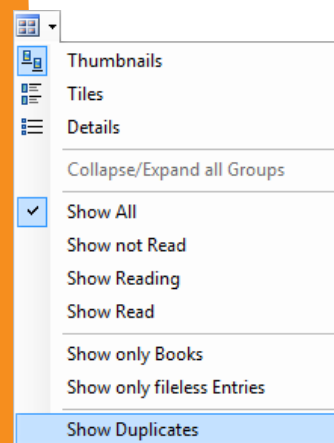
Right-clicking any comic book in the browser brings about the **browser context menu**. Many of the submenus share an overlap with the main menu. Features like exporting comic books, copying and pasting data, and lists-related options are discussed in the relevant sections. While most options are self-explanatory, some important features are outlined below:

- Open comics in the Reader
- Mark comic books as Read or Unread
- Rate comics
- Copy, paste metadata from one comic to other
- Clear Metadata
- Find comic books with similar metadata
- Open comic book with Windows Explorer
- Use any comic book cover as background image for a list open in the browser
- Remove (or delete) comics



## removing DUPLICATES

The Views button provides an option to find & remove duplicate issues that you may have accumulated over time. There are a number of metadata values needed for comics to be matched; most importantly, Series Name, Issue Number and Volume. Note that “Superman #1” and “Superman V1 #1” would not match, nor would “Superman V1 #1” and “Superman V2 #1”.

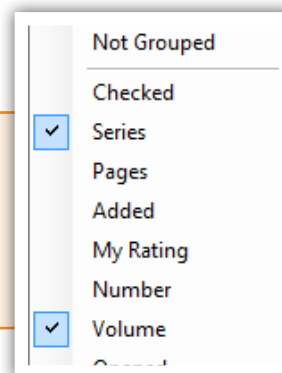


To use this feature, from the Views button, select **Show Duplicates**. After a slight delay (dependent on the total number of issues in the library, folder or list that this feature is run against), all applicable duplicates will display, allowing the user to make any changes or deletions desired.

## Did you know?

### » Multi-grouping

Grouping and stacking supports combining up to three criteria. Combining is done by clicking the additional criteria while pressing the **Ctrl** Key. Such combinations bring on an endless possibilities of grouping & stacking your comics in the ComicRack library!





# Library Browser

The **Library** tab is the section of ComicRack that allows the user to interact with archived comic books via the **Browser** window (referred to as the **Library Browser** when the Library tab is open). Adding comic books to the ComicRack library gives you the advantage of storing metadata, which then can be used for organizing your comic book collection. Using the Library tab, you can view in the Browser window either your entire collection (via the **Library folder** in the sidebar), or selected groups of comics (via reading lists in the sidebar).

**Library Browser**

**Library folder**

**Reading Lists**

**Name of the metadata field used to group the comic books**

**Move through the succession of lists recently browsed**

**Click to toggle the Sidebar off/on**

**Previous / Next**

**Views**

**View as thumbnails, tiles, or details. Option to filter comic books based on read state, and duplicates.**

**Undo or Redo the last operation performed in ComicRack**

**Undo / Redo**

**Search your library based on keywords, series, writer, artists, descriptive, or filename. The quick search box is an on-the-fly filtering tool: simply start typing, and the Browser window will display (as you type) all the items with matching description fields.**

**Quick Search**

**Arrange the comic book viewing options**

**List Layout**

**Duplicate Current List**

**Group Stack Arrange**

Grouping, Stacking and arranging (based on desired metadata) comic books help in customizing the view as per your choice. Different permutations and combinations of these 3 options provide a variety of environments for managing comic books. The grouping metadata field is seen as a heading with a disclosure triangle that can be used to toggle on/off its individual comic books.

**Group/Arrange in Reverse Order**

Just note the direction of the arrows on the group / arrange buttons. A downward-pointing (default) arrow indicates alphabetical order (from A to Z). You just need to simply click on the button and the arrow will reverse its direction, giving you the reverse alphabetical arrangement (from Z to A).

Here you see the comics Grouped by Publisher, Stacked by Series, and Arranged by Number.

**Library** **Folders**

**Library**

**Smart Lists**

- My Favorites
- Recently Added
- Recently Read
- Never Read
- Reading
- Read
- Files to update

**Web Comic Artifice**

**Bearmageddon (2011)**

**Web Comic Morningstar #1**

**Viz Media (3)**

- Bleach** 44 books
- Death Note** 13 books
- Fullmetal Alchemist** 25 books

**Library** **Folders**

**Library** **Folders**



# Sidebar

More properly called as the Library Sidebar

The Library and the Folders tabs of the **Browser Tab Bar** are integrated with the sidebar. Just like the browser, the Sidebar changes its content (**Library Sidebar** or **Folders Sidebar**) according to the tab open in the **Browser Tab Bar**. As the Library view is the default, we will, from here on, refer the **Library Sidebar** as simply the **Sidebar**.

**Create a new list**  
Creates a new folder to organize your lists. Lists can be dragged and dropped into the sidebar folders.

**Open in new window/tab**  
This expands/collapses all the lists and the root folders in the sidebar with a single click.

**Sidebar Toolbar**  
This opens the Favorites panel at the top of the Sidebar. Select any item in the sidebar, right-click, and you will be able to add it to the Favorites panel.

**Library folder**  
The Sidebar contains the Library folder, the default (albeit virtual) ComicRack folder that contains your entire comic book collection archived with ComicRack.

**Reading Lists**  
The Sidebar is also needed for creating, organising, and accessing reading lists.

**Temporary Lists**  
Double-clicking any reading list from windows explorer opens it directly in ComicRack. This is made possible by means of the **Temporary Lists** folder. It can also be used to store experimental reading lists, as any list kept here is deleted on the next run of ComicRack.

**Live Counters**  
These are visual indicators for new/unread/total books in a list. The Red gauge represents new books added in the past 10 days. The yellow gauge indicates the unread book count, while green one shows the total book count.

**Arranging files and folders in the Sidebar**  
You can make folders within folders for arranging your lists. Any number of lists can be kept within a folder, and can be dragged up or down, both within a folder and from one folder to another. Lists or folders can be placed at any level of hierarchy.

**Sidebar Context Menu**  
Right-clicking on any folder or list in the sidebar brings up the Sidebar context menu. It contains a number of options, many of which share an overlap with the Sidebar Toolbar and are covered in the next section.

**Arrange lists within a folder in alphabetical order**  
Sort

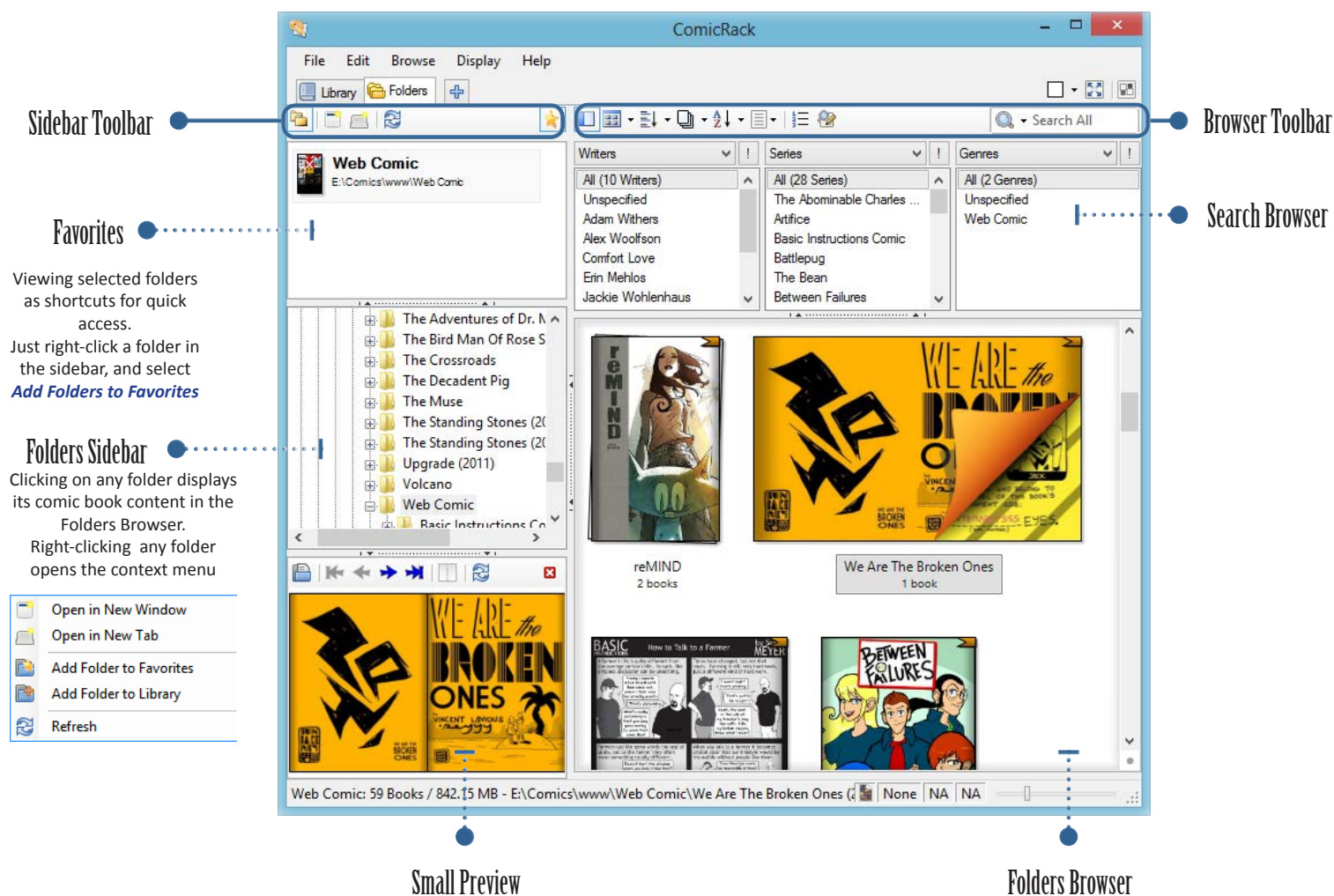
**Lists can be copied and pasted from one folder to another within the sidebar**  
Copy List  
Paste List

**Export Reading list saves a reading list on the desktop or any folder of your computer. You can then transfer it to use it on another system or share it with your friends, who can use the Import Reading list option to add it to their ComicRack sidebar**  
Export Reading List...  
Import Reading List...



# Folders Browser

The **Folders tab** allows you to browse your computer for comic book folders in a Windows Explorer-like fashion. Selecting a folder opens the contained comic books in the browser (referred to as the **Folders Browser** when the Folders tab is open). Similar to the Library browser, the Folders browser is integrated with the sidebar, and can display a **Favorites** panel above, and a **Small Preview** panel below. The Search Browser is also available.



This is an optional panel that display the comic book selected in the Browser, whether opened or not, without changing its read state and book-marks.

Essentially the same as the library browser, the only difference is that it displays the content of a particular folder on your system. Can be grouped, stacked, arranged in the same way as Library Browser

## FAQ

» **How do I exclude comic books in subfolders of a favorite folder from being displayed by default in the browser ?**

The **Include all subfolders** icon is useful for toggling off and on the subfolders of a folder selected in the Sidebar, or of a favorite folder. To use it, click on a folder in the Sidebar, or in the favorites panel. Next, click on the **Include all subfolders** icon. All subfolders shall now display in the library. Clicking on the icon again will toggle the subfolders off.

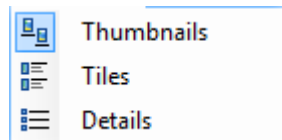




# Pages Browser

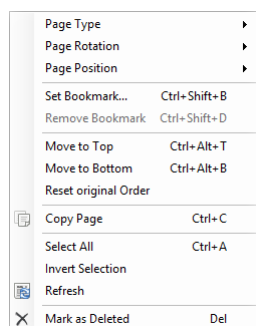
The **Pages browser** is the section of ComicRack that allows the display and organizing features for the pages of a comic book in the browser window. **The Pages tab is visible only when a comic book is open.** ComicRack provides labelling for individual pages of a comic book, as Front Cover, Story, Advertisement, Letters etc. The page type can be changed to suit your needs. Similar to the library browser, the pages browser also has the options for viewing, arranging and grouping comic book pages. It should be noted that, unlike the library and folders browsers, the Pages Browser does not contain the Sidebar.

Just like the Library Browser and the Folders Browser, options for viewing thumbnails / tiles / details view are there in the Pages Browser too. The only difference is that here individual comic book pages are displayed in the Browser.

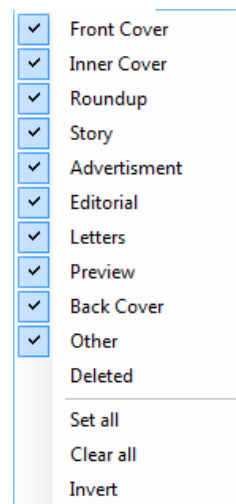


Views

Page Context Menu



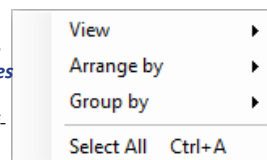
Right-clicking on any page in the Pages Browser invokes the Page Context Menu. This contains options for changing Page Type, Page Rotation, Adding / removing Bookmarks, reordering pages within a comic book, copying page(s) to another location, and marking pages as deleted (so that they do not show anymore in ComicRack).



Page Filter Menu

The Page Filter menu can be used to toggle types of pages on and off. These changes also apply to any other comics as well as the reader view. For example you can uncheck the Advertisement setting and you will never see a page marked as Advertisement as you're reading a comic.

Pages Browser Context Menu



Right-clicking on any empty space in the Pages Browser invokes the Pages Browser Context Menu. This contains the view / arrange / group options analogous to the **Pages Browser Toolbar**.

Please note that the **Pages Browser Context Menu** is different from the **Page Context Menu**.



# Working with Pages

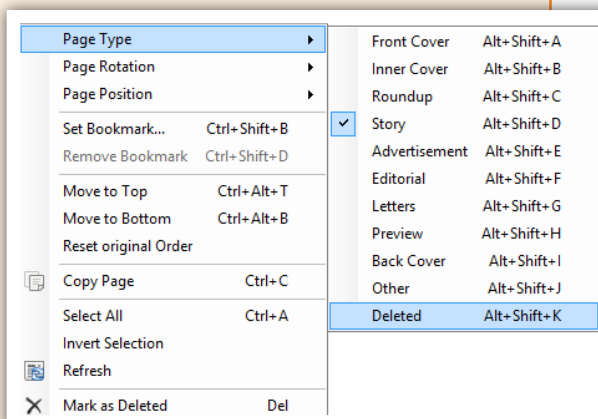
With ComicRack, you can save, delete, rotate and reorder individual pages of the comic book archives added to your library.

## Deleting Pages

If you wish to delete some pages from a comic archive, ComicRack provides for 2 options:

1. **Mark the pages as deleted, without actually removing the page(s) from the comic file.** Once a page is marked as deleted, a **red cross** would be visible on the page, indicating that it has been marked as deleted and will not show while reading, while it is not actually removed from the comic book file. There are several ways to do this:
  - Change the page type to **Deleted** from the Page Type sub-menu from the **page context menu**
  - Press the **Del** button on the keyboard
  - Choose **Mark as deleted** from the **Page context menu**.

2. **Actually delete the page from the comic.** To do this, just follow the steps outlined to mark the page(s) as deleted, and then export the book. You will learn more about exporting comics in a later chapter.



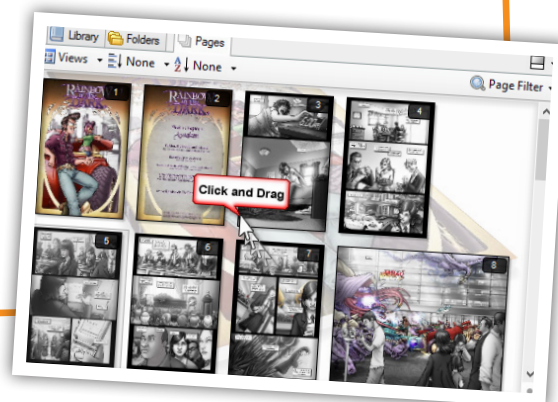
## Saving Pages

You can save page(s) as a single image file(s). To do so, right-click any page thumbnail in the pages browser and select the **Copy Page** option. You can now just paste the page anywhere in either windows explorer, or an image editor of your choice. Multiple pages can be similarly saved by selecting them individually using the **Ctrl** key, or selecting all pages via the **Select All** option. An alternate way to save pages is to simply to drag the page(s) to a location on your computer from the pages view.

## FAQ

### » How do I reorder pages within a comic book ?

You can change the order of your comic book pages by simply clicking and dragging them to where you want them to be. A black line shows where it will be reinserted. You can also use the **Move to Start** or **Move to End** options in the right-click context menu for moving a page to the beginning or end of a comic book respectively. A **Reset original order** option is always there if you wish to undo these changes.





# Search Browser

Short of using reading lists, the **Search Browser** offers one of the quickest ways to access a comic book or a set of comic books based on the metadata present. The Search Browser is present above the main **Browser window**. Please note that the default ComicRack layout has the Search Browser hidden.

As the Search browser opens, a three-part pane will slide down, allowing you to narrow down the visible comic books by using three metadata fields. The drop-down menus can be chosen to display the comic book metadata attribute of your choice. Choosing a particular metadata attribute delimits the comic book search results in the Browser accordingly.

**Column 1**

**Column 2**

**Column 3**

**Drop-down Menu**

The drop-down menu of all the 3 columns contain the same metadata fields. The Search Browser provides more than 20 commonly used metadata fields to filter your search results. As per your requirement, you can choose any combinations of them.

**Negation**

The little exclamation (!) mark present next to the drop-down menu in each column is the Negation button. If you select this, all comic books that do NOT match the criteria are displayed.

**Column Header**

To quickly clear the filters in the Search Browser, simply click the column header, and it will revert to showing 'all'. If you click on the header of the leftmost column, this won't reset all the columns; instead, it will now reflect the search results based on the new filters provided.

**Using metadata fields to filter the search results**

In the example shown, we have chosen the 3 columns as Publishers, Genres and Series. Clicking a Publisher will narrow down the Genre column to all comic books of the particular Genre; clicking a specific genre narrows down the third column to all the comic book series that have the selected genre. Finally, the comic book listing is narrowed down further once you click on a particular comic book.

**Age Ratings**  
**Alternate Series**  
**Characters**  
**Colorists**  
**Cover Artists**  
**Editors**  
**Formats**  
**Genres**  
**Imprints**  
**Inkers**  
**Languages**  
**Locations**  
**Months**  
**Pencillers**  
**Publishers**  
**Ratings**  
**Series**  
**Tags**  
**Teams**  
**Titles**  
**Volumes**  
**Writers**  
**Years**

**Publishers**

- All (10 Publishers)
- Unspecified
- Bongo
- Dark Horse
- DC Comics
- Del Rey
- Image
- Oni Press
- Radical Comics
- Top Cow
- Viz Media

**Genres**

- All (8 Genres)
- Unspecified
- Action Adventure
- Fantasy
- Horror/Supernatural
- Manga
- Mature
- Psychological
- Super-Hero: Alternative/Postm...

**Series**

- All (21 Series)
- Archie Summer Splash
- Artifacts
- Berserk
- Bleach
- Bongo Comics Free-For-All
- Del Rey Showcase
- Doctor Solar / Magnus
- FCBD Iron Man Thor
- Fractured Fables
- Old Boy
- The Oni Press Free-For-All

**Dark Horse (1)**

**Old Boy**

## Select Multiple Fields

- To select multiple fields in the Search Browser, just hold the **Ctrl** key and click on desired metadata fields.
- To select a number of fields in continuity, you can hold the **Shift** key and click the first and the last fields; all fields in between the 2 clicked ones will be selected.

**Writers**

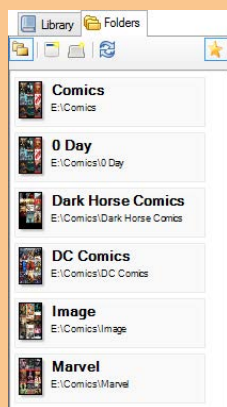
- Adam Withers
- Comfort Love
- Erin Mehlos
- Ethan Nicolle
- Jason Brubaker
- Sarah Ellerton
- Vitaly S Alexius

**Series**

- All (4 Series)
- Beamageddon
- Rainbow In The Dark
- reMIND
- The Uniques



# Optional Panels



Open the book  
in the Reader



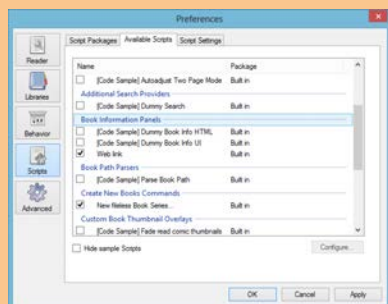
Show one / two pages  
in the preview

## FAVORITES

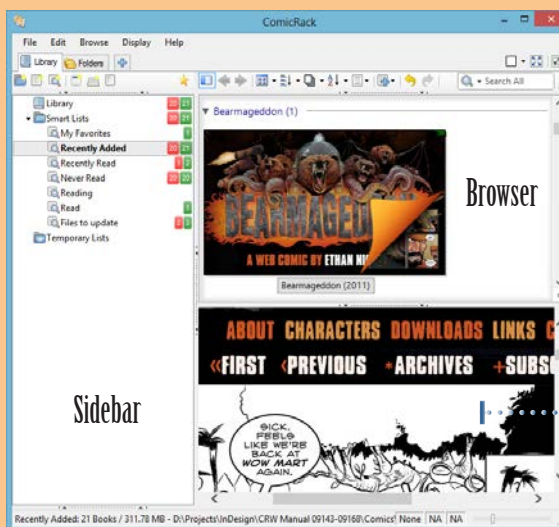
This small panel at the top of the Sidebar will display the folders or lists of your choice for quick access. To add a folder/list to Favorites, right-click & choose the **Add to Favorites** option. You can have different sets of favorites items for the Library sidebar & the Folders sidebar at the same time. Right-click on any favorite item to refresh or delete it.

## SMALL PREVIEW

This small panel at the bottom of the Sidebar will display the comic book selected in the Browser, whether opened or not, without changing its read state and bookmarks. You can use the mouse wheel in the small preview panel to scroll to the next/previous pages. Please note that the default ComicRack layout has the Small Preview hidden. To toggle the small preview on/off, either use the **Browse** menu or click the docking grip at the lower border of the sidebar.



First open the Preferences dialog & go to the Scripts tab. From the Available scripts section, enable the Web link script. Advanced users may also enable the Dummy Comic Info UI/HTML scripts. Click Ok & restart ComicRack.



In the browser, select any comic book with a valid web field. The Web link tab will show the page corresponding to the web address of the comic book. You may browse that complete website through this page.

Info Panel

## INFO PANEL

The Info Panel is an optional panel that can be used by script authors to display customized info, for example open webpage from Web field of comic page Info. The Info panel opens in the browser, but without any complementary scripts enabled, it doesn't show up. To open the Info Panel, either use the **Info Panel** option in the **Browse** menu, or use the **Shift+F9** keyboard combo, or click the **Info Panel docking grip** at the bottom of the browser window.

A basic knowledge of the preferences dialog & scripts is required to understand this panel, so we recommend that you first get acquainted with these above-mentioned sections, and then come back to the present page. Info Panel scripts are described in detail in the Scripts chapter.



# Chapter 05: Reader

The ComicRack reader is, inarguably, the best book reader in the world. This chapter helps you use the reader to the maximum of its abilities!

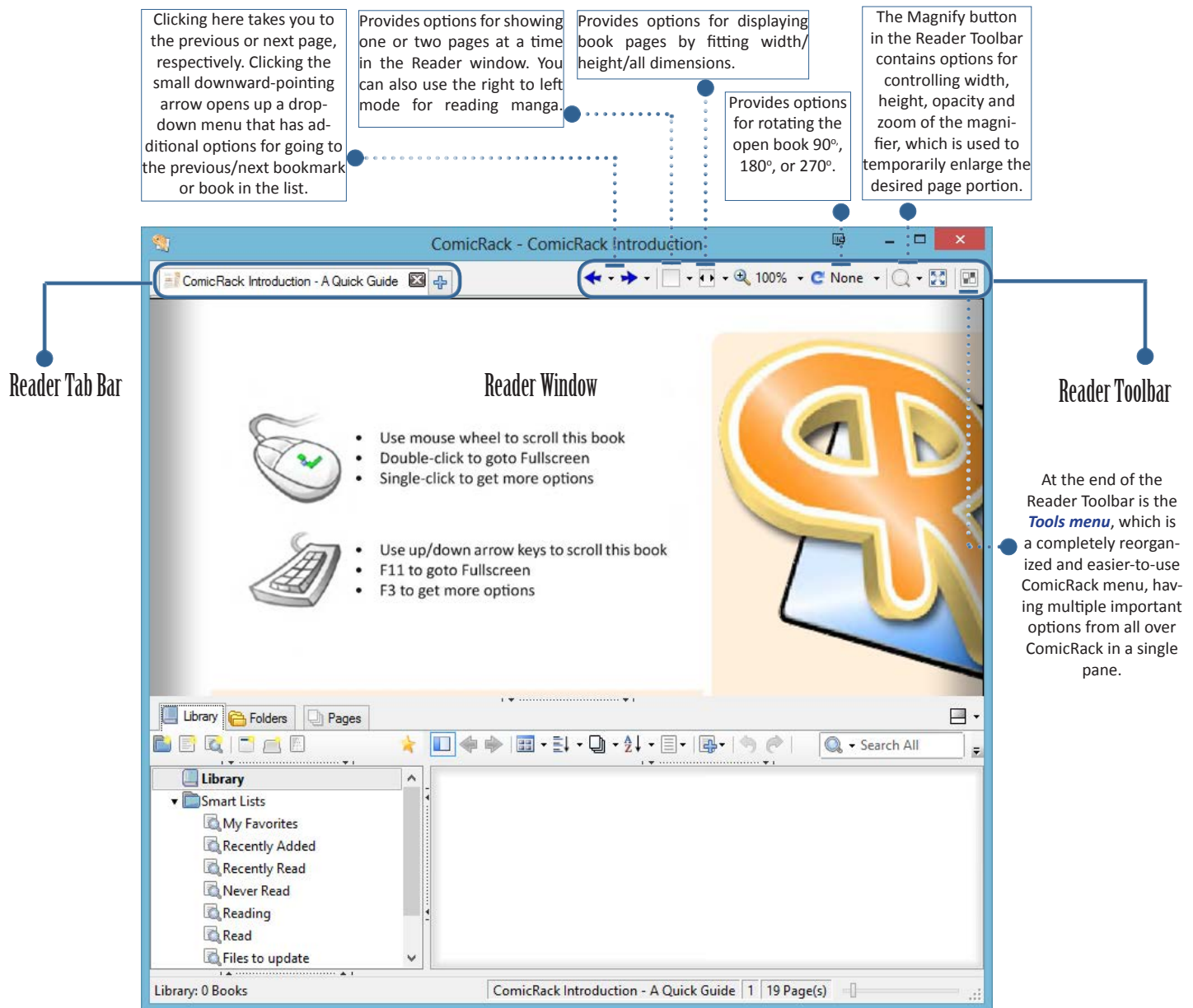
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>READER NAVIGATION</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>READER TAB BAR</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>QUICK OPEN BOX</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>OVERLAYS</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>PAGE LAYOUT</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>BOOKMARKS</b> .....	<b>38</b>





# Introduction

The Reader window is the most important part of ComicRack, as this is where the book pages are ultimately displayed for onscreen reading. Scrolling the mouse wheel moves the open page up or down, and scrolling beyond the end of the page opens the next page of the book. This is the simplest way of navigating the Reader.



## Display Modes

There are a number of 'modes' (detailed on the next page) in which the books can be displayed in the reader window:

1. **Default Mode** (Showing the Reader, Browser, and the Sidebar)
2. **Reader Mode** (with the browser & sidebar closed) (**F3**) (Clicking on the docking grips between the Reader and the Browser toggle off/on the browser, thus achieving the same result)
3. **Fullscreen Mode** (with menus and toolbars)
4. **Fullscreen Mode** (**F11**) (no menus or toolbars)
5. **Windowed Reader Mode** (**F12**) (the Reader gets a window of its own)



# Reader Navigation

It is possible to quickly navigate between the 4 different modes using the mouse or the keyboard.

## The Default Mode

displaying the browser and the sidebar, apart from the reader

Double-clicking or pressing **F11** or the **Full Screen** button (**Reader Toolbar**) in the reader window brings up View #2, while clicking the mouse or pressing **F3** takes us to view #4.

## The FillScreen Mode

in which the ComicRack window (with menus & toolbars) fills the entire desktop

This is seen after clicking the **Full Screen** button (**Reader Toolbar**) (or pressing **F11** or double-clicking) in the Reader window of the default view #1 or clicking the mouse (or pressing **F3**) in View #3.



## The Reader Mode

With the browser and the sidebar closed, the complete space in the ComicRack window goes to the Reader.

This is seen after pressing **F11** (or double-clicking) in view #3 or pressing **F3** (or a single click) in the Reader window of View #1. Pressing **F11** (or double-clicking) again brings back view #3, while pressing **F3** (or a mouse click) takes us to view #1.

## The FullScreen Mode

in which the reader (without any menus or toolbars) occupies the entire desktop

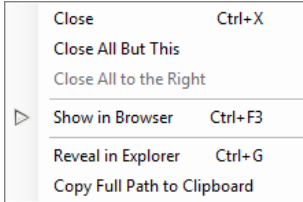
This is seen after pressing **F3** (or clicking the mouse) in the Reader window of view #2 or **F11** (or double-clicking) in View #4. A single click or **F3** again brings back view #2, while double-clicking or pressing **F11** takes us to view #4.



# Reader Tab-bar

The Reader Tab-bar is present over the top left of the Reader window. It continues into the **Reader Toolbar**. The Reader Tab-bar shows the currently opened books in a tabbed interface. When no book is open, it displays the **Plus (+)** tab. Clicking (either left-click or right-click) this tab adds new reader tabs. Double-clicking a book from the browser opens it in the current tab. Clicking on a selected tab toggles between the Browser and the Reader.

Right-clicking a tab brings up the tab context menu, which contains options for revealing the open book in the browser or in windows explorer. You can use the Close all but this option from the tab context menu to close all other books in one go.

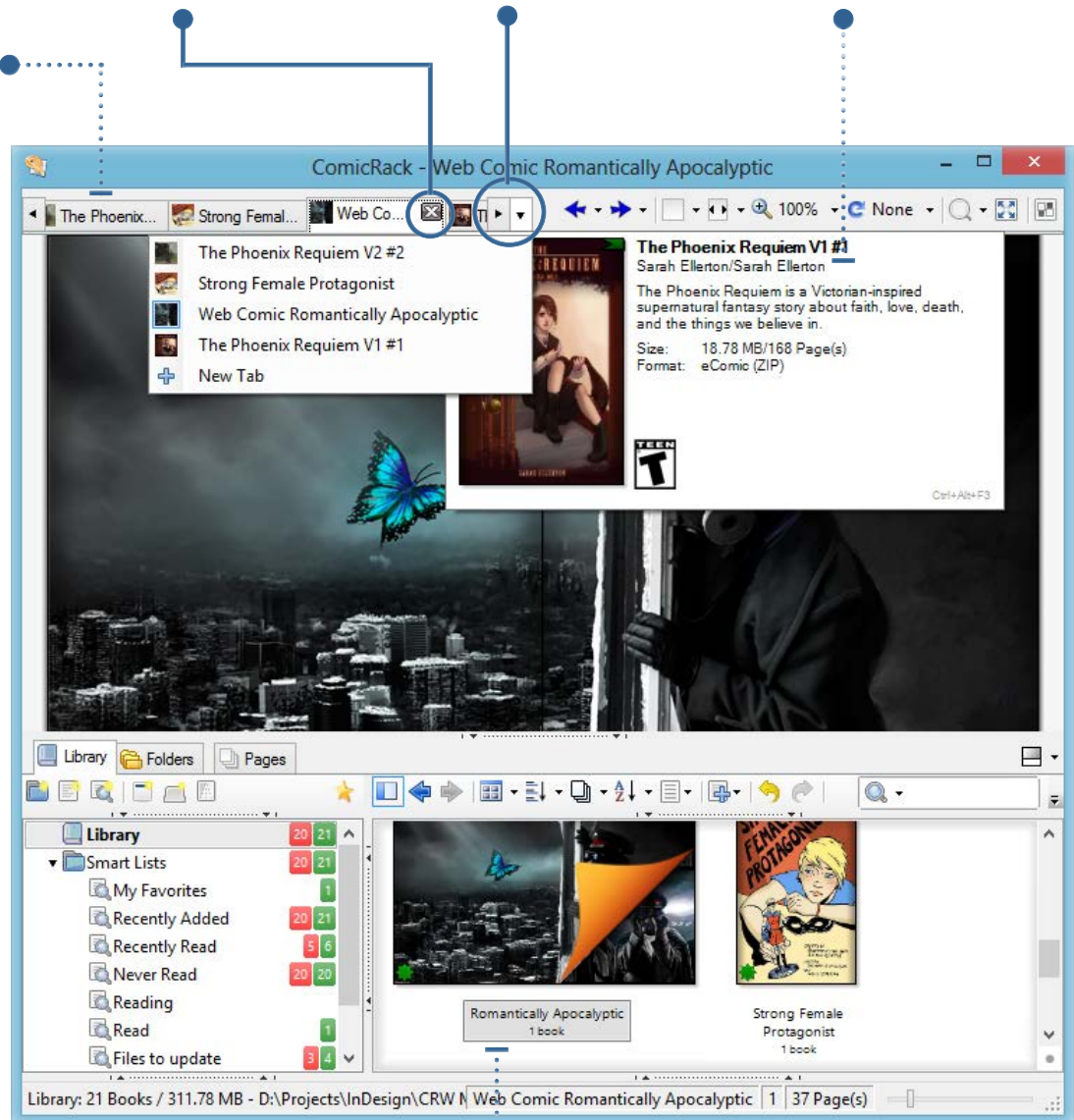


A single (left) click on the tab of the comic book currently being read, toggles between the Reader & the Browser.

Every tab contains its own close button that appears when the tab is selected.

When a number of books are open in the Reader, the Tab-Bar displays right and left buttons at its ends to navigate between them, and a drop-down menu at the end that contains a list of all the open books.

On hovering the mouse over the tab, an info box pops-up that contains the book caption, a brief plot of the book, format (ZIP/RAR), size and number of pages. At the bottom, it also displays the icons and age ratings for the book.



Tabs can be dragged and dropped to change their position to any desired one on the Reader tab bar.

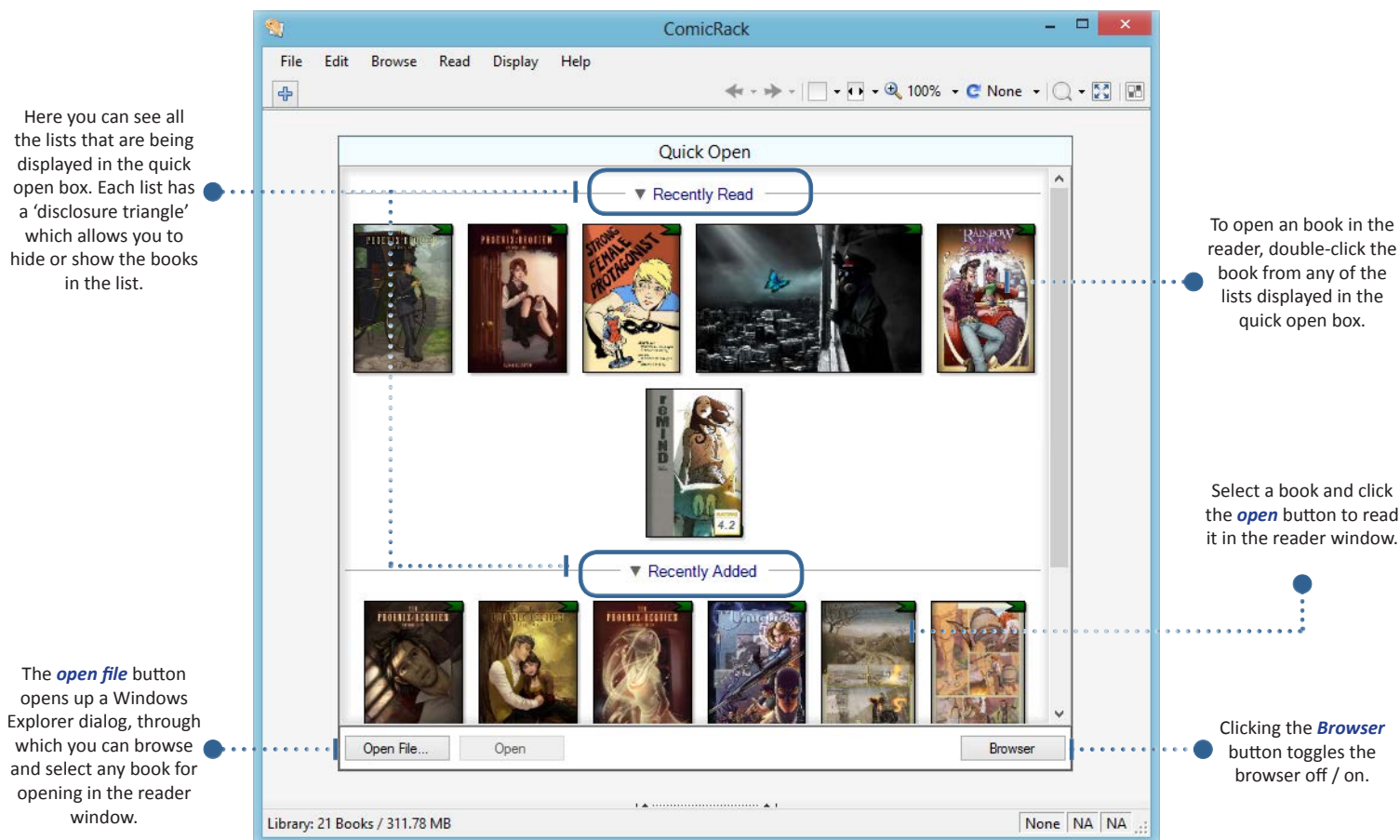


Double-clicking a book from the browser opens it in the current tab (whether empty or occupied by another book) in the reader tab bar. If you hold the **Ctrl** key while double-clicking, the book will open in a new tab.



# Quick-Open Box

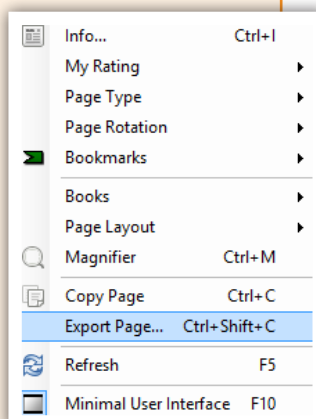
The **Quick Open** box can be seen inside the Reader window when no book is open. While the default ComicRack setup displays the **No book is open** message, once you add books to the ComicRack library, the **Quick Open** box appears in all its glory. It shows all the default reading lists present in ComicRack. You can set any reading list to be available in the **Quick Open** box. From every list, upto 10 books can be displayed here, depending on the last time read and added criteria.



## Reader Context Menu

The Reader context menu is seen after right-clicking any page open in the Reader window. Most of the options present here share an overlap with other menus and toolbars in ComicRack, and are discussed in the relevant sections. Some important sub-menus are discussed below:

- **Export Page:** This allows you to save any page open in the reader window to any Windows Explorer folder. You can choose the page type from JPG/BMP/PNG/GIF/TIFF formats.
- **Copy Page:** The Copy page function is also similar, allowing you to paste the copied page to windows explorer. It simply saves the page in its original format.
- **Page Rotation:** Changes selected page rotation permanently in the book archive. So if some pages in your comic archive are scanned in a wrong horizontal/vertical position, there is no need to extract images and rotate them in an external editor.
- **Minimal User Interface:** Selecting this option hides the main menu, reader tab bar, reader toolbar and the status bar in the fullscreen view of the reader window.





# Overlays

The ComicRack Reader makes use of a number of overlays to display live information regarding the book currently being read. These overlays can be enabled/disabled via the options in the **Reader setup** tab of the **Preferences** dialog. Here we briefly discuss all the overlays.

The Navigation Overlay displays a filmstrip of all the pages of the currently open comic. Just hover your mouse over the lower border of the Reader window, and the navigation overlay will slide up. By default, the navigation overlay is shown at the bottom of the reader window. The book pages can be viewed as a filmstrip here. Clicking on any page here opens it in the reader window. The mouse wheel can be used to browse the filmstrip back & forward. You also have the option from the **Reader setup** tab of the **Preferences** dialog for showing the navigation overlay at the top.

## Navigation Overlay

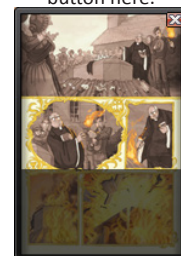


## Current Page Overlay

The Current Page Overlay can be seen in the upper right corner of the reader window. It is visible only when the page in the reader window is changed. It displays the page number (along with the number of total pages). From the Reader setup tab of the Preferences dialog, the page name can also be displayed in this overlay.

## Visible Page Part Overlay

Visible Page part Overlay displays the portion of the page currently visible on the screen with a thumbnail of the entire page currently open in the reader. You can turn off the visible page part overlay by simply clicking at the cancel button here.



## Did you know?

### Auto-Scrolling

**Auto Scrolling** is a feature that smartens up the way you move around the page. Instead of scrolling based on constant values (pixels), ComicRack calculates automatically and dynamically the best scroll step for you, so that you could scroll in the most comfortable way. To enable auto scrolling, from the main menu, go to the **read** menu & click **auto scrolling**. While using the Reader, you can toggle auto scrolling on/off with the **S** key.

**Double-page auto scrolling** is a complementary option that works only if Auto Scroll is enabled. This affects only double page spreads, by changing the page movement direction. This is noticeable if the page width is bigger than the viewing area and we don't use Fit Width or similar modes. So you start from the top-left corner of the page displayed and then move to the top-right corner (instead of bottom-left with this option disabled). Most double-page spreads are supposed to be read this way, as our eyes follow from left to the right to the bottom.



# Page Layout

The ComicRack Reader gives you many options regarding how you want your pages to be displayed. You can fit them by height/width/both, or even read them right-to-left (for manga). This section summarizes all the options.

## Layout Options

The **Page Layout (Number)** options can be accessed from the **Display** menu (page layout sub-menu), **Reader Toolbar**, or **Reader context menu** (page layout sub-menu). You get the options for showing one or two pages at a time in the Reader window. You can also use the right to left mode for reading manga. If there are forced single pages (like a single page before a double spread or before a page of type Cover), white fill pages are introduced.

The **Page Layout (Fit)** options can be accessed from the **Display** menu (page layout sub-menu), **Reader Toolbar**, or **Reader context menu** (page layout sub-menu). You get the options for fitting the pages by their width/height/all dimensions in the Reader window. The **only fit if oversized** mode can only be used simultaneously with the previously discussed page display modes. The **only fit if oversized** makes the original page size the limiting factor over the selected page display mode. Not selecting this option makes ComicRack “force fit” even smaller images by the chosen constraint.



The **Rotation** options can be accessed from the **Display** menu, **Reader Toolbar**, or **Reader context menu** (page layout sub-menu). You get the options for rotating the open book 90°, 180°, or 270°. You can also use the rotate left/right buttons to sequentially toggle between these available rotation modes. ***Please note that using the rotation option, the entire open comic is rotated. If you wish to rotate individual pages, you should use the Page rotation options from the context menu of the Pages Browser.*** Also know that in either case, that the pages are rotated only for display in the reader, and pages in the comic archive are not altered (till you Export the comic to commit the changes). You can also choose the autorotate double pages option to let the reader window automatically display double-pages in a 270° rotated state.

## Adaptive Modes

The **Two Pages (Adaptive)** mode is the ‘classic’ ComicRack two page mode. Unlike the simple **Two Pages** mode that introduces white fill pages alongside forced single pages, the **Two Pages (Adaptive)** mode doesn’t introduce any fill pages. The cover page is displayed as a single page, while rest of the pages as double pages.

The **Fit Width (adaptive)** mode splits a double-page and displays only half of it at once fitting it to width. This is especially useful for people with pivoted monitors or when book pages are scanned in a way where all the images consist of two pages on each one.

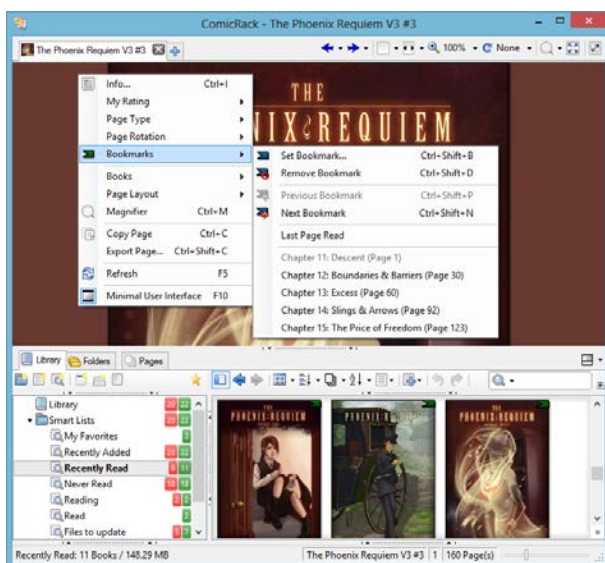


# Bookmarks

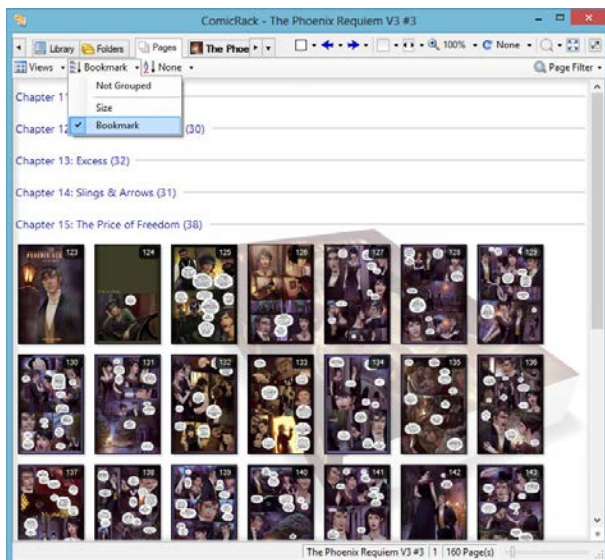
ComicRack contains features for bookmarking your comic books at any (and any number of) page(s) that you wish. A page can be bookmarked using the **Set Bookmark** option, which can be found either in the **Reader window** (from the **Bookmarks** sub-menu in the **Reader context menu**), or in the **Info dialog** (Right-click on any page in the **Pages** tab).

Bookmarks are, in their simplest form, needed when you have to quit reading a comic book and you wish to continue reading from the page you left it at. So you bookmark it and next time you can easily access it. Please note that for this purpose ComicRack already has the **Open the book at the page where it was closed** option. We recommend bookmarks for more intuitive scenarios like:

- As chapter jump points
- To mark backup features (or second-third-fourth-etc stories in Annuals or King-Size editions)
- If you combine multiple comics to one with export, the beginning of each comic book is marked with a bookmark.



The bookmarks menu in the reader window displays all the bookmarks for the open comic book. Every bookmark can be given an individual name, for example, as in this case, the chapter name.



The Pages browser showing the comic book pages grouped by bookmarks. See how comfortable it becomes to recognise them in this scenario. Double-click any bookmark header here to collapse/expand it.

## TOUCH gestures

If you have a computer with a touch-screen, you might find that gestures (motions that you make with one or two fingers) are easier to use than a mouse, pen, or keyboard. ComicRack recognizes a number of touch gestures on supported touch-enabled devices. Currently they simply map to square areas in the reader you can click. They are numbered left-to-right, top down, from 1 to 9. By default, if you click (touch with touch display) in the upper corners you change page. In the lower corners, you auto scroll (with page change).



By default, Gesture 1 is assigned to Previous Page action, Gesture 3 for Next page, Gesture 7 for Previous part and Gesture 9 for Next part.

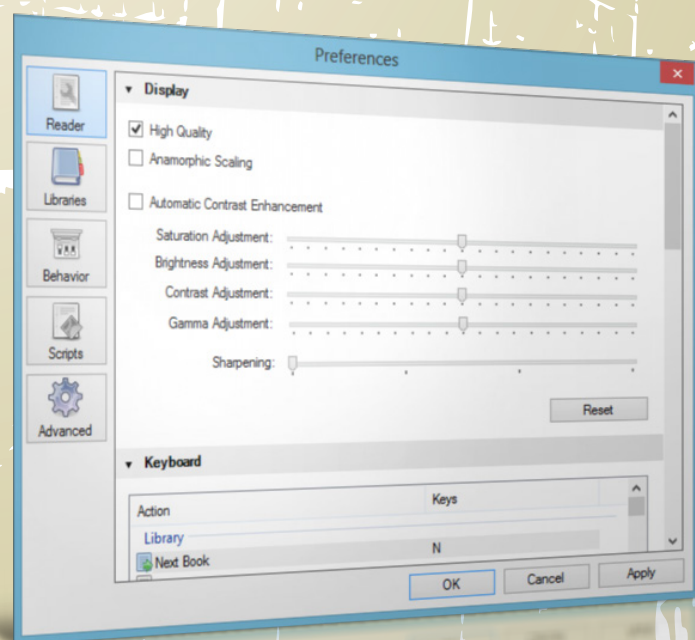
ComicRack also recognizes multi-touch gestures: you can zoom in/out, move around page, rotate page, and swipe to next/previous page.



# Chapter 06: Configuring

ComicRack comes with a number of features that enable you to personalize it to your liking. This chapter will help you learn how to change the way ComicRack works to make it easier to use & more efficient.

<b>PREFERENCES DIALOG</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>READER SETUP TAB</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>LIBRARIES TAB</b> .....	<b>42</b>
<b>BEHAVIOR TAB</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>SCRIPTS TAB</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>ADVANCED TAB</b> .....	<b>45</b>
<b>BOOK DISPLAY SETTINGS</b> .....	<b>46</b>
<b>LIST LAYOUTS</b> .....	<b>47</b>
<b>WORKSPACES</b> .....	<b>48</b>





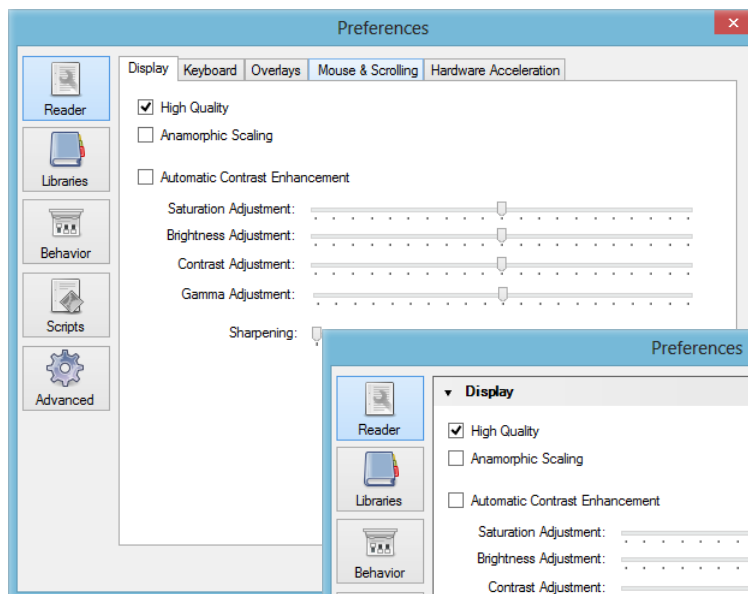
# Preferences Dialog



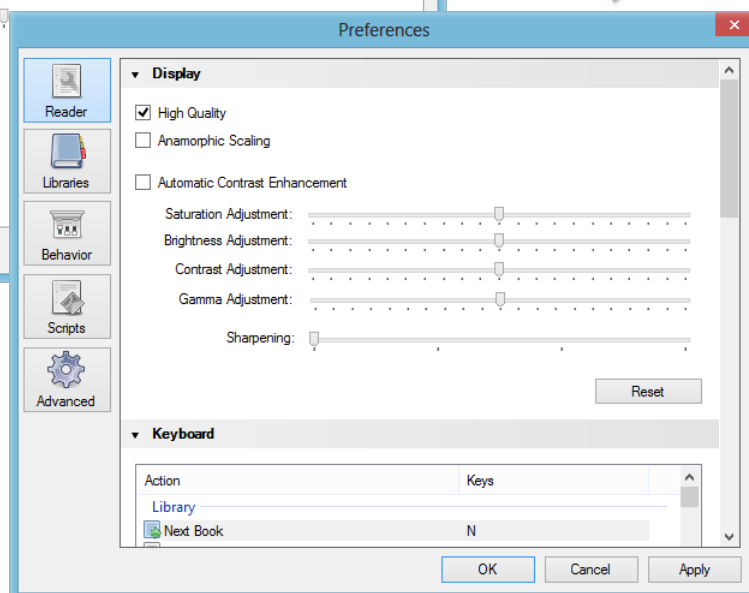
The Preferences dialog is essential for configuring ComicRack according to your needs. It can be opened either via the **Edit** menu, or by using the **Tools** menu.

The Preferences dialog contains 5 tabs, each of which has a number of sections / sub-tabs.

1. Reader Setup
  - ▶ Display
  - ▶ Keyboard
  - ▶ Overlays
  - ▶ Mouse & Scrolling
  - ▶ Hardware acceleration
2. Libraries
  - ▶ Book Folders
  - ▶ Scanning
  - ▶ Display
  - ▶ Sharing
  - ▶ Server Settings
3. Behavior
  - ▶ Starting ComicRack
  - ▶ Opening a Book
  - ▶ Reading
  - ▶ Right to Left
  - ▶ Browser
  - ▶ Application
  - ▶ Import & Export
4. Script
  - ▶ Script Packages
  - ▶ Available Scripts
  - ▶ Script Settings
5. Advanced
  - ▶ Languages
  - ▶ Books
  - ▶ Database Backup
  - ▶ Caches & Memory Usage
  - ▶ Hidden Messages
  - ▶ Explorer Integration
  - ▶ Wireless Setup



In the Preferences dialog, double clicking anywhere on the background toggles between the scroll and the tab layout. The scroll layout shows all the preferences options arranged in different sections in a single scrolling window. The tab layout has these very options arranged in their own sub-tabs.



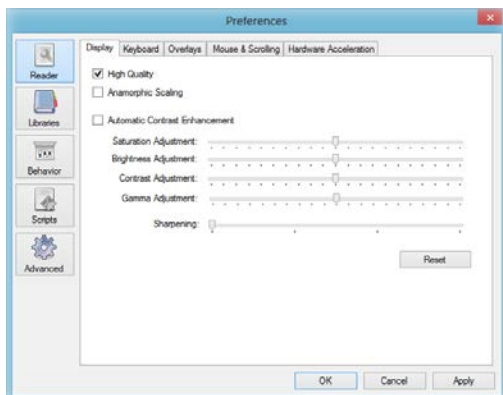
If you have any of the following 'How do I..' questions, then look no further, the preferences dialog will help you:

- How do I add comic book folders to the ComicRack library ?
- How do I open new files in new tabs?
- How do I use custom keyboard shortcuts?
- How do I increase the mouse wheel scroll speed?
- How do I make sure that deleted files don't show up again in the library?
- How do I use ComicRack to check its RSS feed?
- How do I customize ComicRack for reading manga?
- How do I minimize ComicRack into the system tray?
- How do I change the ComicRack interface language?
- How do I remove the overlays?
- How do I backup my database?
- How do I open comic books from windows explorer directly with ComicRack?



# Reader Setup Tab

The **reader setup** tab contains a number of self-explanatory options for customizing the way you wish to read your comic books with ComicRack. There are 5 sections in the Reader setup tab: Display, Keyboard, Overlays, Mouse & Scrolling and Hardware acceleration. The important features are outlined below.

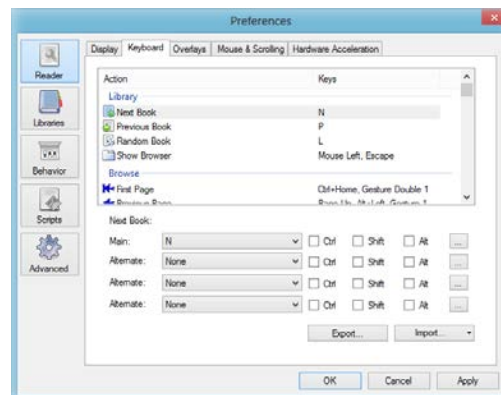


## DISPLAY

In the Display section, turning **High Quality** option off increases page display speed on slower machines.

**Anamorphic Scaling** stretches the comic book page to fit the screen in both dimensions.

The **Adjustments** sliders provide easy changes to the saturation, brightness, contrast, gamma and sharpening attributes of the comic pages.

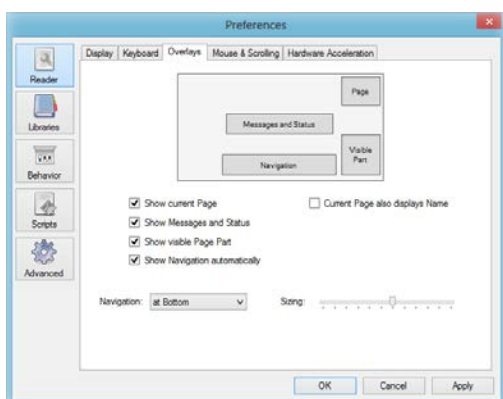


## KEYBOARD

For each keyboard shortcut, there are 4 options: 1 Main and 3 Alternate. Each option has its own drop-down menu, from which you can choose the shortcut key that suits you.

You can also use the CTRL, SHIFT, or ALT keys to make a number of combinations and permutations for making the shortcut of your choice. You can use the keystroke button (next to the CTRL/SHIFT/ALT checkboxes) to directly input keys from the keyboard.

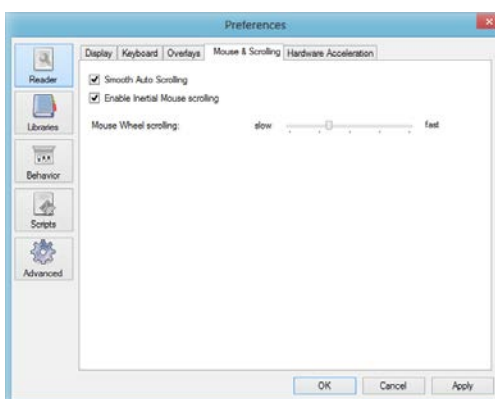
The **Export** button can be used to save the keyboard layout to an XML file on your PC. Such a keyboard layout can reflect your personal likings for the keyboard shortcuts, or can mirror the keys of some other comic reading software that you had to use before ComicRack.



## OVERLAYS

The **Overlays** section contains settings for a number of enhancements for the reader window. Please read the section on **Overlays** to understand details regarding their nomenclature.

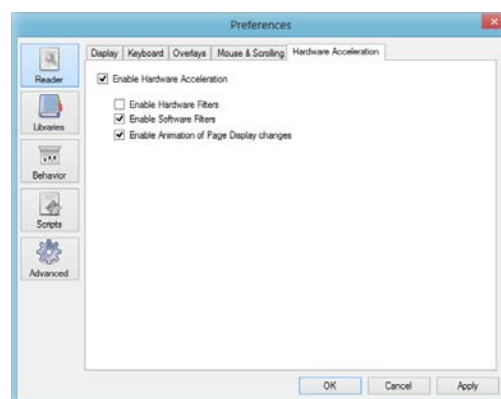
All available overlays are shown in the overlay map here. You can uncheck the overlays that you do not wish to show in the reader window. The corresponding overlay in the map greys out. You can also choose to display the page name just below the current page overlay.



## MOUSE & SCROLLING

With **Smooth Auto Scrolling** enabled, moving from one part of the page to the next is more fluent. This works only when auto scrolling is enabled from the Read menu.

With **inertial mouse scrolling** & **hardware acceleration** on, the scrolling of pages will continue, decelerating, even after the mouse button is released.



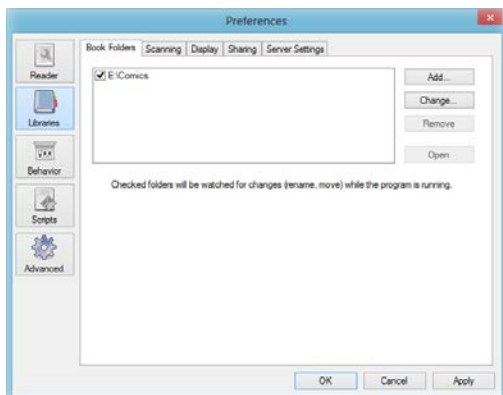
## HARDWARE ACCELERATION

As we have already seen, during installation, ComicRack optimizes itself for your system. Most of the settings in the **hardware acceleration** section have already been selected by ComicRack, and are the ones recommended for your system. If you do not desire the page display change animation, you may disable it.



# Libraries Tab

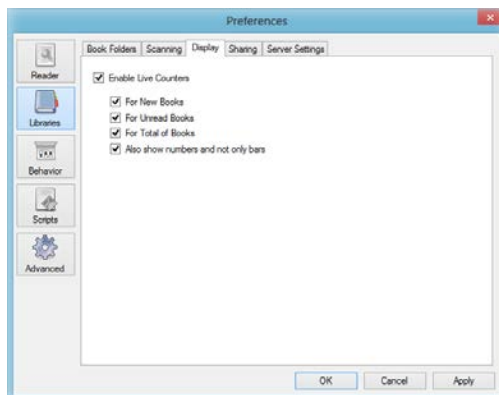
The **Libraries** tab contains a number of self-explanatory options for customizing your ComicRack library. There are five sections in the Libraries tab: Book folders, Scanning, Display, Sharing, Server Settings. The important features are outlined below.



## BOOK FOLDERS

The **Book Folders** section helps in adding folders containing comic books to the library. These folders, if checked, would be watched for changes (move / rename) while the program is running. Using the **open** button, any added folder can be opened with windows explorer.

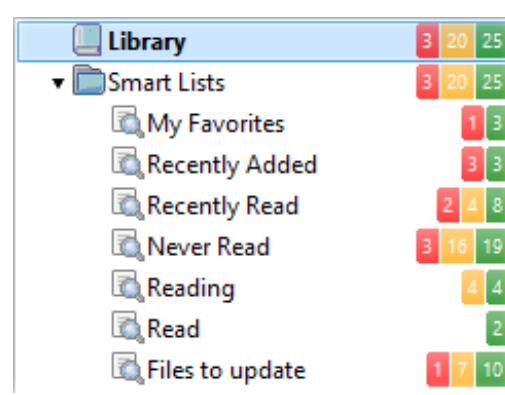
If you try to edit metadata for files which you have not yet added to the library, the fields appear greyed out, not allowing you to select anything. First add your books to the library using the **Book Folders** section & then you'll be able to edit the metadata.



## DISPLAY

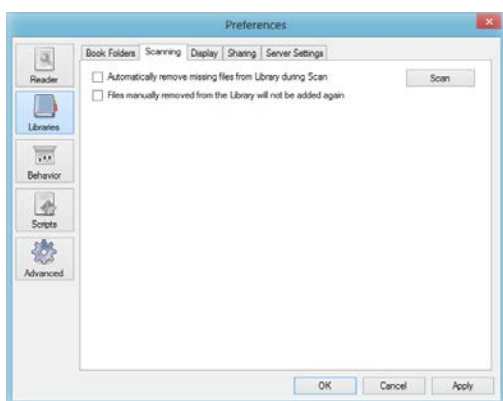
The ComicRack **sidebar** contains visual indicators that provide at-a-glance overview of the number of new, unread & total books present in each list.

The **Red** gauge represents new books added in the past 10 days. The **yellow** gauge indicates the unread book count, while the **green** one shows the total book count.



The Display section of the Libraries tab contains options to enable/disable the live counters.

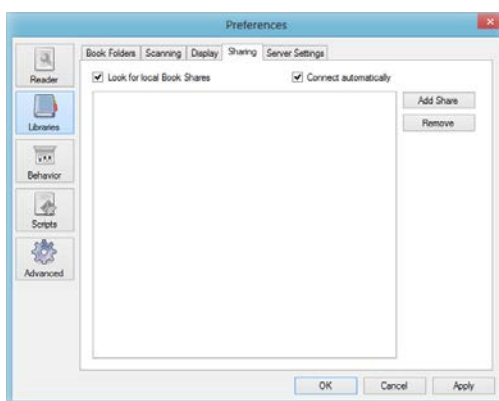
If you wish, you can also turn off the number count here, simply keeping the color indicators in the sidebar.



## SCANNING

The **Scanning** section has 2 important options. The first option, if enabled, removes missing files from the library during the scanning process.

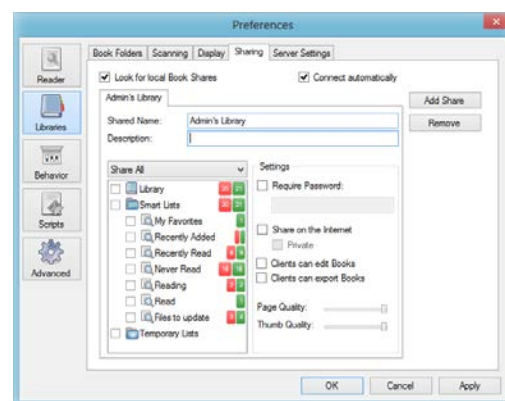
The second option comes in handy when you decide not to add a file to the library, while that file resides within a comic book folder that is already added to the library.



## SHARING

The **Sharing** section is used for sharing libraries over the internet.

Select **Add Share** to open the library sharing config. Here you can also select if you want to share your complete library or only selected lists.

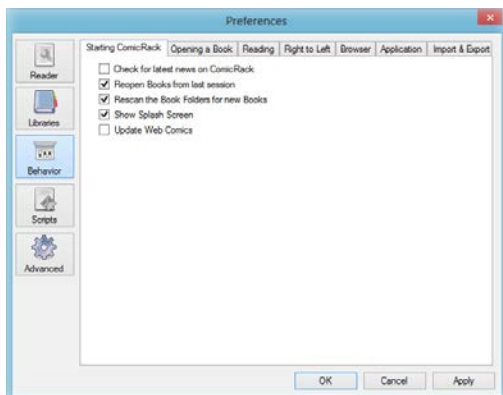


You can also select to make your library editable or password protected (recommended). Please read the [chapter on Network sharing](#) for further details.



# Behavior Tab

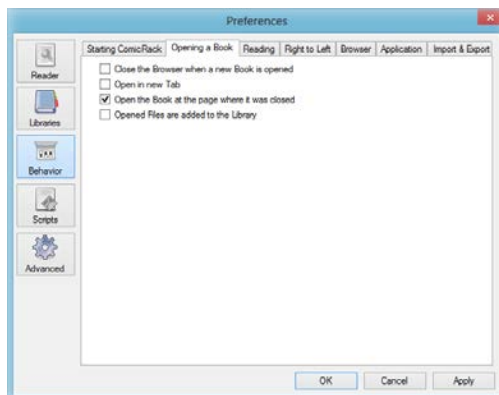
The **Behavior** tab contains a number of self-explanatory options for customizing the way you wish to read your comic books with ComicRack. There are 7 sections in the Reader setup tab: Starting ComicRack, Opening a comic book, Reading, Right to left, Browser, Application, and Import & export. The important features are outlined below.



## STARTING COMICRACK

The **Starting ComicRack** section contains startup tasks for ComicRack, like scanning for comic book folders and updating web comics.

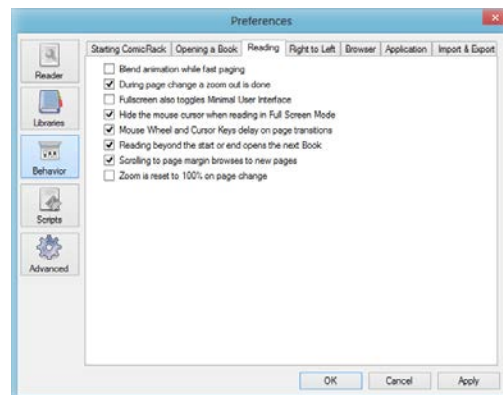
We recommend that you mark all these options to run automatically at startup. You can also check for all the ComicRack news and keep informed about new releases.



## OPENING A BOOK

Here you get the options for opening new comic books in separate tabs. You can opt to close the browser automatically whenever a comic book is opened.

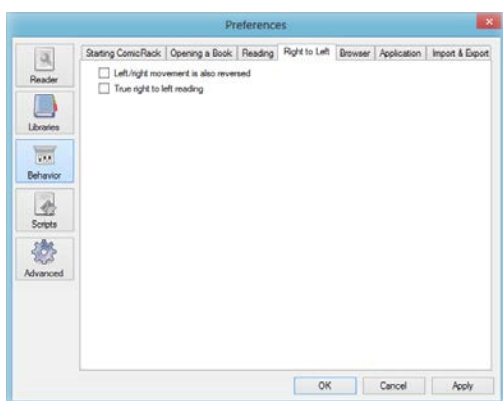
You can make ComicRack always open a new comic book in a new tab from the option here. You can also choose to open the comic book at the page where it was last closed.



## READING

With the **Blend animation while fast paging** option unchecked, when you keep the **page down** shortcut pushed, it disables any page transition effect. If it is checked, animation effect is always turned on, no matter how fast you try to switch through pages.

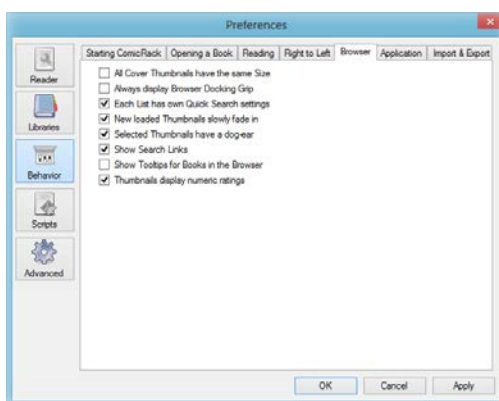
Keep the **Fullscreen also toggles minimal user interface** option selected if you don't want any menu or toolbar in fullscreen view. You can uncheck the reset zoom option if you wish to read all pages in a particular zoomed mode.



## RIGHT-TO-LEFT

Right-to-left mode is used while reading manga. Left/right movement is also reversed - if book is marked as Manga (right to left), or if your page layout is 'Right to Left' then page loads in upper right corner and goes to lower left.

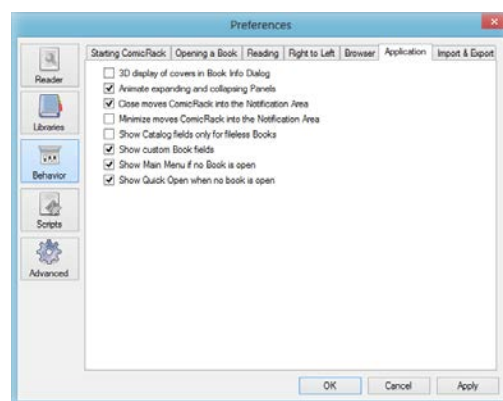
**True right to left reading** - The whole book is mirrored and not only double pages reversed. So you're really reading the book from back to front.



## BROWSER

A couple of tweaks for the Browser. If you wish to display the browser docking grip while using the reader, you can check the option here. You can also opt for comic book tooltips while hovering your mouse over them in the browser.

Also present are options for thumbnail animations. The last option lets you display comic book ratings numerically. Unchecking this option will display the ratings as stars over the thumbnails.



## APPLICATION

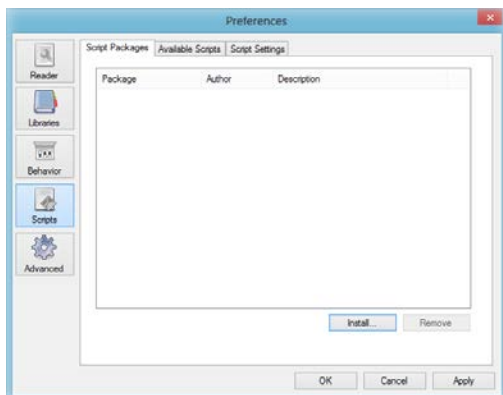
The comic info dialog can display either simple or 3D covers, which can be toggled by either clicking on them, or using the option here. You also have the option to hide the main menu (also see Tools menu, and use the Alt key).

If you wish to have the catalog field for all comic books, you can uncheck the option here that limits the catalog field to fileless comics. Similar is the option for custom fields. Also, you can select to not show the quick open box.



# Scripts Tab

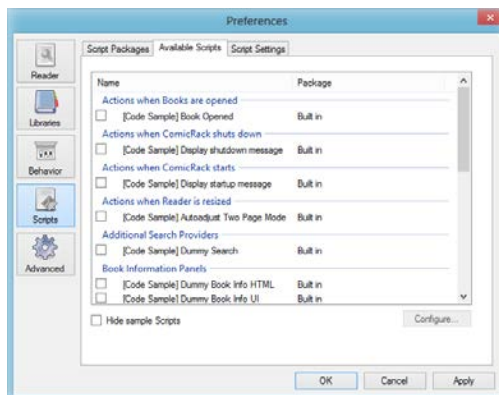
Scripts are essentially plugins or add-ons that extend the functionality of ComicRack. They can be found in the [Index of Scripts](#) section of the [ComicRack forum](#). They are usually distributed as a **.crplugin** file which can be simply double-clicked to install. Working with scripts is explained in detail later in the Scripts chapter.



## SCRIPT PACKAGES

**Script Packages** is the first section in the Scripts tab. It is used for installing/uninstalling the scripts. It displays all the installed scripts, with a brief description of them.

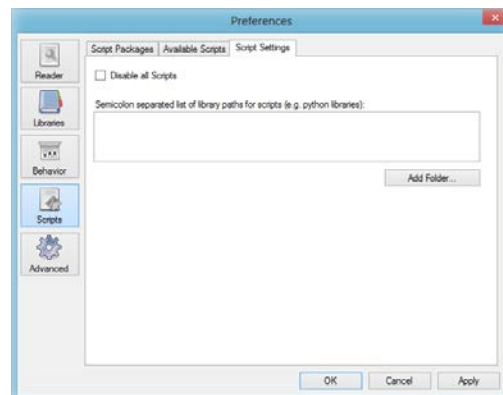
You can click the **Install** button to browse to a script package, or simply right-click a **crplugin** file to open it in the Script packages section. Following this, clicking **Ok** restarts ComicRack & installs the script.



## AVAILABLE SCRIPTS

**Available Scripts** is the second section. In its default state, it contains a list of all the scripts that come bundled with ComicRack. As new scripts are installed, they show up in the available scripts section.

It can be used to disable a script without uninstalling it. To disable any of these scripts, just un-check the checkmark next to the script name here, and restart ComicRack. Reverse the steps for reactivation.



## SCRIPT SETTINGS

The **Configure** button stays greyed out till you select a script that has options for configuration. Clicking it opens that script's settings dialog.

The **Script Settings** section in the end contains an option for disabling all scripts with a single-click.

## Some must-have scripts!

Read all about them in the scripts chapter.



### ComicVine Scraper

Automatically download metadata into your cbz comic book files



### Data Manager

Automatically enter metadata based on rules created by you



### Library Organizer

Organize & standardize the comic book file & folders on your PC



### Duplicates Manager

Remove duplicate comic books with just a single click



### Backup Manager

Automatically backup your ComicRack database at startup or shutdown



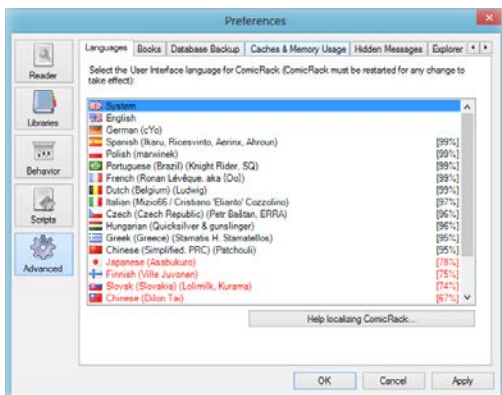
### WeeklyComic Releases

Catch the latest RSS feeds for all the new comics released each week



# Advanced Tab

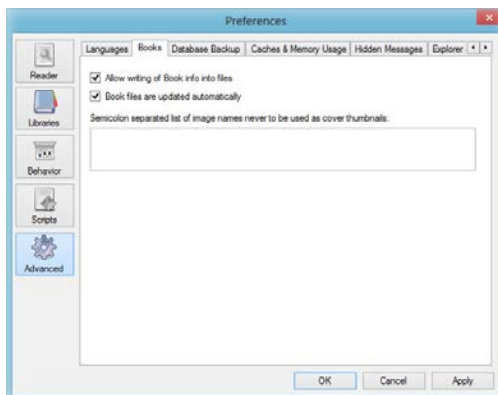
The **Advanced** tab contains sections on the user language interface, database backup, cache settings, explorer integration and other options. Most of these are briefly discussed below.



## LANGUAGES

The **Languages** section at the top helps select the user interface language of your locale. You just have to select your language and restart ComicRack for the language changes to take effect.

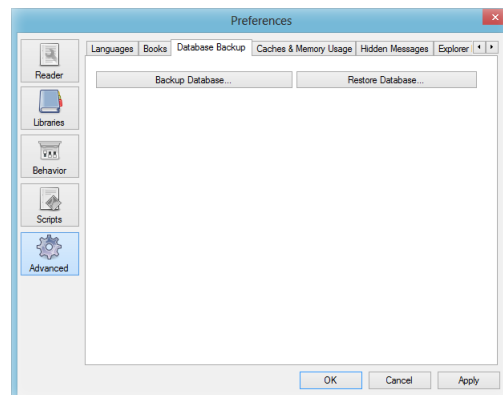
If your language is missing, you can translate ComicRack and submit your language pack. Just click the **help localizing ComicRack** button to go to a webpage that details you on how to create language packs.



## BOOKS

The **Books** section has the option to allow ComicRack to write a small **ComicInfo.xml** file to CBZ or CB7 files. ComicRack organizes comic books by storing metadata as the **ComicInfo.xml** file, which is also useful in restoring your comic book database, in the event of a system format or file transfer.

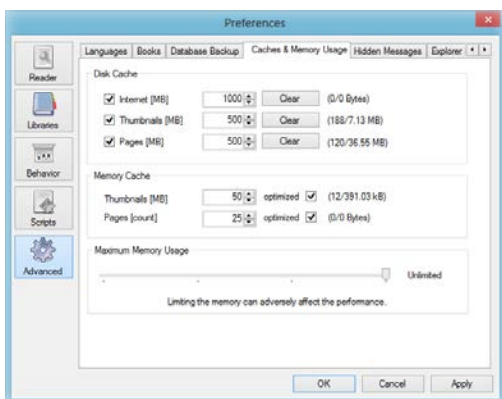
Please note that enabling these two options are essential to take full advantage of the functionality of ComicRack. These are not enabled by default, as enabling them changes the hashes of the files. Enabling them is an informed decision of the user.



## DATABASE BACKUP

ComicRack provides for a quick and easy back up of your comic book database. It is a simple file copy of the ComicRack database (**ComicDB.xml**) file, available for storage in a separate location from the original.

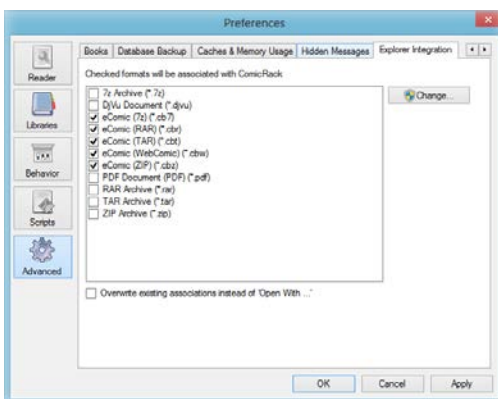
The **Database Backup** section allows easy backup & restoration of all the comic book data to a small xml file on your computer, or on a USB drive. It is described in detail in the next chapter.



## CACHES & MEMORY USAGE

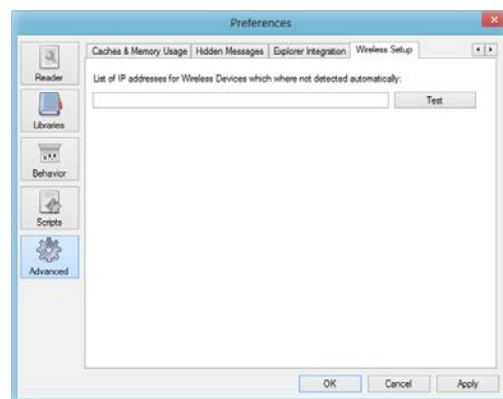
The **cache** is the maximum disk space you allow ComicRack to use to stock thumbnails, pages and comic books accessed through remote libraries. It allows a smoother reading experience. Since it pre-loads images, you can browse quite fast through a comic book. You can also safely delete it.

Default maximum cache size varies depending on the machine. It is set during installation of ComicRack (optimization part). The bigger the cache, the bigger the amount of images/thumbnails/comic books that can be pre-loaded. The cache will increase in time as you use ComicRack.



## EXPLORER INTEGRATION

Out of a number of supported formats, the checked ones will be associated with ComicRack, and opening any file having those extensions will automatically launch them with ComicRack. If you choose to open PDF files with ComicRack, don't forget to also install Ghostscript (see [chapter 2](#)).



## HIDDEN MESSAGES

**Hidden messages** are message boxes you disabled (clicked never show again). To reshown these 'hidden' messages, simply click the reset button.

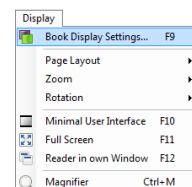
## WIRELESS SETUP

If the ComicRack on your Android/iOS device is not detected automatically by ComicRack for Windows, here you can add the IP address(es) for your wireless devices.

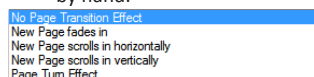


# Book Display Settings

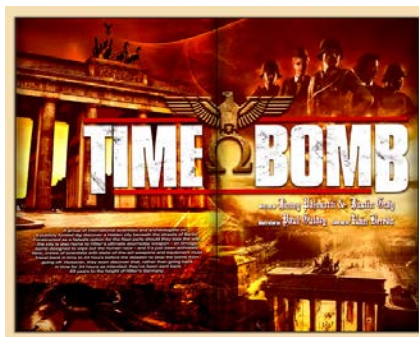
This option will allow the user to edit the background display of the ComicRack **Reader Window**, as well as choose between display options for the opened comic book itself. You can open this dialog by either using the **Display** menu at the top, using the **Tools** menu, or simply hitting **F9**.



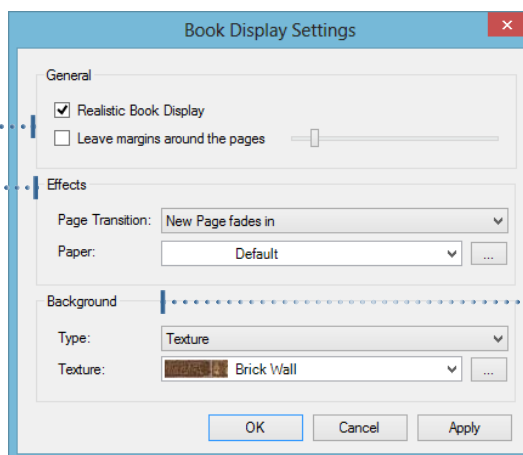
- **No Page Transition Effect:** This will turn the page without any animations.
- **New Page Fades In:** This will turn the page with a fading transition.
- **New Page Scrolls In Horizontally:** The page will slide onto the reader in a sideways motion.
- **New Page Scrolls In Vertically:** The page will slide onto the reader from the bottom to the top.
- **Page Turn Effect:** This is an animated motion that simulates turning a page from a real comic by hand.



A vertical divider between double page spreads is seen, with a blank margin around the pages, signifying a real-like imaging of the open comic book. You can use the slider to change the margin size.

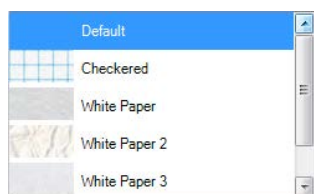


## Realistic Book Display (with margins)

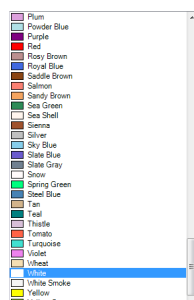


## Page Transition Effects

## Paper Effects



This will add a paper texture over the comic book itself, simulating such things as a blue-lined grid pattern, weathering or grains in the page.



## Background Color

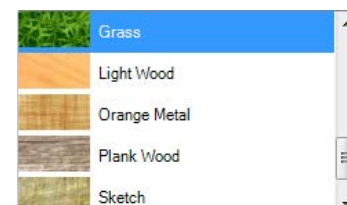
**Solid Color:** This allows the user to choose one color to have as the one background for the reader area. If you would like to always have the comic surrounded by black, for instance, you can choose that here. There are a total of 140 different color options.



The background will blend with the primary color of the page displayed to create a solid color that will change as the page is turned and the primary color changes.

## Adjust Color To Current Page

## Background Textures



**Texture:** This will allow the user to load an image file to serve as the background. There are a number of these that come with ComicRack, and the user may also load their own. You have the option of either None, Tile, Center, Stretch or Zoom, as one would with a Desktop Background.

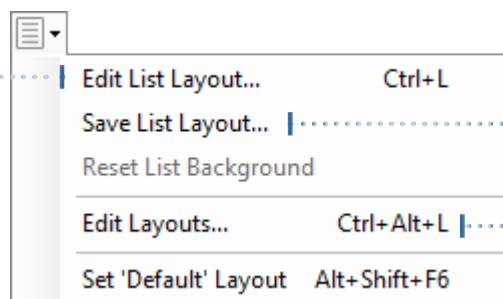
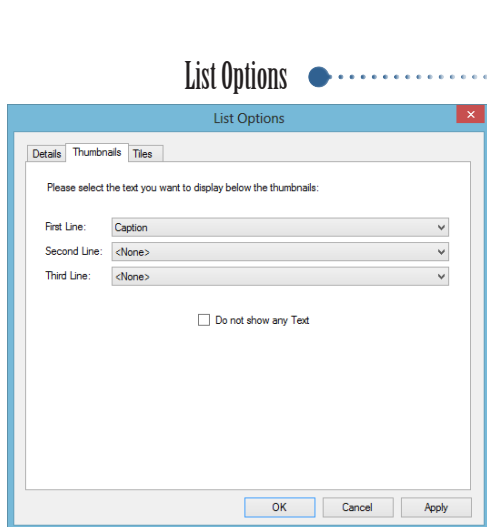
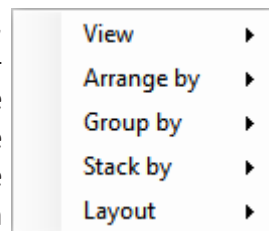
You can also add your own textures to the **C:\Program Files\ComicRack\Resources\Textures\Backgrounds** folder. You may also freely download [background textures from the web](#).





# List Layouts

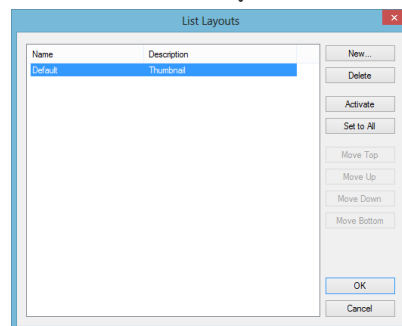
Every list in ComicRack can have its own **List Layout**. A layout contains options for viewing, arranging, grouping and stacking comic books. Different situations require different List Layouts. The comic book views have a number of options that are fully customizable and can be arranged in a number of ways. Sometimes you may want detailed view with columns, while for some lists, thumbnails view may work better. You may wish to increase or decrease the size of the thumbnails or tiles or rows (details view). You may group / arrange / stack them with the metadata fields of your choice. You're free to choose whatever suits you. You can access the List Layout options either via the **List Layout icon** on the library toolbar or via the **Browse** menu.



Once you are satisfied with a list layout and wish to save it for quick use later, use the **Save List Layout** button. Give your layout a name, and click **Ok**. Your saved List layouts will now be accessible through the List Layout menu.

**Save List Layout**

**Edit Layouts**



Clicking the **Edit List Layout** button opens up the **List Options** window. It contains tabs for customizing the text shown below the thumbnails or tiles view, and the columns to be displayed in the details view. Select your required fields from the list options window, and click **Ok**.

- All the columns that can be displayed in the Details view are shown in the **List Options** window.
- The text under the comic book thumbnails in the browser can display a maximum of 3 lines. You have the choice of selecting the text that will be displayed there.
- The text under the comic book tiles in the browser can be customized using the metadata fields available in the List options. Please note that these options work only for individual tiles and not for stacked comic books.

All your list layouts can be edited using the List Layouts dialog. From the **Browse** menu, go to the **List Layout** sub-menu, and click the **Edit Layouts** option. All the list layouts are now visible along with a description of the settings that you included in each of them.

- Here you can make a new layout, and delete pre-existing layouts using the corresponding buttons.
- You can also move a layout up or down the order.
- The **Activate** button lets you change list layouts 'on-the-fly', so that you can easily visualise and choose from your favourite layouts.
- The **Set to all** button sets the chosen layout to all the lists.

## Copy/paste List Layouts

If you have a large number of lists, and you wish to assign them your favourite layout, you don't have to repeat the same steps again and again. ComicRack provides for easy copying & pasting of list layouts, so that you may simply apply your preferred layouts to other lists with just the click of a button. You can access layout copy / paste options from either the **layout menu** or the **details context menu**.

Here is how to copy / paste the list layout:

1. Once you are satisfied with a list layout, use the layout menu to **copy** the layout of this desired list.
2. From the sidebar, select the other list to which you wish to paste the layout of the desired list. From the layout menu, select **paste**.
3. The layout of the selected list will immediately change to match that of your desired list.
4. Repeat Step 2 for any number of lists to which you wish to assign the layout chosen in Step 1.

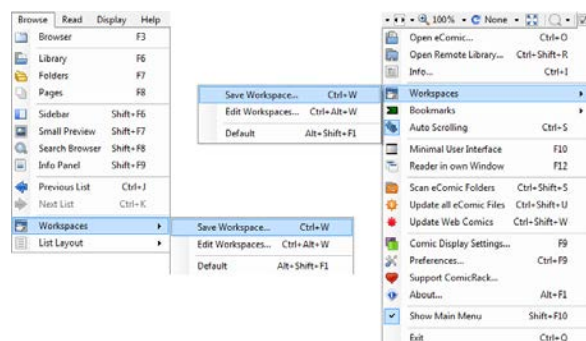


# Workspaces

The multiple windows, panels and layouts of ComicRack are fully customizable and can be arranged in a number of ways. Such an arrangement is called a **workspace**. A workspace comprises settings for 4 features. These are Window layouts, List Layouts, Book Display Layout, and Book display Settings. While saving a workspace, you have the option of choosing any or all of these features to be included in your workspace.

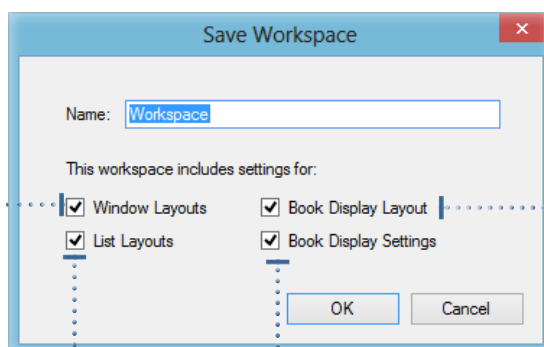
## » Saving Workspaces

Different situations require different Workspaces. Manually rearranging and re-adjusting them every time is a hassle. Thus the option of saving multiple window layouts as workspaces within ComicRack. The Workspace options can be accessed from either the **Browse** menu or the **Tools** menu. Once you are satisfied with a particular layout and wish to save it as a Workspace for quick usage later, just click the **Save Workspace** button.



- Window state (maximized or not, fullscreen)
- Panels state, position and arrangement. For example :
  - » browser docking mode
  - » active browser tab
  - » minimal user interface

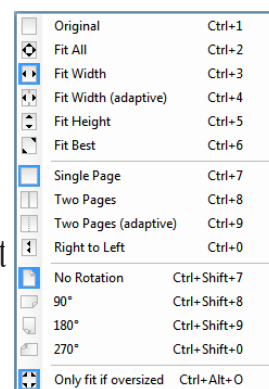
Window Layouts



List Layouts

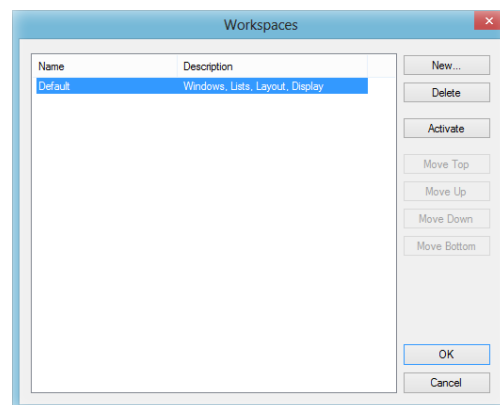
Book Display Settings

Book Display Layout



## » Editing Workspaces

All your workspaces can be edited using the **Workspaces** dialog. From the **Browse** menu or the **Tools** menu, go to the **Workspace** sub-menu, and click the **Edit Workspaces** option. All the workspaces are now visible along with a description of the settings that you included in each of them. Here you can make a new workspace, and delete pre-existing workspaces using the corresponding buttons. You can also move a workspace up or down the order. The **Activate** button lets you change workspaces 'on-the-fly', so that you can easily visualise and choose from your favourite workspaces.

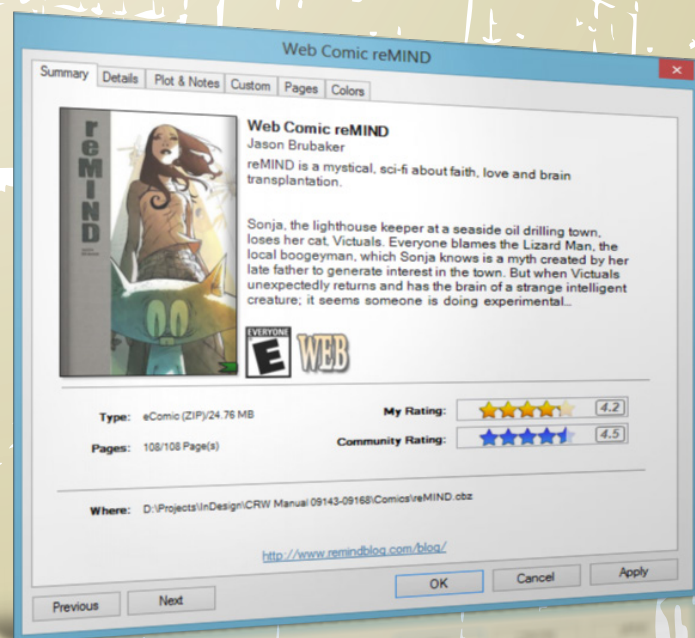




# Chapter 07: Managing

This chapter introduces you to comic book metadata, which forms the basis for managing your comic book collection with ComicRack.

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<b>SUMMARY TAB</b> .....	<b>51</b>
<b>DETAILS TAB</b> .....	<b>52</b>
<b>PLOT &amp; NOTES TAB</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>PAGES TAB</b> .....	<b>54</b>
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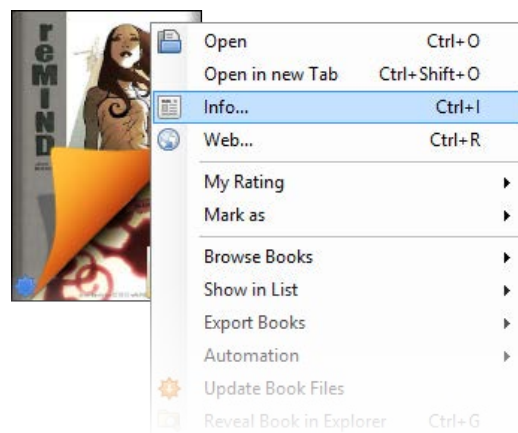



# The Info Dialog

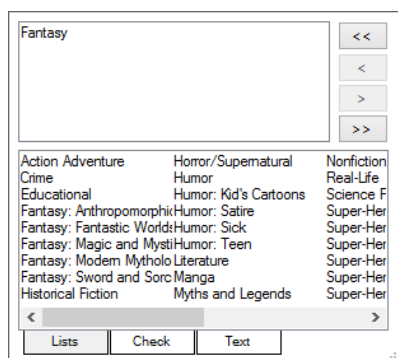
If the **Preferences** dialog is the heart of ComicRack, the **Info** dialog is its brain. Essential for inputting and editing comic book metadata, the Info dialog packs 5 (by default) different tabs, each of which is described in detail in the coming pages. It also has 2 optional tabs that can be displayed by selecting the respective option in the Preferences dialog.

To open the Info dialog: Right-click on any comic book in the browser and select **Info**, or from the **Main menu**, open the **Edit** menu & select **Info**.

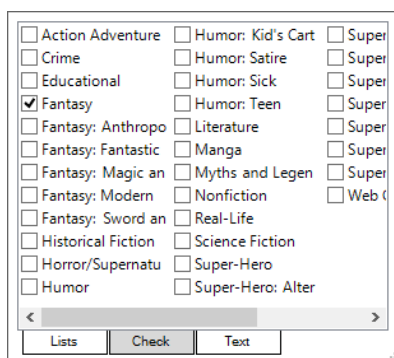
There are 3 types of metadata fields in the **Info** dialog, all of which can be filled either manually or via scripts:



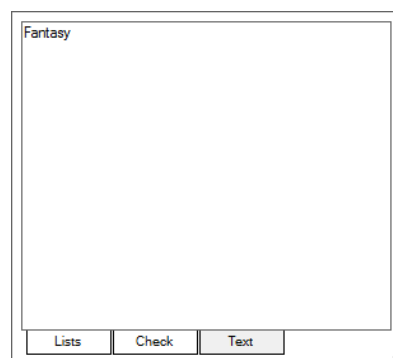
Just click the  **Add item button** at the end of the field box to open the **Add item dialog**, which contains 3 tabs placed at the bottom: the Lists, Check & Text tabs.



The Lists tab of an Options field



The Check tab of an Options field



The Text tab of an Options field



# Summary tab

The Summary tab is an all inclusive box that provides at-a-glance information for your comic books, one at a time. The upper panel of the Summary tab displays essential metadata, that includes the comic book caption and the creator info, along with a brief plot of the comic. This requires filling in the metadata fields (manually or via scripts) in the **Details & Plot & notes** tabs. The lower panel of the Summary tab displays the technical specifications for your comic book (like the file path, file format, size, number of pages, etc).

The comic book caption (Format/series/title/volume/number/year/month)  
and the creator info (Writer/Penciller/Inker/Colorist/Letterer/Cover artist)

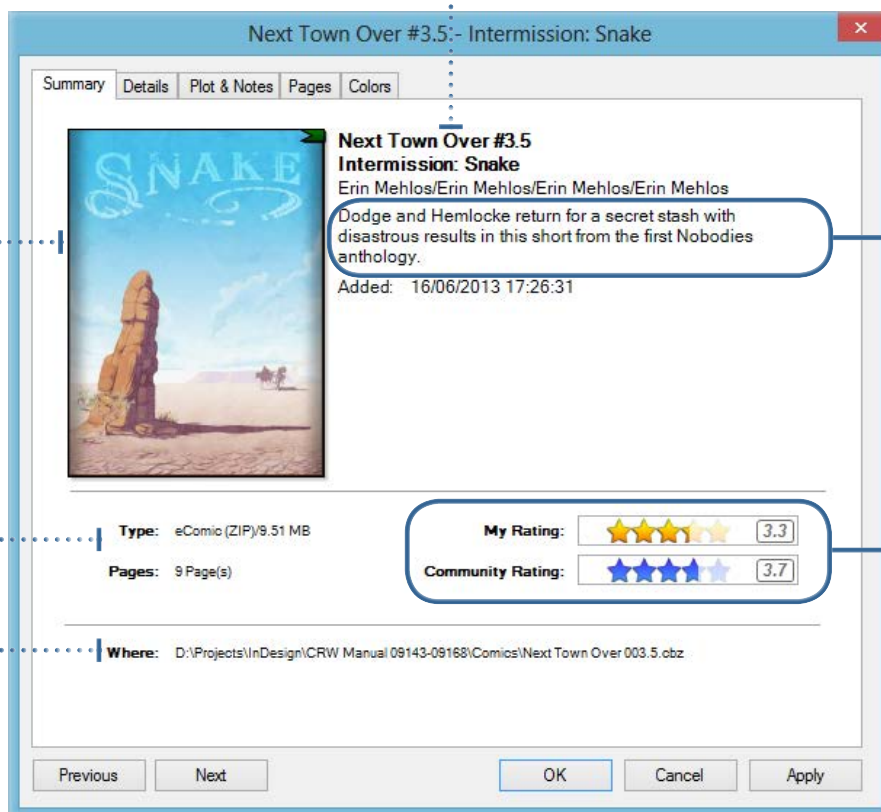
The comic book cover.  
You can click on it to  
get a 3D cover, and  
click back to revert to  
this simple one.

Comic book specifica-  
tions, including the  
size, pages and file  
format (zip/rar etc).

The location of the  
comic book on your  
computer.

The text that you  
input in the **Summary**  
field of the **Plot &  
Notes** tab will show  
here in the Summary  
tab as the comic plot.

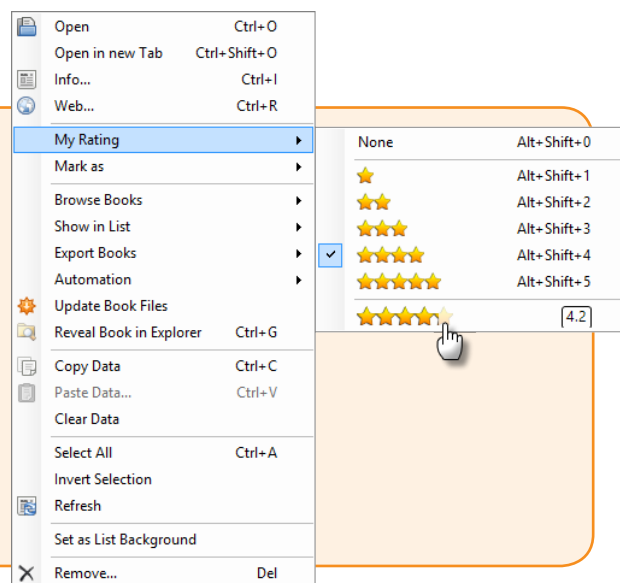
Comic book ratings that  
you can assign to any  
comic book by simply  
clicking &/or dragging  
on the stars here.  
Community ratings are  
blue-colored, while  
ratings assigned by the  
user (called My ratings)  
are yellow-colored.



## Rating your comics!

The ratings assigned by you are called **My ratings**, while **Community ratings** are average ratings from reviewers and readers around the world. Both these ratings can be viewed simultaneously in ComicRack. Based on your preference (from the **Behavior** button of the **Preferences** dialog), the ratings on the comic book thumbnails can be displayed either in a numerical manner (at the bottom right of the thumbnail), or as rating stars (at the top left of the thumbnail). The comics can be rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 0.1 increments

From the right-click **Brower context menu** or the **Reader Context menu**, go to the **My Rating** sub-menu and click at the stars. If you want to give incremental rating, you can drag across the blank stars present at the bottom. The corresponding numerical rating will be displayed in real-time in the box on the right side.





# Details tab

The Details tab is the key to inputting the comic book metadata that forms the basis of organizing your comic book collection. Just like tags in a music file, comic books can contain a variety of metadata. While ComicRack supports scripts to automate this process from online databases, you always have the option to fill in every detail manually. All you need to know about the Details tab is given below.

Essential information regarding the **series** name, **volume**, **number** (n of total), **year**, **month** & **day**.

The **title** is the name of a particular issue of a series. You can usually find the title within the first few pages of a comic.

Use the **Alternate Series** field for crossovers (like Blackest Night) or story-arcs (like Sinestro Corps war) or for storylines (like Batman: reborn). The **number** field helps in making a chronology. A smart list based on these fields brings up the complete event in a go.

Essential information regarding the comic book creators. **Writer**, **penciller**, **inker**, **colorist**, **letterer**, **cover artist**, and **editor**. Helps in organising all comic books by, for example, a particular writer.

Here you can choose one or multiple **genre** for your comic book. Read in detail about it on the next page.

Use the **Tags** field for any custom metadata that doesn't have fields in the Info dialog, like scanners' name, series status (ongoing, completed, mini-series), scan type (c2c, noads) etc.

The **Previous** and **Next** buttons are used to navigate between the Info dialogs of the previous and next comic books open in the browser respectively. So, in this case, you don't have to close and open the info dialogs repeatedly.

The **Proposed Values** button is used for metadata auto-discovery that ComicRack does by processing filename. It's there for convenience, so those fields wouldn't be empty by default. You can commit them permanently (for example with the **Commit proposed values** script) or hide them, if the guess is wrong.

The comic book **Format** can be selected here. This includes Annual, Giant, One-Shot, Trade paperback, etc. You can also add your custom formats here.

Essential information regarding the **Publisher** (and **imprint**, if any). You can then arrange or stack comic books in the browser by the "publisher" field.

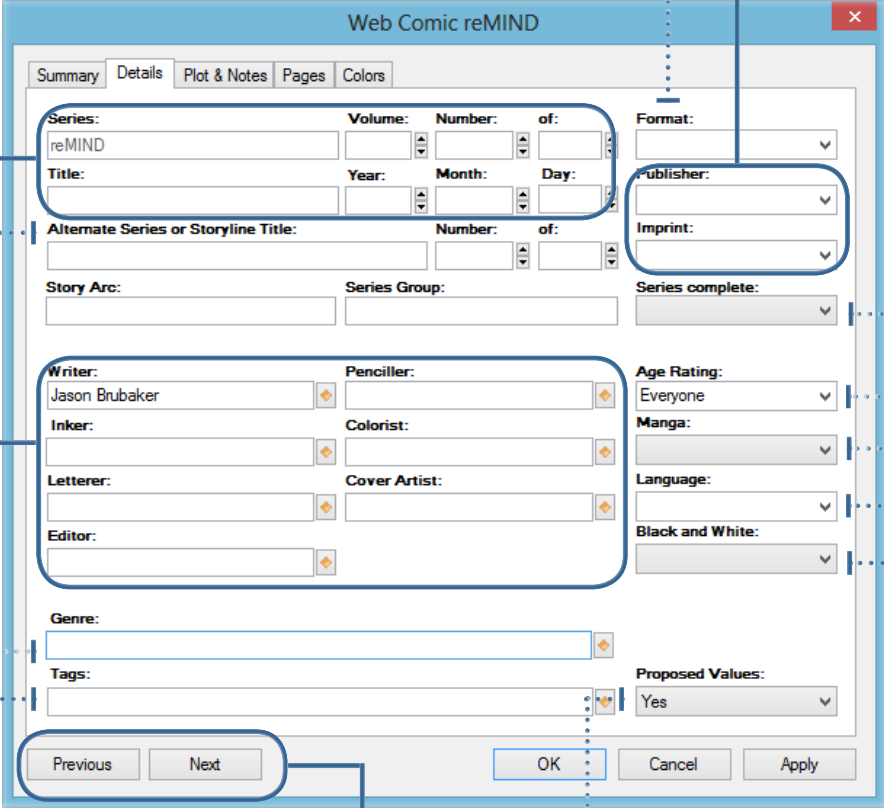
Select **Yes** here to mark a comic book to be belonging to a series that has now completed its run.

Choose the **Age Rating** here from among All ages, explicit, T+, A, Parental advisory.

Select **Yes** here to mark a comic book as **Manga**. Choose **Manga (Right to left)** to switch ComicRack to its manga reading mode when this book is opened. Not selecting anything here marks a comic book as **manga is unknown**.

If required, you can choose the comic book **Language** here.

Select **Yes** here to mark a comic book as **Black & White**. Not selecting anything here marks a comic book as **Black & white is unknown**.



The screenshot shows the 'Web Comic reMIND' application window with the 'Details' tab selected. The interface includes several input fields and dropdown menus for comic book metadata. Labels with leader lines point to specific fields: 'Series', 'Volume', 'Number', 'of', 'Format', 'Title', 'Year', 'Month', 'Day', 'Alternate Series or Storyline Title', 'Number', 'of', 'Story Arc', 'Series Group', 'Series complete', 'Writer', 'Penciller', 'Inker', 'Colorist', 'Letterer', 'Cover Artist', 'Editor', 'Age Rating', 'Manga', 'Language', 'Black and White', 'Genre', 'Tags', 'Proposed Values', 'Previous', 'Next', 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Apply'. The 'Series' field contains 'reMIND'. The 'Format' dropdown is set to 'Trade paperback'. The 'Publisher' dropdown is set to 'DC Comics'. The 'Age Rating' dropdown is set to 'Everyone'. The 'Manga' dropdown is set to 'Manga (Right to left)'. The 'Language' dropdown is set to 'English'. The 'Black and White' dropdown is set to 'Black & white is unknown'. The 'Proposed Values' dropdown is set to 'Yes'.

## FAQ

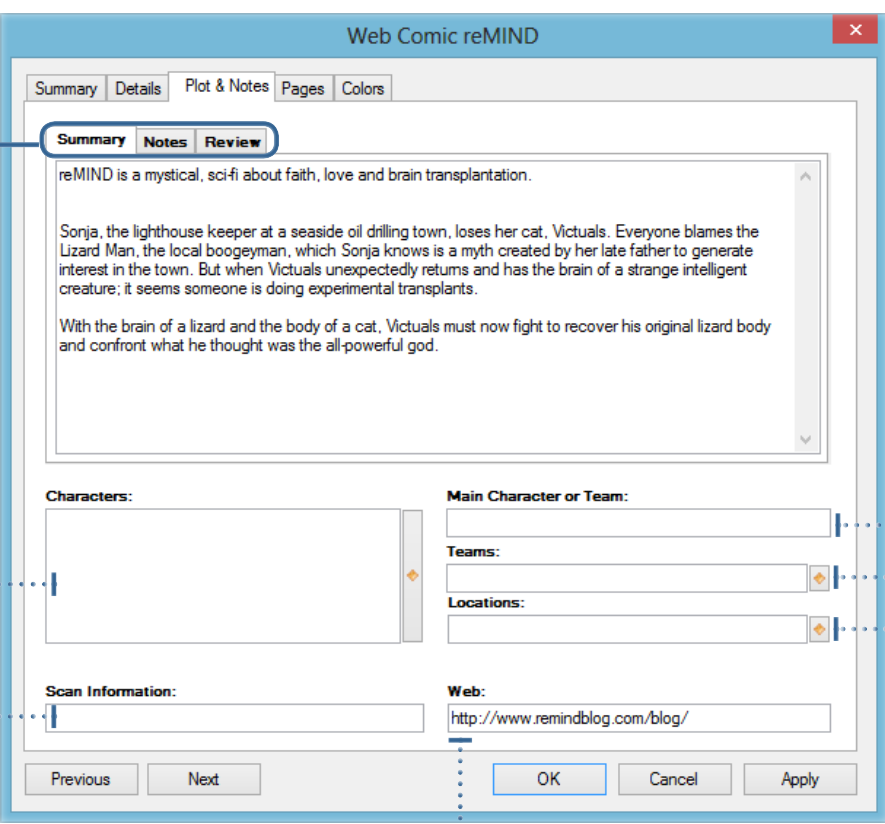
» **Is there any way to leave the 'Series' field blank?**  
I've tried deleting it manually, but it appears again after the field loses the focus.

You just have to switch the **Proposed Values** from **Yes** to **No**. Then validate the change by clicking on **Ok** which will close the **info** window. When you open the **info** window again, the series field will be blank and you will be able to specify whatever you want.



# Plot & Notes tab

The **Plot & notes** tab complements the **Details** tab. While the details tab contains metadata fields which are essential for organizing your comic books, the Plot & notes tab helps complete the metadata, specially to satisfy advanced comic book enthusiasts! Metadata fields like **Characters**, **Teams** and **Locations** bring on a large number of possibilities regarding the comic book grouping in the browser. An overview of the Plot & Notes tab is shown below.



The screenshot shows the 'Web Comic reMIND' application window with the 'Plot & Notes' tab selected. The window has tabs for 'Summary', 'Details', 'Plot & Notes', 'Pages', and 'Colors'. Inside the 'Plot & Notes' tab, there are sub-tabs for 'Summary', 'Notes', and 'Review'. The 'Summary' sub-tab is active, showing a text area with a sample plot. Below the text area are fields for 'Characters', 'Main Character or Team', 'Teams', 'Locations', 'Scan Information', and 'Web'. Annotations with arrows point to these fields, explaining their purpose.

- The **Summary** field should be filled with a brief text that highlights the plot of the comic book.
- You may use **Notes** for whatever purpose you wish.
- You can write your reviews in the **Reviews** field.

Input the characters featured in the comic (like Hal Jordan, Abe Sapien etc) here.

The **Scan Information** field is used to keep any info about the comic scan, like the name of the scanner, resolution of the scan, or the type (c2c, noads etc). We have scripts that automatically fill in these data for you. More on that later.

Input the name of the main character or team (like Wolverine, Batman, Hellboy, Avengers, etc) here. This will later help in grouping/stacking by the **Main character or Team** field, or in making smart lists. Make sure you don't input multiple names here.

Input the teams (like Justice league, Avengers, etc) here.

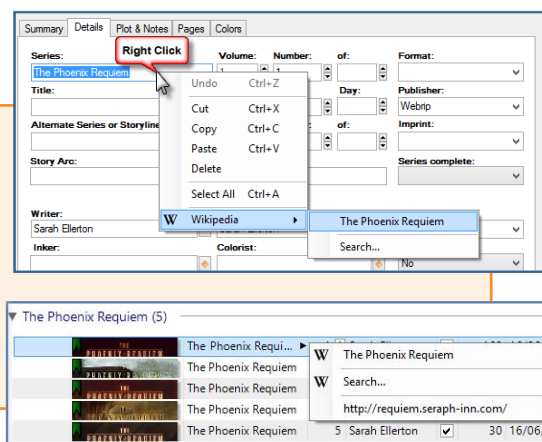
Input the locations (like Gotham city, Metropolis, OA, Asgard etc) here.

The web address of the comic book goes here. This shows up in the summary tab as well as when you click the arrow mark next to the comic book name in the details view of the browser.

## Search Wikipedia!

You can search Wikipedia from within ComicRack!

- Right-click inside any metadata field to bring up the context menu with the wikipedia search results at the top
- Click the arrow mark next to the comic book name in the details view of the browser. You will get both the wikipedia search results as well as the comic book web address that you input in the Web field (Plot & notes tab)

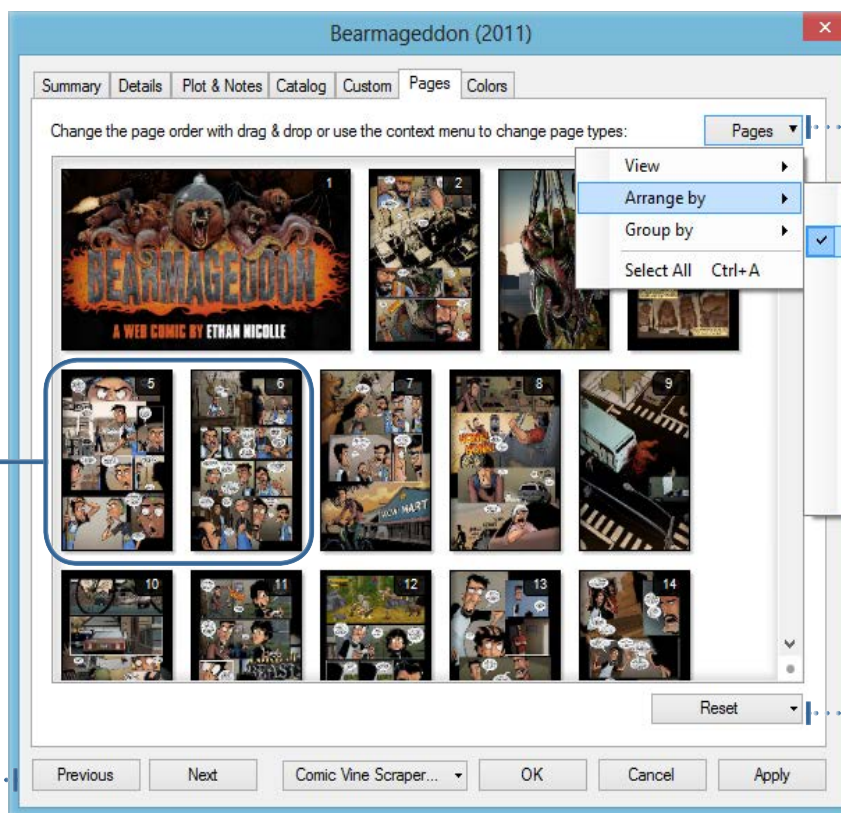


The screenshot shows the 'Web Comic reMIND' application window with the 'Details' tab selected. A right-click context menu is open over the 'Series' field, which contains 'The Phoenix Requiem'. The menu includes options like 'Undo', 'Cut', 'Copy', 'Paste', 'Delete', 'Select All', and 'Wikipedia'. The 'Wikipedia' option is highlighted, and a search results window is displayed below it, showing 'The Phoenix Requiem' by Sarah Ellerton. The search results window also shows the comic book's web address: 'http://requiem.seraph-inn.com/'.



# Pages tab

The **Pages** tab in the Info dialog shares a lot of similarities with the **Pages Browser** (see Chapter 04). Just like the pages browser, the pages tab also has the **Pages context menu** and the Page browser context menu (called the **Pages tab context menu** here).



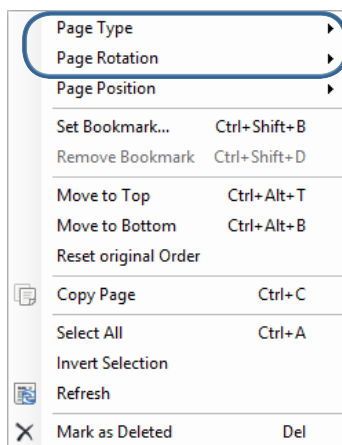
Drag & drop individual pages to change the page order. Double-click a page to open it in the Colors tab.

The **Previous** and **Next** buttons are used to navigate between the Pages tab of the previous and next comic books open in the browser respectively.

The **Pages tab context menu** provides options for viewing, arranging, and grouping the pages.

The **Reset** button brings back the default values for the page attributes.

Right-clicking on any page in the Pages Tab invokes the **Pages Context Menu**. This contains options for changing Page Type, Page Rotation, Adding / removing Bookmarks, re-ordering pages within a comic book, copying page(s) to another location, selecting & refreshing, and deleting pages from ComicRack.



Opens up sub-menus for Changing the Page type and the Page rotation.

## FAQ

### » Why do I get a red cross when I drag-and-drop page thumbnails in the Pages tab?

You have to make sure that the Pages are arranged by **Page** (& not by type, size, width etc). For doing this, click at the **Pages Tab Context Menu** at the upper right corner, and from the **Arrange by** sub-menu, choose **Page**. You can now drag-and-drop pages successfully.

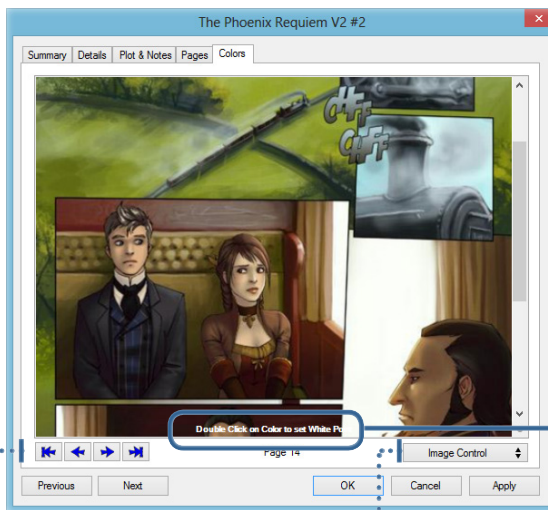


# Colors tab

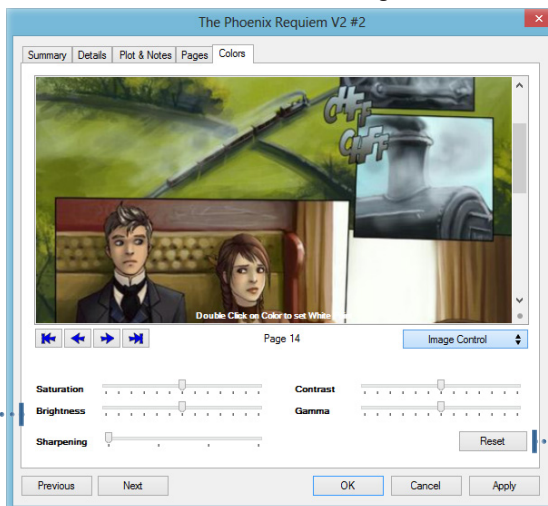
The **Colors** tab is used for adjustment of the intensities of the color attributes of the comic book pages, viz. Saturation, brightness, contrast, sharpening and gamma.

- **Saturation**: The 'purity' of a hue; or, more precisely, the intensity of one color channel relative to the intensity of the other color channels
- **Brightness**: The relative lightness or darkness of an image, or of a particular color in an image
- **Contrast**: The relative difference between lightness and darkness in an area of an image
- **Sharpening**: An image effect that is used to adjust the image contrast by enhancing the definition of the image edges
- **Gamma**: Gamma affects how a computer generates images. An effective gamma rating will deliver true colors and a good range of light, middle, and dark tones.

The **First**, **Previous**, **Next**, and **Last** buttons are used to navigate between the Color dialogs of the respective pages of the book whose Info dialog is currently open.



Click the **Image Control** button to slide open a panel containing the color attribute settings.

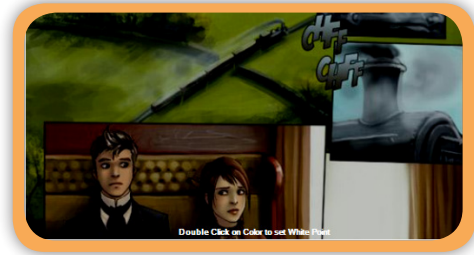


The **Image Control** panel contains sliders for changing the attributes for brightness, contrast, saturation, gamma, and sharpness. Drag the sliders right/left to get the desired effects.

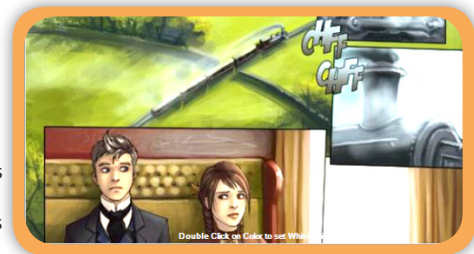
Find a white spot (usually text bubble background) and double-click on it and it'll manually adjust the other colors relative to the color at the spot you clicked such that it is balanced. This is really most applicable to poor scans of discolored books to adjust yellowing. Good scans of new books should require very little white-point adjustment.



Saturation decreased to -100%



Brightness decreased to -25%



Contrast increased to +50%



Gamma increased to +50%



Sharpness increased to +4

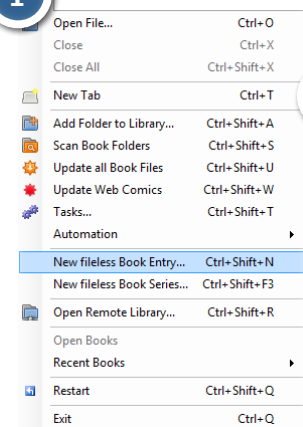
Click the **Reset** button to bring back the default values for the color attributes.



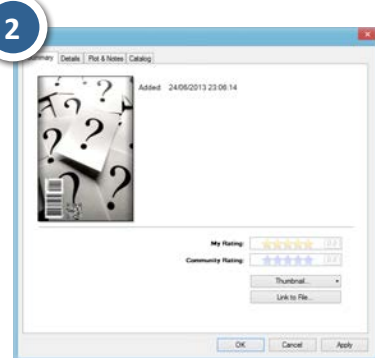
ComicRack also supports *Fileless comic entries* into the database. This way ComicRack becomes a full blown 'paper' comic database management tool. Double-click a fileless entry to open up its Info dialog. Managing fileless comic entries/series is more-or-less similar to their real counterparts, the comic books. Once you add the relevant metadata, the file-less entries/series are added to the ComicRack library database. Essential ComicRack features like lists, copying/pasting data, search, browser views/navigation are the same for the file-less entries.

## Why fileless?

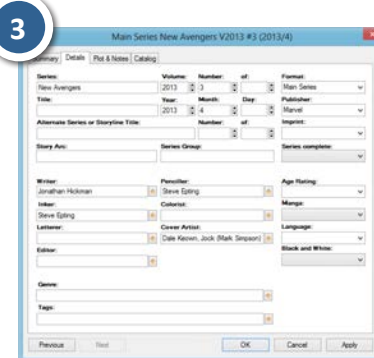
There are many scenarios in which you may find this feature quite useful. For example, if you wish to delete a comic book (or comic book series) from your hard drive, but keep the info in the database (for saving hard disc space, or removing a comic book that you didn't like). Also, if you do not have some comic books in your digital collection, yet want the respective info in ComicRack, you can make dummy entries for such comics.



From the **File** menu, select **New Fileless Book Entry**. A blank Info dialog box will open.



The blank Info dialog resembles the comic book Info dialog a lot, but has minor differences. The **Pages tab**, for obvious reasons, is not seen.



Enter the relevant metadata for your comic entry just like you would do for a comic book.

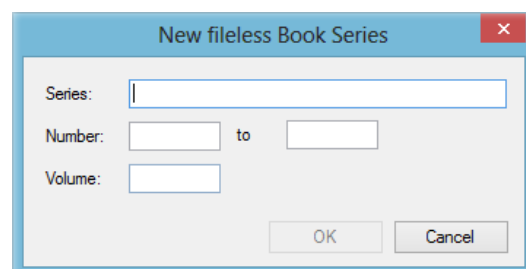


Add thumbnail and/or ratings to your comic entry. You can use the link to file button to browse and link a file of any supported format (like CBR, CBZ etc) on your system, thus converting the fileless entry into an actual comic book.

## Fileless Book Series

Adding file-less entries for a large number of comic books can be time-consuming. ComicRack supports adding all required issues of a series in a go.

1. From the **File menu**, select **New Fileless Book Series**. The **New Fileless Book Series** dialog box will open. Add the name of the **series**, **number** (range), and **volume** (if any)
2. Click **OK** to get the entire series (with the issue numbers you specified) in the browser. You can now edit them either en masse, or individually like separate file-less comic entries.



## FAQ

### » How do I quickly find all my fileless comic entries?

The **Views** button on the **browser toolbar** has the **Show only fileless entries** option. Clicking this option filters the current list and shows only the fileless entries present in that list. Using this option on the entire library shows all your fileless comics.



# Optional tabs

The **Info** dialog for the fileless comics contains an additional tab labelled **Catalog**. This is optionally also available for normal comics too (see below). Another optional tab is the **Custom** tab, which can be turned on by checking the relevant option from the **Preferences** dialog (**Behavior** tab -> **Application** section).

## Catalog Tab

The screenshot shows the 'Catalog' tab of a comic book entry dialog. It contains various input fields for metadata: Store (dropdown), Price (dropdown), Released (date picker), ISBN (text), Pages (text), Added/Purchased (date picker), Age (dropdown), Condition (dropdown), Opened/Read (date picker), Owner (dropdown), Book Location (dropdown), Collection Status (text), and a large text area for 'Notes about this Book'. Navigation buttons (Previous, Next, OK, Cancel, Apply) are at the bottom.

The **Catalog** tab is a very useful field when it comes to managing your 'paper' comics. It contains important information about the comic **condition**, **price**, **store**, **owner**, **ISBN** number, **collection status** and more. You can input the number of **pages** in a fileless comic, as well as the date when you purchased it. The **Age** field classifies the comic book into its respective age or historical era.

One noteworthy field here is the **Released field**, which is used for the **In store date** (zero day date, when the book is available in the shops). This is different from the date fields (year/month/day) you see in the **Details** tab, which is the **Cover date** (this is the date printed inside the cover).

## Custom Tab

The screenshot shows the 'Custom' tab of a comic book entry dialog. It features a table with two columns: 'Name' and 'Value'. Below the table is a large text area for input. Navigation buttons (Previous, Next, OK, Cancel, Apply) are at the bottom.

The **Custom** tab allows you to have metadata fields of your own choice. Just input a name in the blank tab under the **Name** column, hit **Ok**, and you'll find this as a new metadata field throughout all of ComicRack.

There are many examples where custom fields fulfil important organisational needs. For example, grouping comics belonging to the 'Star Wars' family. Here users create custom fields like **Era** and **Timeline Year** to organize their Star Wars comics.

Custom: Era Number	Custom: Era	Custom: Timeline Year
0	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36453
1	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36453
1.1	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36453
1.2	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36453
1.3	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36453
1.4	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36453
1.5	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36453
2	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36000
2.1	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36000
2.2	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36000
2.3	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36000
2.4	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36000
2.5	01 Before The Republic	BBY 36000

## FAQ

### » Can I get the Catalog tab for all comic books ?

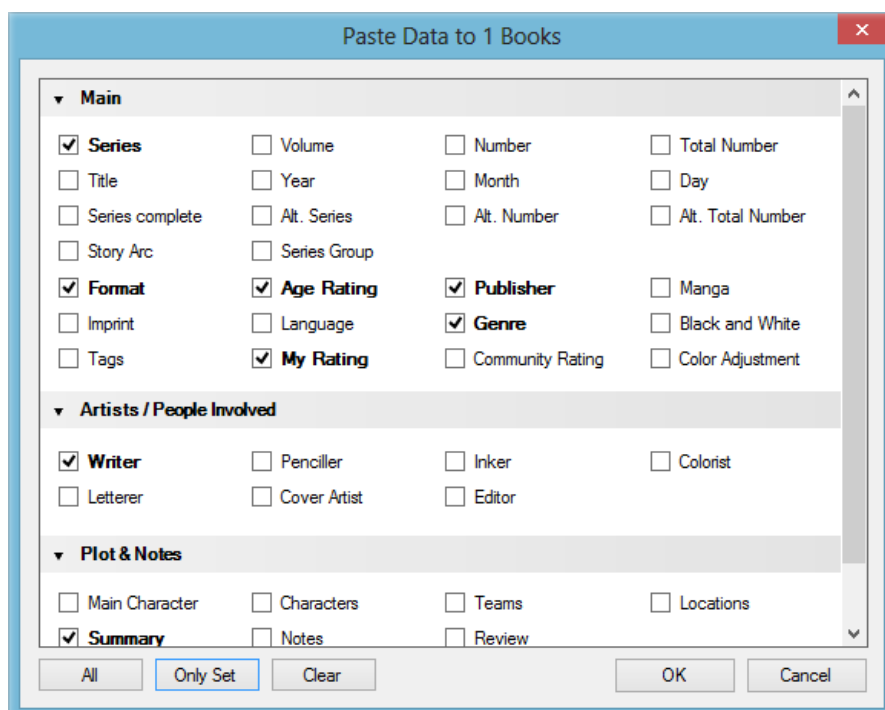
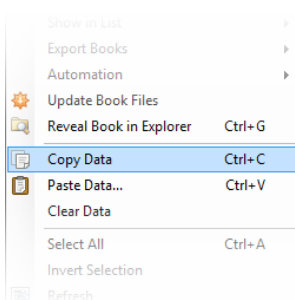
Yes, the catalog tab can be used with all your comic books, and is not just limited to fileless comic entries. However, by default, it is active only for fileless entries. Open the **Preferences** dialog and go to the **Behavior** tab. From the **Application** section/sub-tab, uncheck the **Show catalog fields only for fileless comics** field.



# Copy & paste data

The **Paste Data** feature helps you to manually transfer the metadata from one comic book to another, without needing to import the data anew. Examples include replacing comics with those of better quality, or those with additional pages.

To add the data to the new comic, right-click on the original comic book in the browser window and select **Copy Data**. Then right-click the new comic and select **Paste Data**.

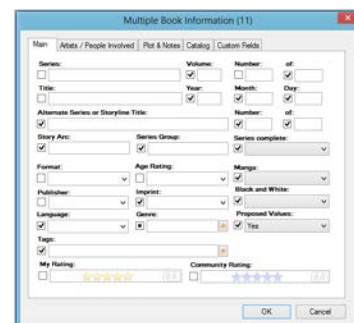


This will open the **Paste Data dialog box**. There are three options; **All**, which will add a check to every data item, **Only Set**, which only select those items that actually have data, and **Clear**, which will uncheck all data and allow you to only select those items you wish. It contains sections/tabs titled **Main**, **Artists/People involved**, **Plot & Notes**, and **Catalog**.

The **Paste Data** feature is also useful when you have a number of comic books that are supposed to have similar metadata (like different issues of a series having a common creative team, the same publisher & the same genre), but you have the metadata filled in only for one, or a few, of those comic books. In this case, you can simply use the **Copy Data** option from the comic book with the maximally complete metadata present, and select the rest of the comic books and select **Paste Data**. More often than not, ComicRack itself will 'intelligently guess' your desire & keep only the relevant metadata fields checked. You can make yourself doubly sure by unchecking metadata items you do not wish to paste.

## Multiple book info

So far, we have discussed filling the metadata for individual comic books. ComicRack also supports batch processing of multiple comic books for inputting and editing metadata. This is accomplished through the Multiple book Information dialog. To open it, select multiple comic books and open the Info dialog as you would do for a single comic book. The Multiple book Information dialog contains metadata fields of both the Details tab and the Plot & notes tab of the Info dialog arranged in separate sections/tabs. The Catalog field is also present in the Multiple book Information dialog for comic books as well as for fileless comic entries.



## Checkboxes

The Multiple book Information dialog contains 3 types of checkboxes, which are interpreted differently with regard to the type of the metadata field:

For text fields or menus (yes/no, simple list):

- Value is identical in all books: Checked
- Value is different for at least one book: Unchecked

For option fields:

- Value is identical in all books: Checked
- Value is different for at least one book: Indeterminate
- No value will be set: Unchecked





# Exporting Comics

ComicRack has many options to export comic books. To convert a comic book to another format, right-click on it in the browser, go to **Export comic books** and simply choose your format. A batch of comic books, or even your complete library can be converted in a similar fashion.

Choose the export location.

You can select multiple comic books and choose to combine them during export. You may also choose whether you wish to keep the original comic books, or delete them after export.

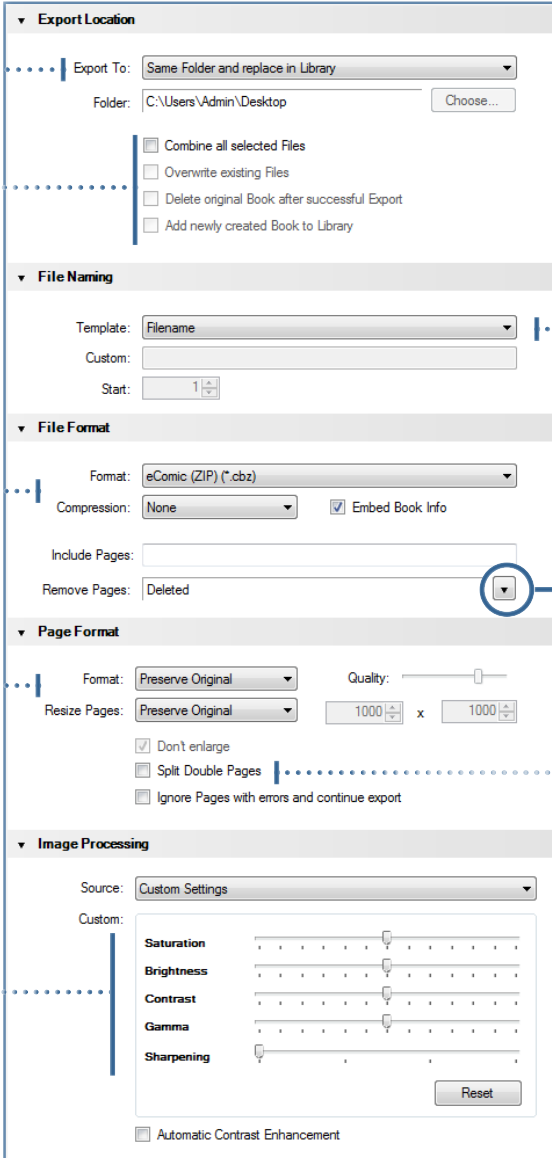
Choose the file format

Choose compression

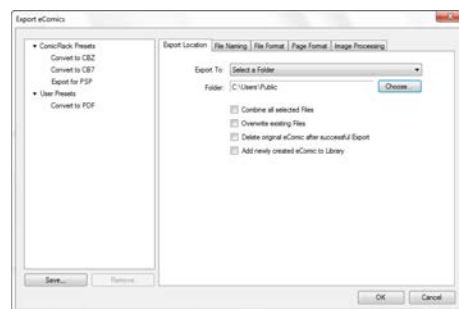
Choose the page format. ComicRack also supports the **WebP** image format (which is 30 % smaller than jpg).

Choose resizing options.

If you wish, you can modify the color attributes of the comic book pages to your liking. Available are options to change the saturation, brightness, contrast, gamma and sharpening attributes of the images.



The screenshot shows the 'Export comic books' dialog box with several sections: 'Export Location' (Export To: Same Folder and replace in Library, Folder: C:\Users\Admin\Desktop), 'File Naming' (Template: Filename, Custom: , Start: 1), 'File Format' (Format: eComic (ZIP) (\*.cbz), Compression: None, Embed Book Info: checked), 'Page Format' (Format: Preserve Original, Quality: 1000 x 1000, Resize Pages: Preserve Original, Don't enlarge: checked, Split Double Pages: unchecked, Ignore Pages with errors and continue export: unchecked), and 'Image Processing' (Source: Custom Settings, Custom: Saturation, Brightness, Contrast, Gamma, Sharpening sliders, Reset button, Automatic Contrast Enhancement: unchecked).



Similar to other ComicRack dialogs, double clicking anywhere on the **Export comic books** dialog background toggles between the scroll and the tab layout. The scroll layout shows all the export options arranged in different sections in a single scrolling window. The tab layout has these very options arranged in their own sub-tabs.

**Filename**  
**Comic Caption**  
**Custom**

The exported comic book can be named according to its preexisting filename, or the comic caption (which is the standard format used by ComicRack for naming comic books) or your custom choice.

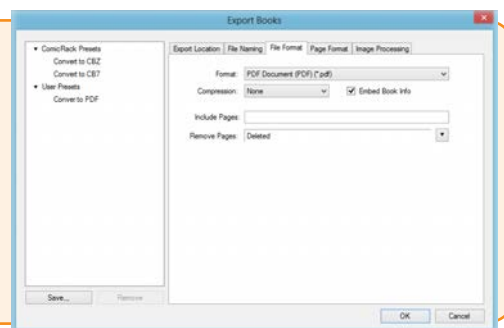
You can select from this drop-down menu which page types you wish not to include in the exported comic book. Please read the chapter on Browser to know more about page types.

You can choose to split double pages to 2 single pages each during the export.

- Front Cover
- Inner Cover
- Roundup
- Story
- Advertisement
- Editorial
- Letters
- Preview
- Back Cover
- Other
- ☒ Deleted
- Set all
- Clear all
- Invert

## Creating export presets

You can also create your own presets for easy repetition of specific export settings. To create a preset, first open the Export comic books settings menu and then set any settings you want your preset to have. After you get the settings to your liking, click the Save button and give your preset a name. The preset will now show up in the right-click→Export comic books menu. Included are presets for CBZ and CB7.





# Database Backup

Once you have completed entering all the metadata, bookmarking your comic books, adjusting the colors, rating them, making lists, you wouldn't want all the effort go in vain just because of an accidental deletion, a virus attack, or a software or hardware failure. ComicRack provides for a quick and easy back up of your comic book database. It is a simple file copy of the ComicRack database (**ComicDB.xml**) file, available for storage in a separate location from the original.

## What is backed up?

**Absolutely all the metadata is backed up by the *Backup database* feature, including:**

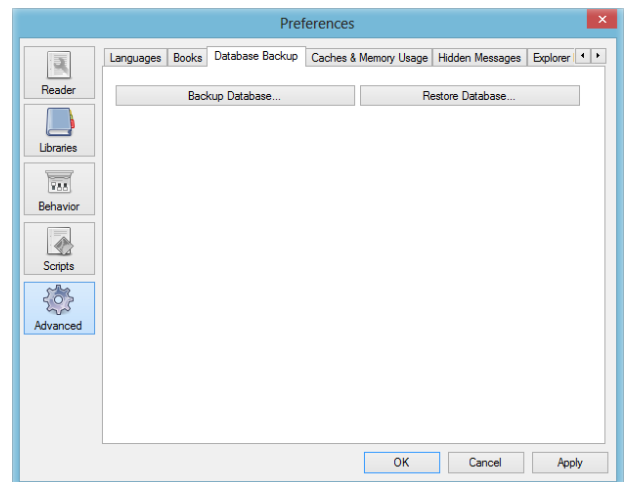
- Comic-related metadata: all fields in the **Details** tab & **Plot & notes** tab of the **Info** dialog
- Non-comic metadata: literally everything, including properties of every single page of the book, page type, rotation, bookmarks, last page read, date added/opened, rating, color adjustment, file modified time, file creation time etc.
- Lists (both custom lists & smart lists), together with their individual layouts

**The following features are not backed up by the *Backup database* feature:**

- Workspaces
- List Layout presets
- Options from **preferences** dialog
- Export presets

Follow these simple steps to backup (and then later restore) your database:

1. From the **Advanced** button of the **Preferences** dialog, just click the **backup database** option.
2. An explorer window will open, where you can browse to the location of your choice and then click the **save** button. The database will be saved with the name **ComicDB Backup** along with the date of saving the database.
3. To restore your backed up database, from the **Advanced** button of the **Preferences** dialog, click the **restore database** option.
4. An explorer window will open, where you can browse to the location of your saved database. Select the desired database and then click the **open** button, or simply double-click the saved database.
5. On closing the **Preferences** dialog, ComicRack will prompt you for a restart. Click the **restart** button to complete the database restoration.



## FAQ

### » How do I backup my list layouts & workspaces? I'm formatting my PC, and would like to back up all my settings.

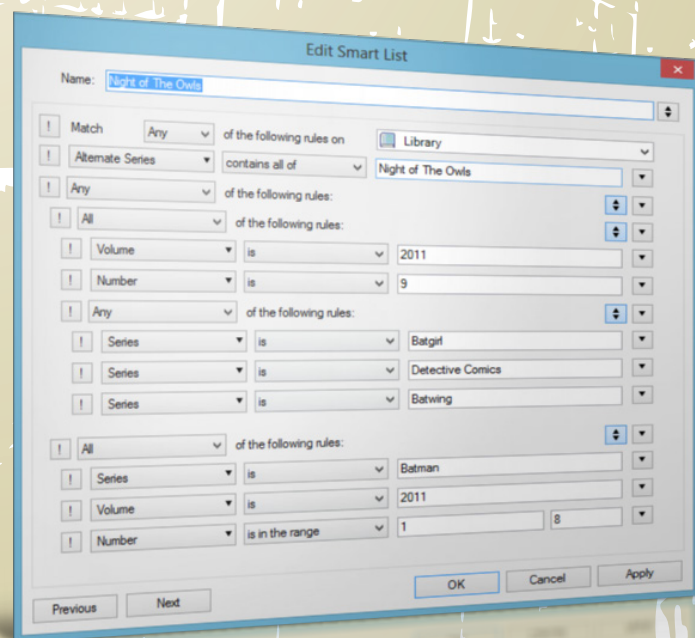
If you would wish to backup absolutely everything, you would have to do so manually. Open an explorer window and just go to: **%APPDATA%\cYo\ComicRack\**  
Copy the **Config.xml** file to a safe location. While restoring the database, paste this file back in this location. On restarting ComicRack, all your preferences & presets will be preserved.  
Just be sure to put all your comics files back into the same main folder they were in before when you restore. So if they were in C:\Comics then that's where you need to copy them after you reformat.



# Chapter 08: Lists

This chapter introduces you to lists, which form the quickest way to access a set of comic books based on the metadata present. Essential reading for ComicRack users !

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<b>CREATING NEW LISTS .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>SMART LISTS .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>SMART LIST BASICS .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>WORKING WITH LISTS .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>EXPORT/IMPORT LISTS .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>TEXT-BASED EDITING .....</b>	<b>68</b>

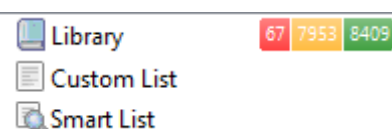




# Introduction to Lists



A **Reading List** is a compilation made up of a list of books from your ComicRack library. You can use lists to organize a group of comic books matching a particular criteria. All the lists are accessed from the sidebar, which, thus, is essential for working with lists.



By default, all the books that you have added to ComicRack are located in the (virtual) Library folder.

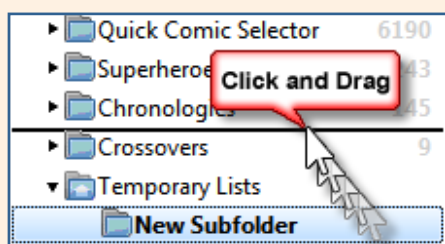
There are 2 types of lists:

1. **Custom List:** This is a simple list of comic books, made by manually adding individual comic books to it. This is a compilation of comic books for quick access, analogous to playlists in a music player.
2. **Smart List:** This is an 'automatized' list, in which you create a rule (or many rules), and ComicRack automatically adds all comic books fulfilling the rule(s) to the smart list. As new comic books are added to your library, ComicRack auto-updates your smart lists.

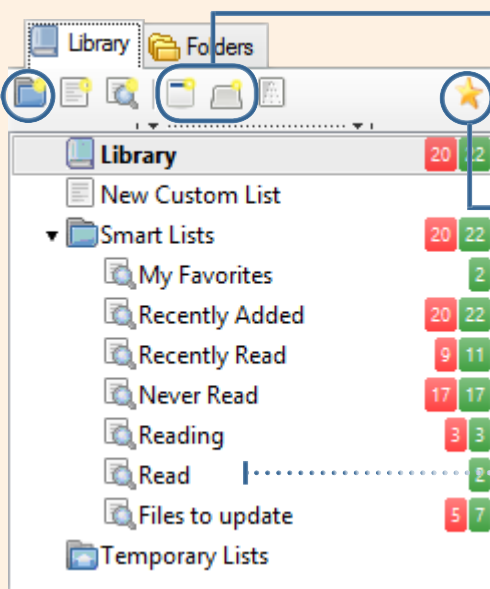
## Lists: Basic Concepts

Here you can create a new folder to organize your lists. You can also create folders within folders. Lists (and folders) can be dragged and dropped from one folder to the other.

- To create a list directly inside a folder, first click on the desired folder, and then create the list.
- To create subfolders (folders inside other folders), first click on the desired would-be parent folder, and then click the **New Folder** icon.



Converting a subfolder into a folder



The Sidebar with all the custom lists & smart lists

Use these buttons to open a list in its own tab or window (you can also right-click on the list name, and choose **Open in new window** or **Open in new tab**). You can also drag a comic book(s) from a list / smart list in one tab and drop to a list (not smart list) in another tab.

If you have lists that you use very frequently, you can click here to have them displayed in the **Favorites** panel (you can also right-click on any list and select **add to favorites**). Your list will now show in the **Favorites** panel and can be accessed more quickly.

**Smart lists** consist of rules the user can define in order to create dynamic, self-updating lists of comics. ComicRack itself comes with seven built-in smart lists: 'My Favorites', 'Recently Added', 'Recently Read', 'Never Read', 'Reading', 'Read' and 'Files to update'.

Custom Lists	Smart Lists
Custom Lists work great if you want to group some comic books together. You have total control over what comic books get into the list. Great if you know exactly what you want.	Smart lists are based on criteria of your choosing. Smart lists will scan your entire library to find whatever matches your criteria.
A regular custom list always contains the exact comic books you manually added to it.	Smart lists are automatically updated as new comic books are added to your ComicRack collection.
Deleting a comic book from a custom list removes the reference to the comic book from the list.	Deleting a comic book from a smart list also provided the option to reset the list, so that the deleted book can be restored later.
Both custom lists and smart lists can be exported & imported, renamed, added to favorites, opened in their own tab / window, organized in folders / subfolders, and obviously, deleted.	

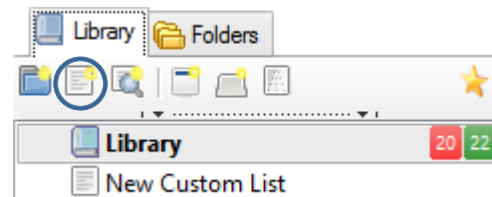
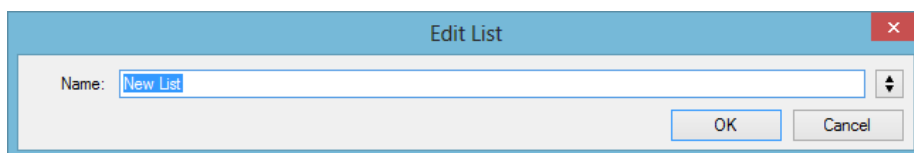


# Creating New Lists

All the reading lists (custom lists as well as smart lists) live in the sidebar. You create new lists from choosing the relevant options from either the Sidebar Toolbar, or the Sidebar context menu.

## Creating a new custom list

To create a new custom list, either click the new list icon on the sidebar toolbar, or choose New List from the Sidebar context menu (appears on right-clicking anywhere inside the sidebar). The New List dialog box opens up. Here you can give your new list a name.



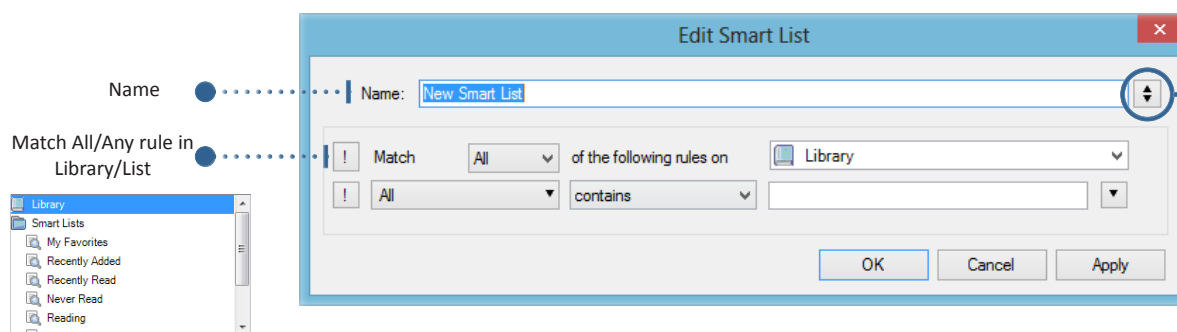
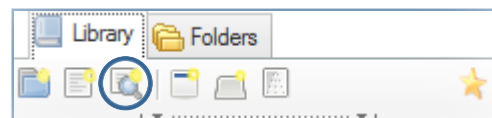
Your New List shows in the Sidebar. It can be dragged up or down the lists, or in or out any folders. Please note that the newly added custom list is empty, till you manually add comics to it.

Adding comic books to the list can be done in 2 ways:

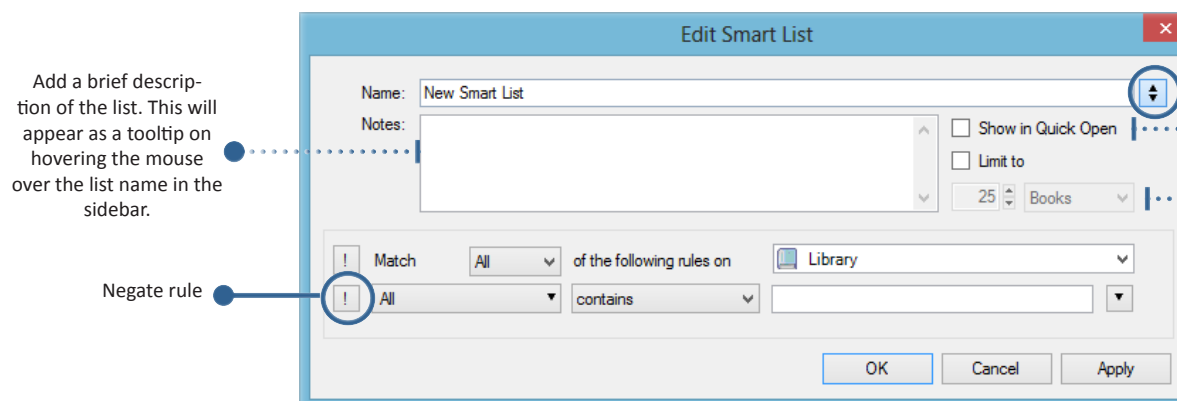
- Drag the comic books from the Browser and drop them on top of your list. You can drag & drop them either one by one, or selecting multiple comic books in the browser (using the **Ctrl** key).
- Alternatively, you can right-click any (or a group of) comic book(s) in the browser to open the **browser context menu**, and goto **Add to List**. Select from names of all the reading lists in your library.

## Creating a new smart list

To create a new smart list, either click the new list icon on the sidebar toolbar, or choose New Smart List from the Sidebar context menu.



Click this button to slide open additional options for setting up your smart list. If you do not wish to configure these additional options now, you may leave these empty to be filled up at any later time.



Select this option to show the smart list in the **Quick Open** box

Limit by number or size

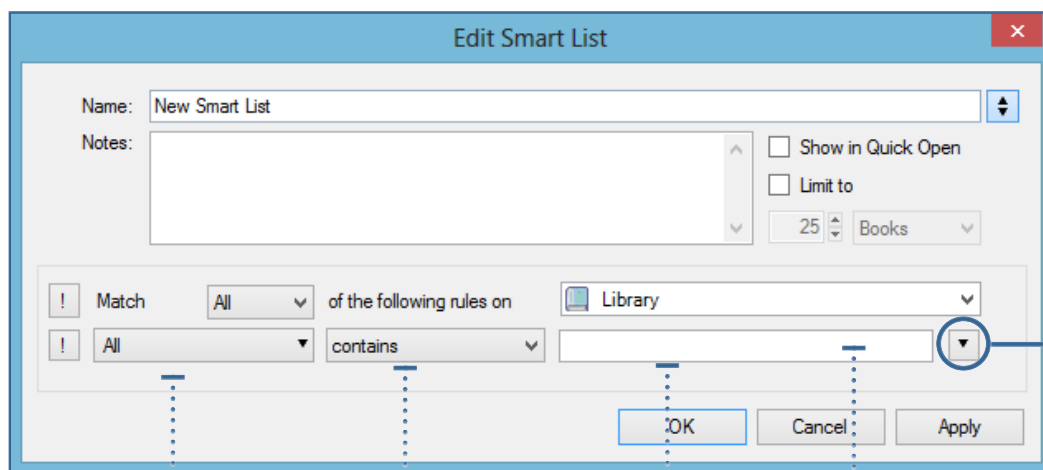
Add a brief description of the list. This will appear as a tooltip on hovering the mouse over the list name in the sidebar.

Negate rule



# Smart Lists

Once you have created a new smart list, just pick a metadata field from the leftmost drop-down menu, choose an instruction from the second, and fill in a complete or partial keyword in the third (text) field.



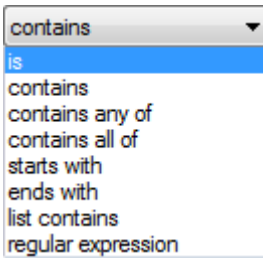
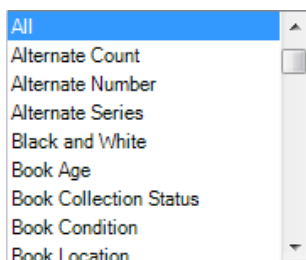
Clicking this button opens up a drop-down menu having options for working with multiple rules/groups.

Metadata field

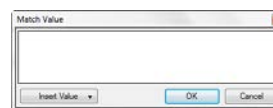
Instruction

Keyword

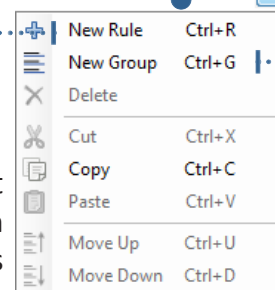
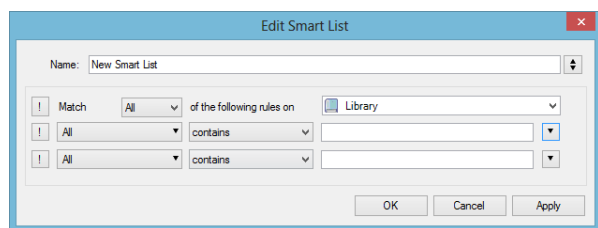
Match Value



The keyword can be, for example, the name of a series, character, file path, publisher, etc.

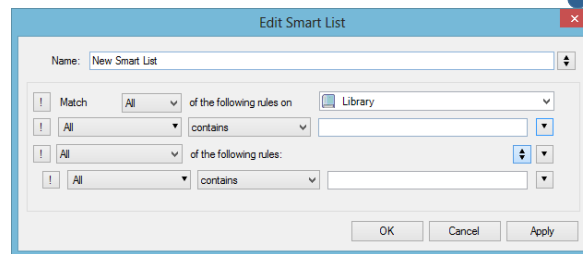


Double-click the text/keyword field to open up the **Match Value** dialog box, which is used as an expression editor.



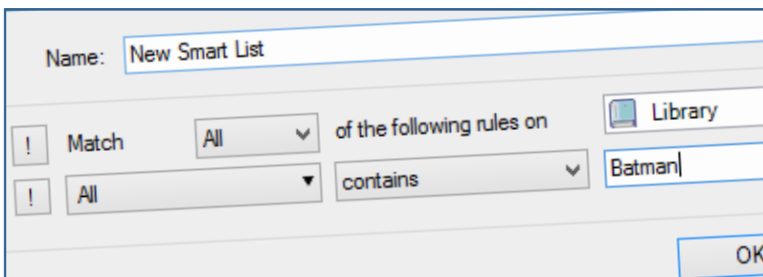
Most of the times, users feel the need to use more than one rule to specify the content they desire in their smart lists. For working with such multiple rules, click the button at the far end of the text (keyword) field to open up a drop-down menu. This contains options for making as many rules in a smart list as required.

You can also make **rule groups**. A rule group (or simply, a group) is a compilation of a number of rules. A group can be further enhanced by the any/all option, or the negation function. Just like the rules, there is no limit to the number of groups you can make in a smart list. You can also have groups within groups (for advanced users). The rules/groups can be moved up/down, or cut/copied/pasted within the smart list, and of course deleted.

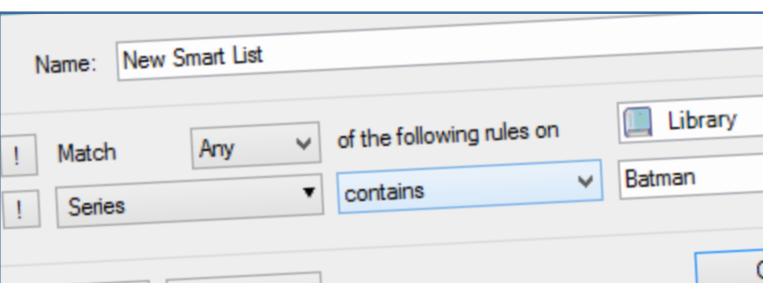




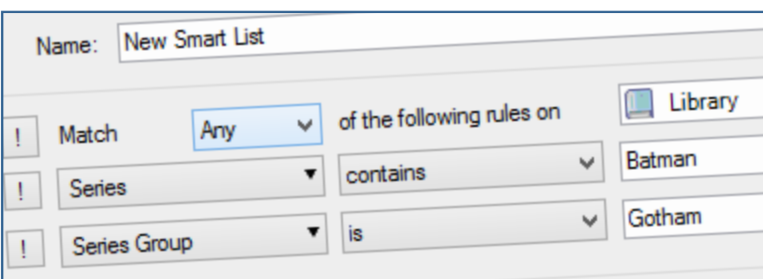
# Smart List Basics




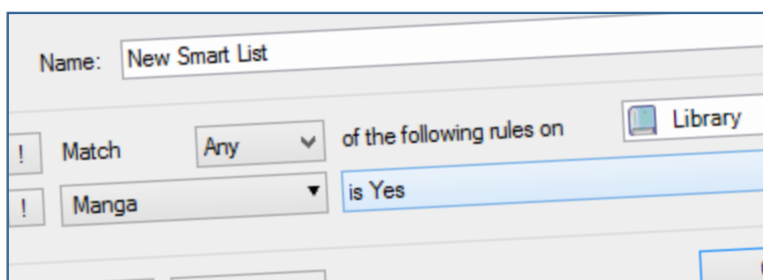
In its default state, every smart list contains one rule that will search for anywhere in “All” the comics’ data that “contains” nothing. You can change the blank keyword field to anything you like. For example, if you simply write ‘Batman’ in the keyword field and click Ok, the smart list would now display all books with Batman in their data.



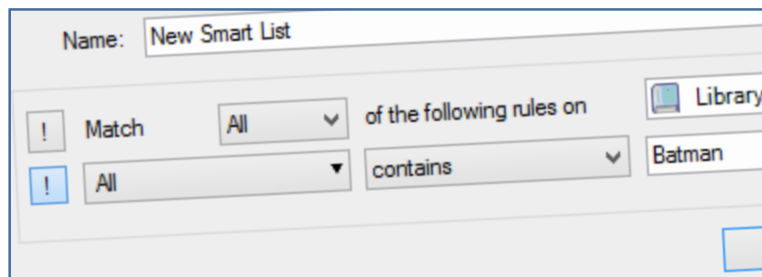
If you only want to search for a phrase in a certain field, you can change the metadata field “All” to something else. For example if you wanted to find all the Batman titles you could set the search to be: “Series” “contains” “Batman”



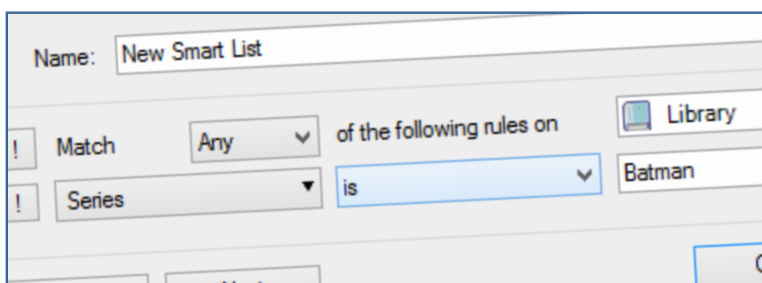
If you specify **Match All**, then all the rules would have to be true for a comic in order for it to be displayed. If you specify **Match Any**, then if any one rule is true for a comic it will be displayed. Click the  button next to a rule to open the drop-down menu, where you get the option to add / delete new rules to / from the smart list.



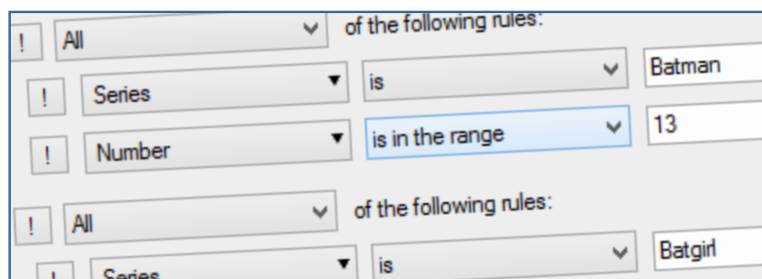
A number of metadata fields do not contain the keyword field. These are the fields that have a yes/no response. e.g. Manga, Series Complete, Black & White, etc.




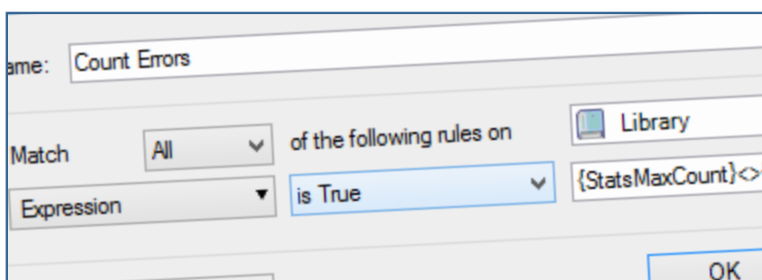
The **!** (negation) button finds the opposite of what you specify. To continue the Batman example, if you set the “!” button, the smart list would display any comics that do not contain Batman.



You can also change the instruction field (second drop-down menu). For example, if you want to find an exact word or phrase you could change the option from “contains” to “is”.



To create complicated and very specific rules, you can create rule groups. Click the  button and add a rule group. With each group you can specify to follow all or any of the rules in the group.

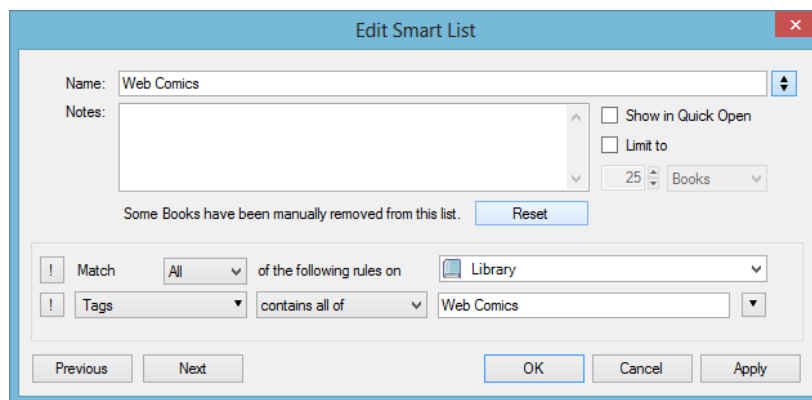
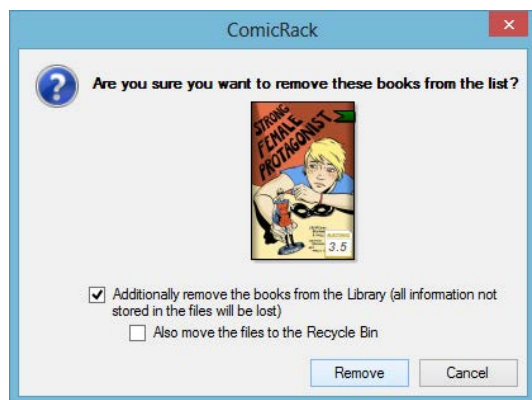


Advanced users can also make highly intuitive smart lists by employing the expression editor from the **Match Value** box.



# Working With Lists

Reading Lists can be easily edited. Both custom lists and smart lists can be renamed, deleted, moved from one folder to the other, and opened in their own tab or window. To edit a custom list, you have to manually add or remove the comic books in the the list. On the other hand, editing in smart lists is largely done by modifying the rules that constitute the list.

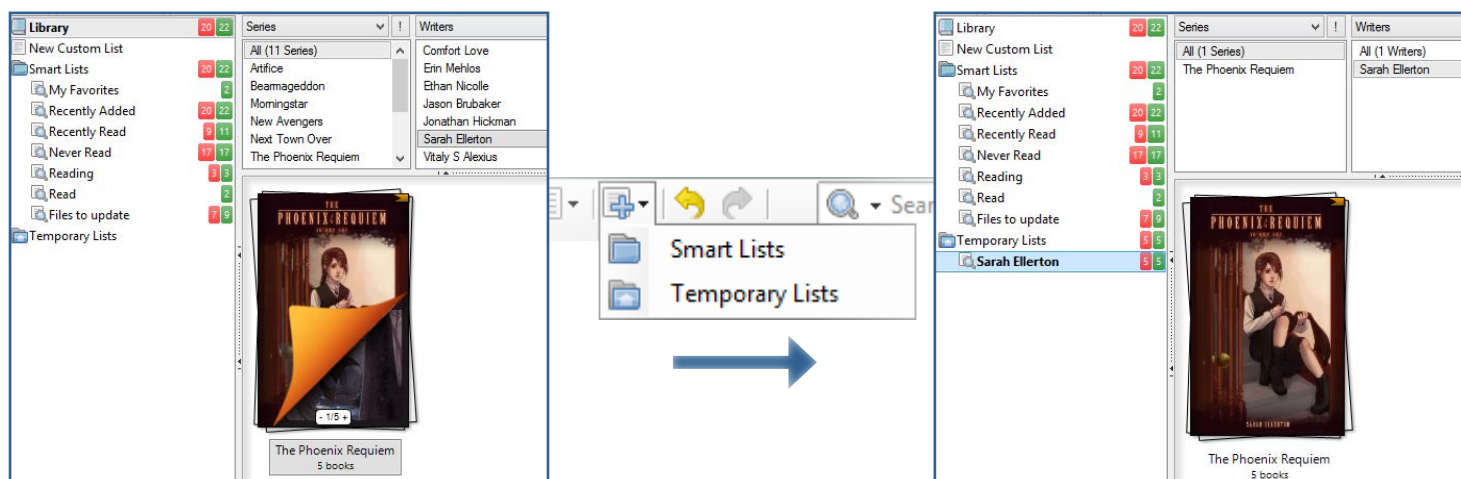


To remove a comic book (or a batch of comic books) from a list, select the comic book(s), right-click, and choose **Remove**. This will only remove a reference to the comic book from the list, not delete the actual comic book. You have the option to choose to also remove the book from your library, and even from your system. Please note that in case of smart lists, the **Edit Smart list** dialog has the **Reset** button to bring back deleted comics. You would need to slide open the additional options section for this.

## Duplicate Current List

The **duplicate current list** option is something different than simply copying/pasting a list. It builds a new smart list out of your current settings. If you did not make any changes, it does not create a new list. It takes into account the filters in **Search Browser**, **Quick Search** and options in **Views** (read / not read / reading / duplicates).

Click a list (either custom list or smart list), type something in the quick search or choose a filter in the search browser. Once the filtered comic books show up, click the **duplicate current list** button and you will get a new list (with the same name) in the folder of your choice, following the rules of the original list PLUS whatever extra filters you applied. This is the quickest way of creating smart lists.

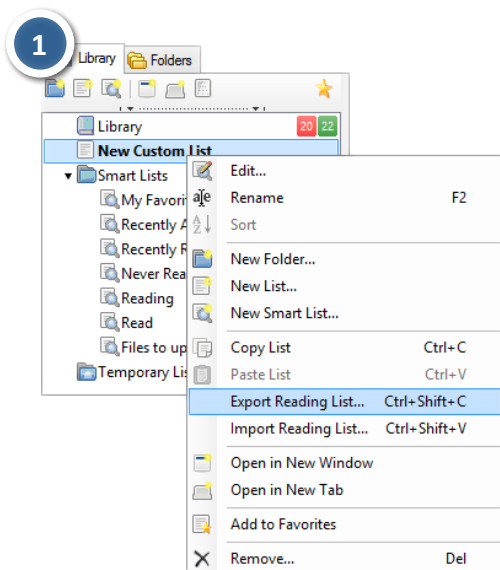


In this example, we first filter our library using the search browser. We select 'Sarah Ellerton' from the **writers** field in the search browser, which filters the total 22 comics in the list to 5 written by Ellerton. Now, click the **duplicate current list** button on the browser toolbar. Choose the location from drop down list of the folders the duplicated list could be stored in. A new smart list titled 'Sarah Ellerton' appears in the **temporary lists** folder. Click **edit** to see what its rules are. You will find that smart list has filtered the list according to the criteria we chose.

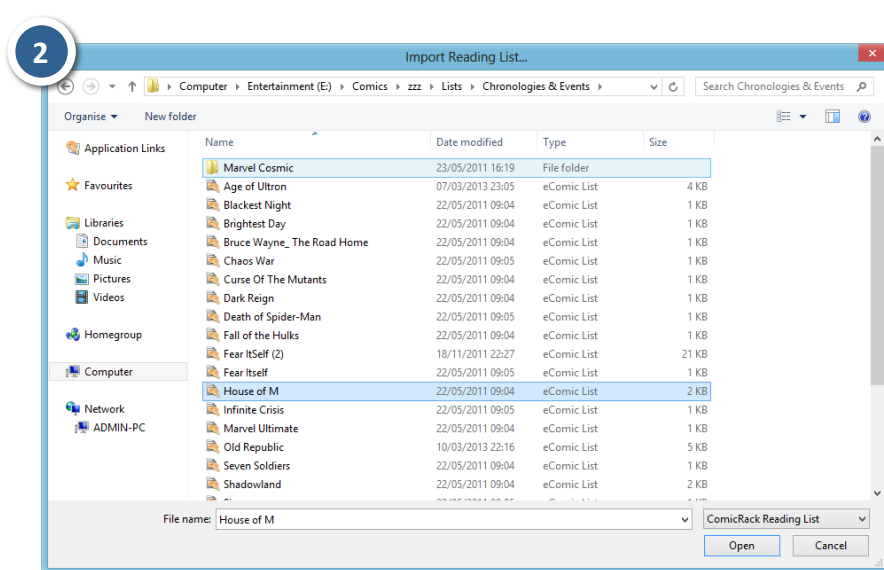


# Export/Import Lists

Both custom lists and smart lists can be exported from or imported into ComicRack. There are a number of reasons why you'd want to export a list: first, you could export the list to import it into another ComicRack installation. Second, you can export a list to put it online, or email it to a friend, for example. Exporting lists only backs up the information related to the list; exporting lists doesn't backup your comic books. Similarly, Importing lists only adds the information related to the comic books added in the list; importing lists doesn't copy actual comic books. Importing a list is a quick and easy way to exactly reproduce a particular compilation of comic books without having to manually add the comic books, or adding them in a particular order.

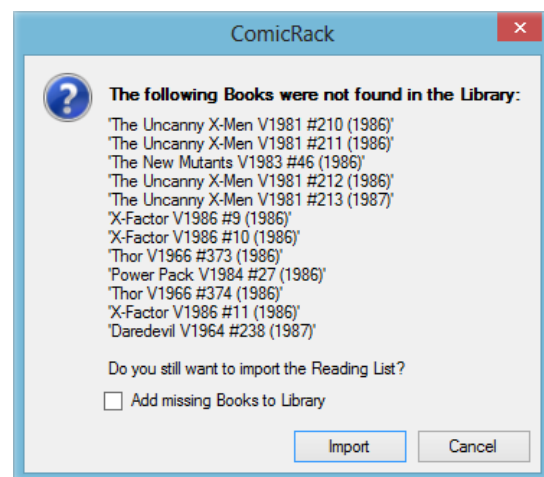


Right-click on any list (custom list or smart list) in the sidebar and select the **export reading list** or the **import reading list** option.



This will open an explorer window, where you can browse a location of your choice and click **Save** to export your list, or select the list you want to import and click **Open**.

While the process of importing either custom lists or smart lists is the same, there are a few differences. On importing Smart lists, ComicRack simply match the defined criteria to the comic books present in your ComicRack library, and present a compilation of comic books matching that criteria. On the other hand, when custom lists are imported, ComicRack will match the comic books in the list with those in your library. If some comic books are not present/matched, you will get the option to still add them to your library as fileless comic entries.



## FAQ

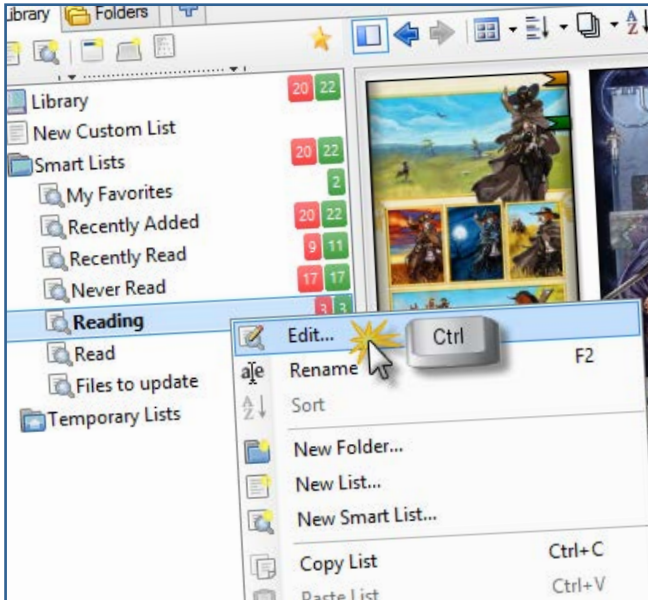
### » What is the Temporary lists folder?

Double-clicking any reading list from windows explorer opens it directly in the Temporary Lists folder. Any list kept here is deleted on the next run of ComicRack. So, if you wish to preserve a list, always remember to move it out of the Temporary lists folder.

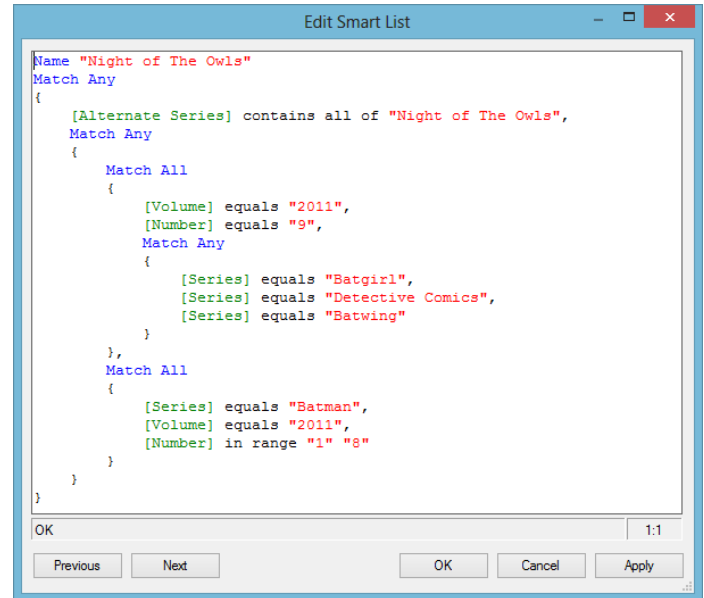


# Text-based Editing

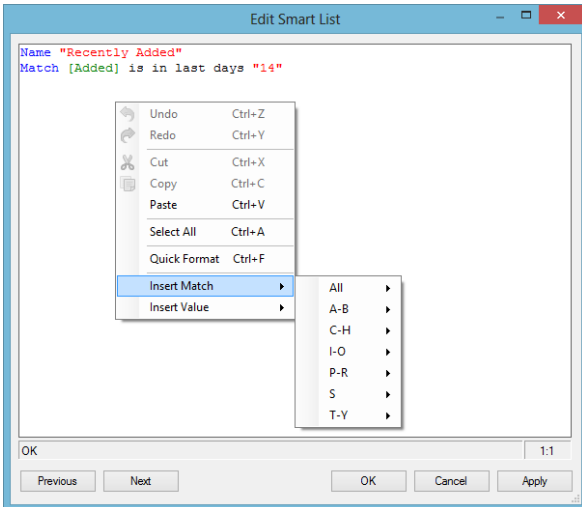
ComicRack smart lists also support a text-based query language. To invoke the text based smart list editor, press **Ctrl** while clicking **Edit**. Text-based smart list editor also supports copy-paste functions. Just select the text in a list, copy it to the clipboard, right-click any folder in the sidebar and click Paste list.



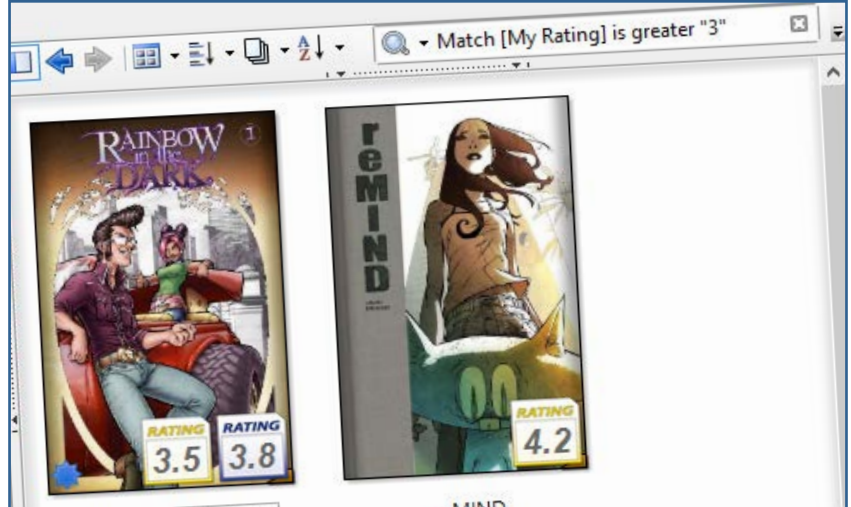
Right-click any smart list to bring on the **Sidebar context menu**. While pressing **Ctrl** on your keyboard, click **Edit**.



This is the text-based smart list editor, where you can write the smart list rules, as you would do in a language like SQL.



You can right-click inside the Text based smart list editor to get the context menu, which has quick links to insert the match & value expressions.



You can also enter smart list query expressions in the Quick search text field, to filter the books in the library with the chosen expression. Here in this example, we search for books which have a rating of more than 3.

## FAQ

### » Help! I can't see my lists anywhere.

I swear they were here yesterday, and now they are nowhere to be seen!

You seem to have toggled the sidebar off. All the reading lists load in the sidebar. If you have selected a list first & then toggled off the sidebar, you won't be able to access your complete library till you bring back the sidebar & select the library folder. So, it is highly recommended to keep your sidebar 'on'.



# Chapter 09: Scripts

Scripts are add-ons that give new features & functionality to ComicRack. Through scripts, you can execute a number of tasks with a single click. This chapter discusses all you need to know about scripts.

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<b>BUILT-IN SCRIPTS</b> .....	<b>71</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED SCRIPTS</b> .....	<b>72</b>
<b>SCRAPERS</b> .....	<b>73</b>
<b>MANAGERS</b> .....	<b>74</b>
<b>ORGANIZERS</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>SMART LIST SCRIPTS</b> .....	<b>76</b>
<b>INFO PANEL SCRIPTS</b> .....	<b>77</b>
<b>ENHANCERS</b> .....	<b>78</b>





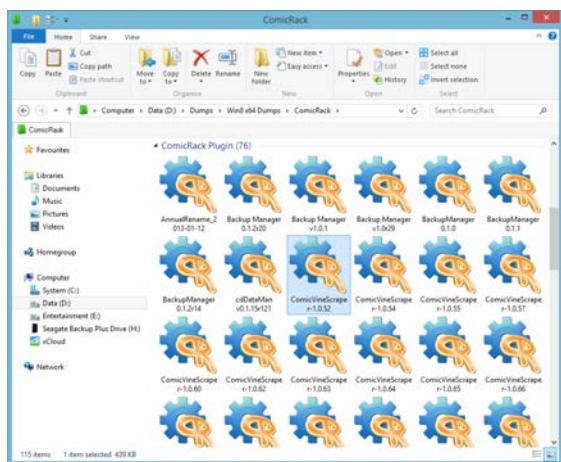
# What are Scripts?

Scripts are essentially plugins or add-ons that extend the functionality of ComicRack. With scripts, you can batch process books in ComicRack. A number of tedious manual tasks can be accomplished with just the click of a button. This gives you more time to actually read your comic books than manage them! A large variety of scripts are currently available. The scripts are usually distributed as packaged zip files. These scripts can be freely downloaded from the [Index of Scripts](#) from the [Scripts](#) section of the ComicRack forum.

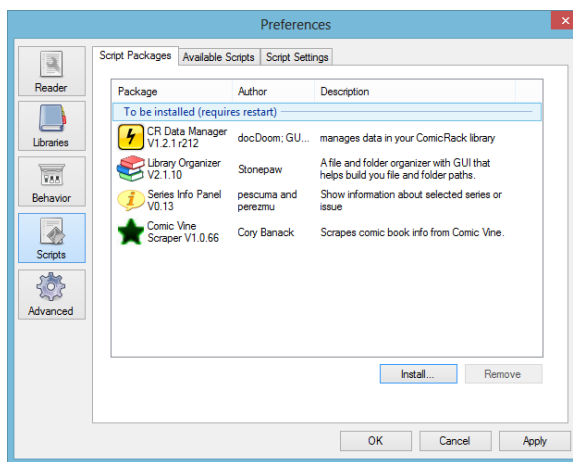
## How to install scripts?

And how to remove them!

A ComicRack script is distributed as a [.crplugin](#) file. These are zip files with the .zip extension changed to the .crplugin extension. Installing a script is very easy. Please note that, after installation, most scripts require a restart of ComicRack, and will prompt you for the same.



Simply double-click a crplugin file to start the installation process. You can also select the file and then click [Install plugin into ComicRack](#) from windows explorer.



The script manager displays the script under the heading [to be installed \(requires restart\)](#). Click [Ok](#) to restart and complete installation.

Just as you install a script, uninstalling it is an easy and fast procedure. To uninstall (remove) a script: Open the [Preferences](#) dialog, Go to the [Scripts](#) Tab, select the script you wish to remove, click [Remove](#) followed by [Ok](#) & restart ComicRack



After installation, most modern scripts can be accessed via their icon on the [Browser Toolbar](#). Some scripts also have a drop-down configure menu in the toolbar icon itself. Some scripts are configured via the [Automation](#) Menu, under [File](#) menu -> [Automation](#). Any script can be disabled (without uninstalling) from the [Script settings](#) section of the [Preferences](#) dialog.

### FAQ

#### » How do I install a script which is just a zip file?

I just downloaded a script from the forum, but it is in the form of a simple zip file, & not a crplugin.

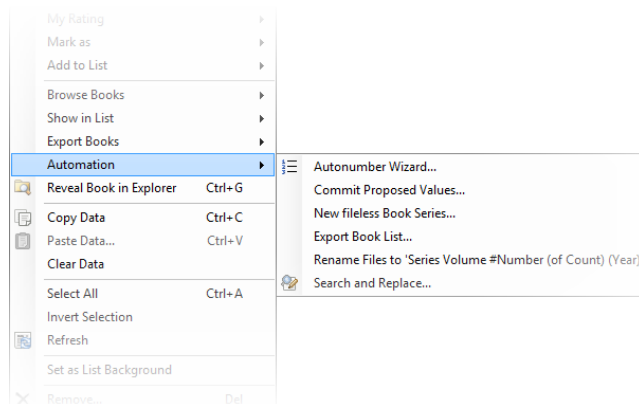
You probably have an old Comicrack script, which earlier used to be distributed as a simple zip file. Open the [Preferences](#) dialog, and click the [Scripts](#) button. Click the [Install](#) button. Browse to the downloaded zip file and select it. Restart ComicRack and the script(s) will be installed and available to use.



# Built-in Scripts

ComicRack comes pre-loaded with a number of scripts. This section briefly discusses these built-in scripts, while the forthcoming pages discuss scripts downloadable from the ComicRack forum.

Most of the built-in scripts (and also those that you install later) can be accessed from their respective icons on the browser toolbar. Some of the scripts require going to **Browser context menu** → **Automation**.



## 123

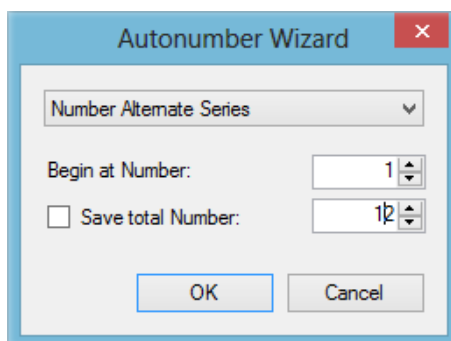
### Autonumber Wizard

This is a script to renumber the selected comic books. To use the script, either click its icon on the browser toolbar, or right-click the selected comic book(s), and via the **Browser context menu** go to **Automation** → **Autonumber wizard**.

- Number Series: changes the number field of the series accordingly
- Number Alternate Series: helpful in making chronologies (see example below)
- Begin at number: the starting issue number of the series being renumbered
- Save total number: this will be the total count of the series

Alternate Number	Position	Cover
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	

Arrange the comic books in the chronological order you want them in. Sort descending by the **position** field.



While keeping all the comic books selected, open the **Autonumber wizard**. Choose number alternate series from the drop-down menu. Begin at number 1 & also input the total count.

Alternate Number	Position	Cover
1	1	
2	2	
3	3	
4	4	
5	5	
6	6	
7	7	
8	8	
9	9	
10	10	
11	11	
12	12	

The series now has all the **alternate number** fields in order. You can now arrange them by the **alternate number** field.



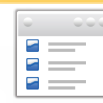
### Commit Proposed

Make the proposed values for the comic books permanent



### Search & Replace

Search and replace values in selected comic books



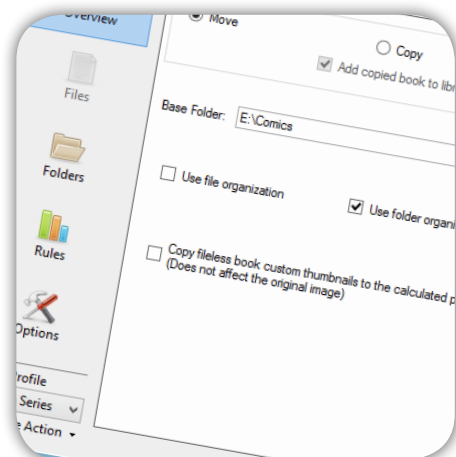
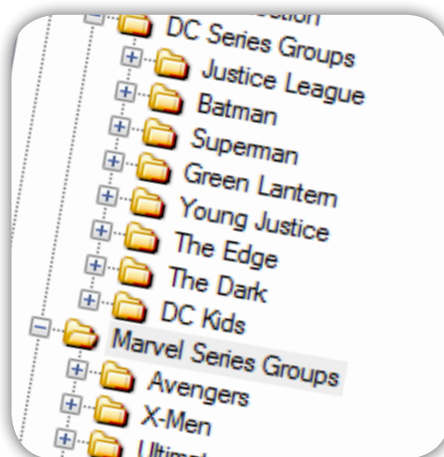
### Export Book List

Export the list of selected comic books (or the entire library) into a csv file



# Recommended Scripts

We now discuss the downloadable scripts divided into functional categories for your convenience. With such a wide variety of scripts out there, a new user can easily get overwhelmed as to which ones to use. While this is a matter of personal preference, the ComicRack team now makes the task easy for you by providing its own recommendations for must-use scripts. Some noteworthy scripts are also mentioned.



## SCRAPERS

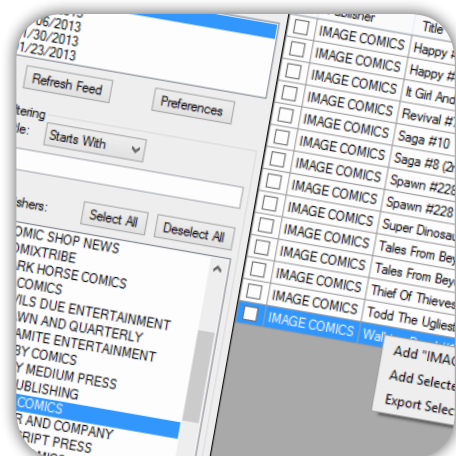
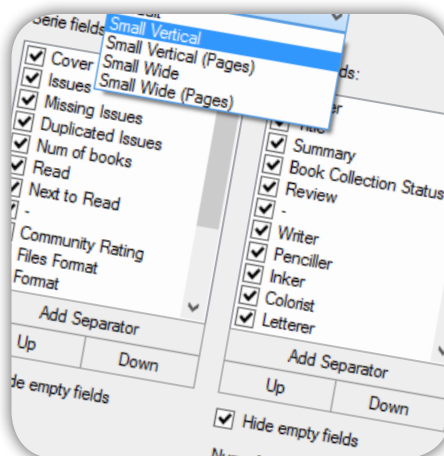
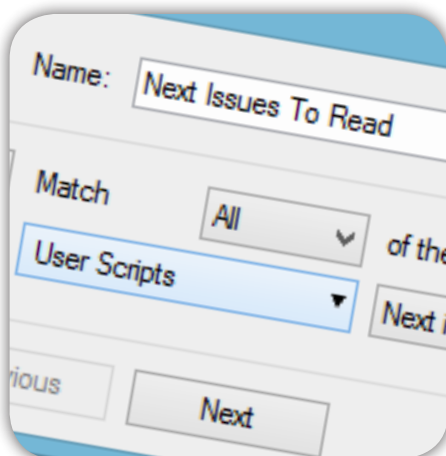
These scripts import comic book information from an internet database. Such scripts are used when you wish to add metadata from the web to the comic book archives in your ComicRack library.

## MANAGERS

These scripts move, rename or delete files based on the comic book metadata. Using these scripts, you can organize, un-dupe, and convert your comic books.

## ORGANIZERS

These scripts modify comic book information. Using these scripts, you can get scan information from filename, erase first page advertisements, copy or move information from one metadata field to other, and much more.



## SMARTLIST SCRIPTS

Smart list Scripts are a special category of scripts that can be used only with smart lists. These scripts utilize the **User Scripts** metadata field.

## INFOPANEL SCRIPTS

These scripts use the Info Panel for elegant & meaningful display of a lot of comic book related information, based on the metadata available.

## ENHANCERS

These scripts enhance the native functionality of ComicRack. You can get RSS feeds for new comics, open comic books from within ComicRack with your favorite programs (like WinZip), extract pages and much more.



# Scrapers

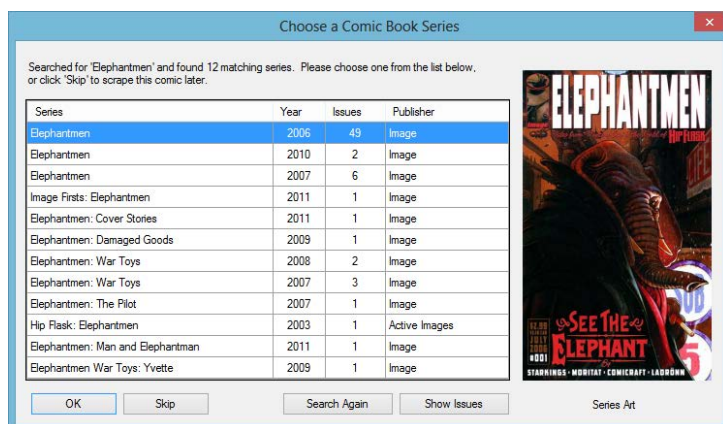
These scripts import comic book information from an internet database. Such scripts are used when you wish to add metadata information from the web to your comic book archives in the ComicRack library.



The importance of metadata in organizing and managing comic books has been already emphasized at many places earlier in the manual. Manually filling the metadata fields for comic books and fileless entries can be a very slow and inefficient process. Neither would it be easily possible to be accurate and complete.

The Comic Vine scraper automatically scrapes (reads, retrieves, and saves) comic book information from the [Comic Vine](#) online database, and automatically fills all the metadata fields in the Info dialog.

The Comic Vine Scraper also has its own [project page](#). Here you can find more information regarding the advanced use of this script, as well as [download](#) the latest version of the scraper.



If you want to review every single comic before scraping it, you should turn on the **confirm each issue before proceeding** option. The scraper finds a number of matches for the series being scraped. Most of the times, the desired series would be found at the top of the list. Choose the correct series, and then click **OK** to move to the next step. Also, you can use the **Show issues** button to preview the individual issues for the desired series.



To open the scraper, select a book (or a batch of books) and either click the green icon on the **library browser toolbar**, or Right-click → **Automation** → Comic Vine Scraper. Click **Start Scraping** to begin the automated process.

Rescraping is needed either when you wish to update the information on an already scraped book, or when you accidentally scraped incorrectly. Rescraping comic books becomes faster if the previous choice is saved. The Rescraping options in the **Behaviour** tab of the **settings** dialog let you choose if and where the choice should be saved.

## New Comic Entry



via Barcode

Add new fileless comic entries via scanned barcodes



Bedetheque Scraper

Scrape data for comic books from the [Bedetheque](#) website.



FromDucks

Scrape data for comic books from the [Inducks](#) website



# Managers

These scripts modify comic book information. Using these scripts, you can specify rules to automatically enter metadata, you can get c2c/noads tags and scan Information from filename, erase first page advertisements, copy or move information from one metadata field to other, and much more.

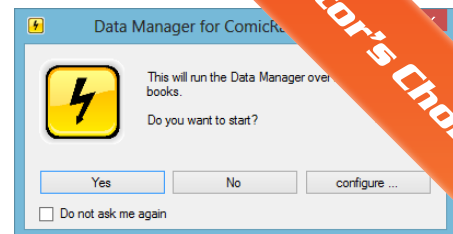


**Data  
Manager**

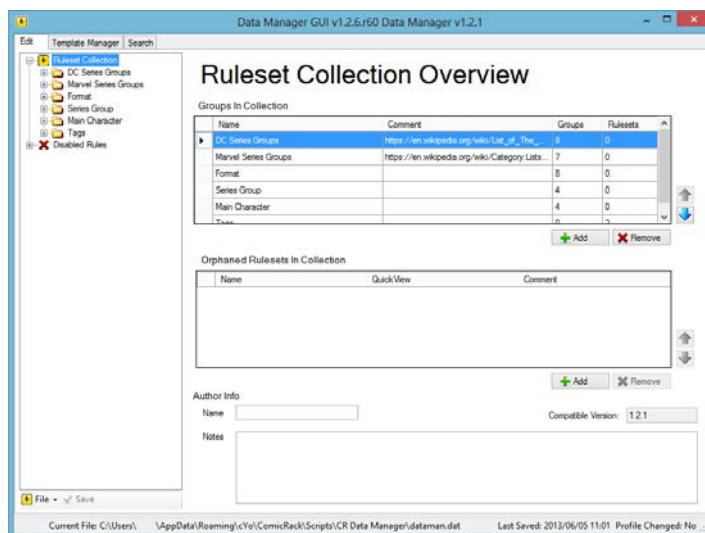
If you are using ComicRack to organize your comic library there is sometimes the need to enter data based on rules. So you might want to set the series group to **Gotham** for all Batman books. Or you want to set the publisher information for the first 200 issues of **Walt Disney's Comics and Stories** to **Dell** instead of **Boom**. This script will complete all these tasks automatically.

The Data Manager also has its own [project page](#). Here you can find more information regarding the advanced use of this script, as well as [download](#) the latest version.

**Editor's Choice**



To open the Data Manager, select a book (or a batch of books) and either click the yellow icon on the **library browser toolbar**, or Right-click → **Automation** → Data Manager. Click **Start Scraping** to begin the automated process.

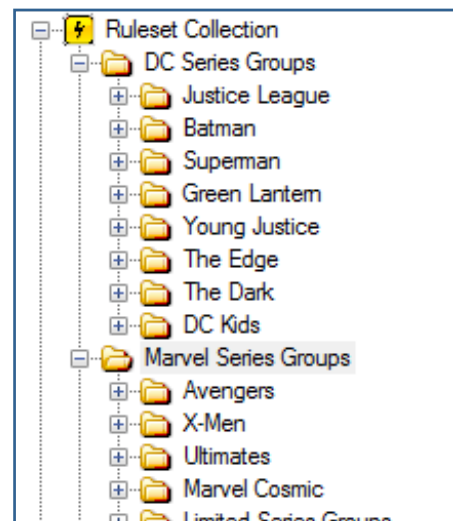


Before you run the Data Manager for the first time you have to define your rules.

A rule set consists of two parts. Part one defines the rules or criteria the Data Manager uses to decide which books shall be treated. Part two defines the actions which Data Manager should take based on your rules.

You can organize your rules in groups, use action templates & make profiles.

Read the Data Manager manual to know more!



A ruleset is a directive that tells the Data Manager what it shall do. A ruleset can be e.g.:

**If Series is 'Batman' then set SeriesGroup to 'Gotham'.** A ruleset consists of rules (in this example: **If Series is 'Batman'**) and actions (in this example: **Set SeriesGroup to 'Gotham'**).



**Copy/Move  
Info**

Copy or move information from one field to another



**Scan Information  
from filename**

Import scanner names from the file name into the Scan Information field



**Remove  
scanner credits**

Mark the first page as advertisement and following page as the front cover



# Organizers

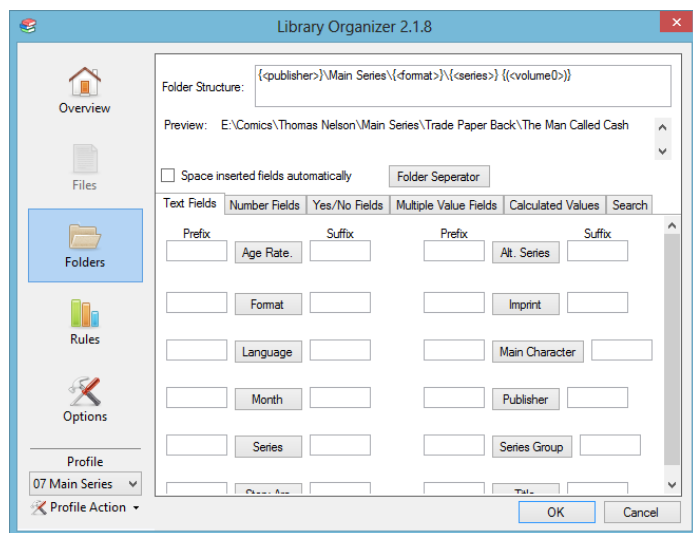
These scripts move, rename or delete files based on the comic book metadata. Using these scripts, you can organize, un-dupe, and convert your comic books. The Library Organizer script is the Editors' choice in this group.



The **Library Organizer** script allows for a highly customized user-specified organization (rename/copy/move) of the selected books and/or the windows explorer folders.

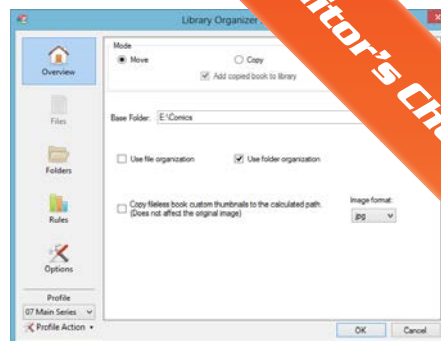
The Library Organizer provides options for organizing your comic book files into folders, as well as renaming your files.

The Library Organizer also has its own [project page](#). Here you can find more information regarding the advanced use of this script, as well as [download](#) the latest version.

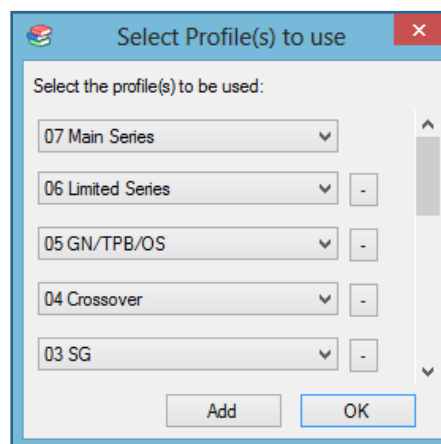


You must first manually set the **Base Folder** which would serve as the destination for the files being copied/moved. The next two tabs of the configuration dialog provide options for folder organization and file naming. These tabs contain a number of metadata buttons that you will recognize from that in the **Info** dialog. Using these metadata buttons, you can design your directory/file structure. Making rules is an optional step. The **Rules** tab has the Folder Rules & the metadata rules.

**Editor's Choice**



To open the Library Organizer, select a book (or a batch of books) and either click the yellow icon on the **library browser toolbar**, or Right-click → **Automation** → Library Organizer. The Configuration dialog will open up.



You may need different structures for different categories of books. Once you have defined the file/folder structure, you can save it as a profile for quick use next time. You can save as many profiles as you need. You can also export profiles for backup or for sharing.



Remove duplicate comic books with just a single click! (Read the [wiki](#))



Convert selected comic books to fileless entries



Move all selected comic book files to a chosen folder



# Smart List Scripts

**Smart list Scripts** are a special category of scripts that can be used only with smart lists. On creating a new smart list, the **Edit Smart List** dialog box pops up. It contains a metadata field called **User Scripts**. Scripts used in accordance with this field are called **Smart list Scripts**.



## Next Issues to Read

This script displays unread or partially read comics where the previous issue in the series has been completely read. Just select the smart list in the sidebar, and you now get all comic books where the previous issue has been completely read.

Set the metadata field (first drop-down menu) to **User Scripts**

Set the instruction field (second drop-down menu) to **Next Issue To Read**

The script ignores any comic book that has been opened till the first 3 pages. This comes in useful when you are in the habit of opening up newly added comic books just to get a look at them. Comic books that have been read further than 3 pages are considered by the script partially read, and therefore displayed. However, you can change the number of pages to be ignored by editing the **New Comics.py** file.

## Books with pages marked



## pages marked

This is a smart list script that pulls comics that have any pages marked with the entered type. The page type can be specified from any of the ones present in the **pages context menu**.

Set the metadata field (first drop-down menu) to **User Scripts**

Next to the instruction field is the option text box. Here you write the **Page type**. Click **Ok** once you are done

Set the instruction field (second drop-down menu) to **Books with pages marked**



## Files Not Found

Find books where the files are not found on the drive



## Series Count Is

Pull series based on how many issues it contains



## Proposed Values

Find comic books that contain proposed values



# Info Panels Scripts

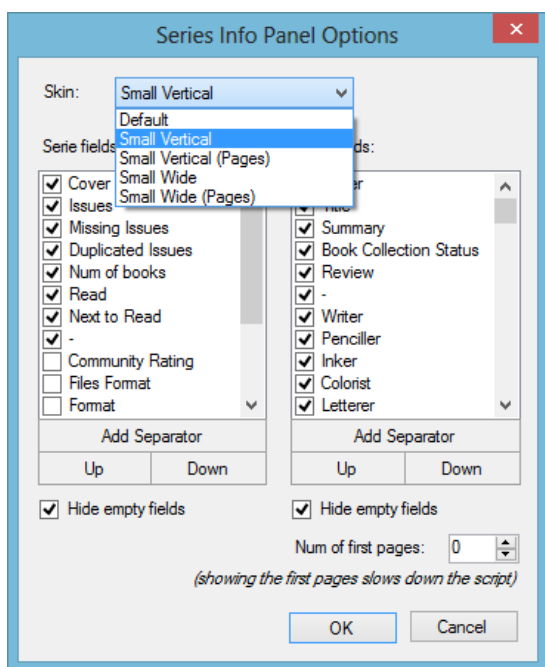
**Info Panel Scripts** are a special category of scripts that can be used only with the **Info Panel**. The Info Panel is an 'optional' panel that opens in the browser, using either the **Browse** menu, or by clicking the **Info Panel docking grip** at the bottom of the browser window. However, the Info panel doesn't show up till any Info panel script is enabled. Here we detail the currently popular Info Panel scripts.



**Series  
Info Panel**

Shows most of the available metadata of the selected book(s) in the Info Panel, without requiring to invoke the Info dialog. With the **info panel** enabled and the **series info panel** script installed, select a comic book (or a group of comic books).

The Info Panel will show almost all the available metadata in a visually elegant manner.



The Series Info Panel can be easily configured to suit your needs. To open the options window, from the Main menu, go to **File menu → Automation → Series Info Panel Options**. You can select the metadata fields you wish to be displayed in the Info panel (series view & issue view). The Skins drop-down menu lets you choose from a number of skins. The Series Info Panel can display any number of pages from the selected comic book in the form of a filmstrip at the bottom of the panel.

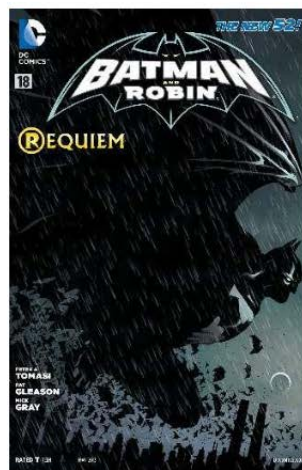
**Editor's Choice**

## Batman and Robin (Requiem)

DC Comics, 5/2013  
eComic (ZIP) 22 Pages  
Nahga-Empire

**Undone**

You dare not miss this issue!  
It's the BATMAN AND ROBIN story of the year!



"Heartbreaking..

From CBR:  
This is one of the saddest single comic books I've read. It's a gutcheck that warrants reflection and sympathy. This isn't the first time Tomasi has delivered a stunning issue focused on the passing of a character and the coping of those left behind and he continues a great streak of post-mortem stories here.  
5/5"



Writer: Peter J. Tomasi  
Penciller: Patrick Gleason  
Inker: Mick Gray  
Colorist: John Kalisz  
Letterer: Taylor Esposito

[See in ComicVine](#)



**CoverFlow  
Info Panel**

**Display a coverflow of the selected  
comics in the Info Panel**



CoverFlow is an animated, three dimensional graphical user interface for visually flipping through thumbnails of selected comic books. You can browse the Coverflow using the mouse wheel scroll or left/right keys. Clicking on a comic book opens it in the reader window.



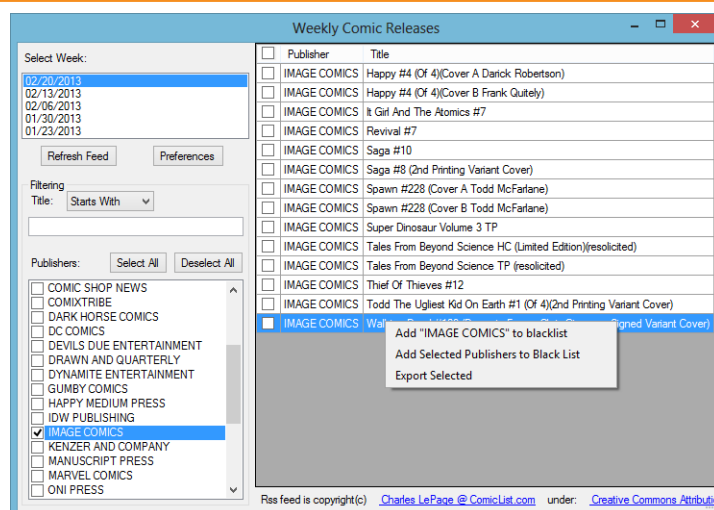
# Enhancers

These scripts enhance the basic functionality of ComicRack to give you more functions, many of which could well have been in-built by default. But, as not all users would choose all of them, so we have made the scripts, and you can choose your pick. These include automatic backups, getting RSS feeds of new comics, and many more.

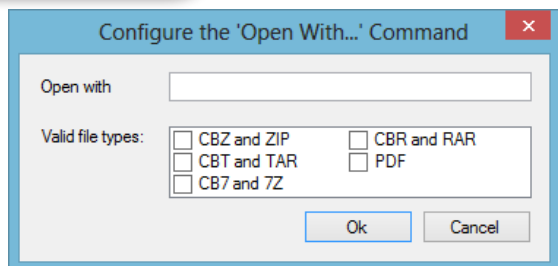


Weekly Comic Releases gets you the latest RSS feeds about the new comics coming out each week. You can filter the results by date, title or publisher. The blacklist function excludes results from unwanted publishers is there. You can also export the comic list to a text file or to fileless comic entries in your ComicRack library. To open the script, from the Main menu, go to **File menu** → **Automation** → **Weekly Comic Releases**

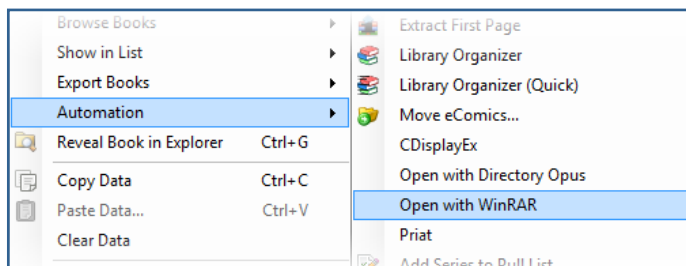
From the preferences dialog, you can choose to turn off the Price, Cover and Publisher columns in the right pane of the weekly comic releases window.



This script allows you to extend ComicRack by adding your own “Open With” program shortcut to the right click **Automation** menu. Add as many items as you need by running it multiple times. When you are choosing file types, be SURE that the program you select will handle those file types, otherwise the program will probably give you a nasty error message about not recognizing that file type.



From the main menu select **File** → **Automation** → **Build 'Open With' Menu Item...**. The script will prompt you for a label and the comic book file types you want to allow be used



Right click on a comic book, select **Automation**, and you'll see “Open With Something You Typed”.



## Backup Manager

Automatically back up your ComicRack database



## Create Combined Script

Create a new script that executes several scripts one after the other



## Extract All Pages

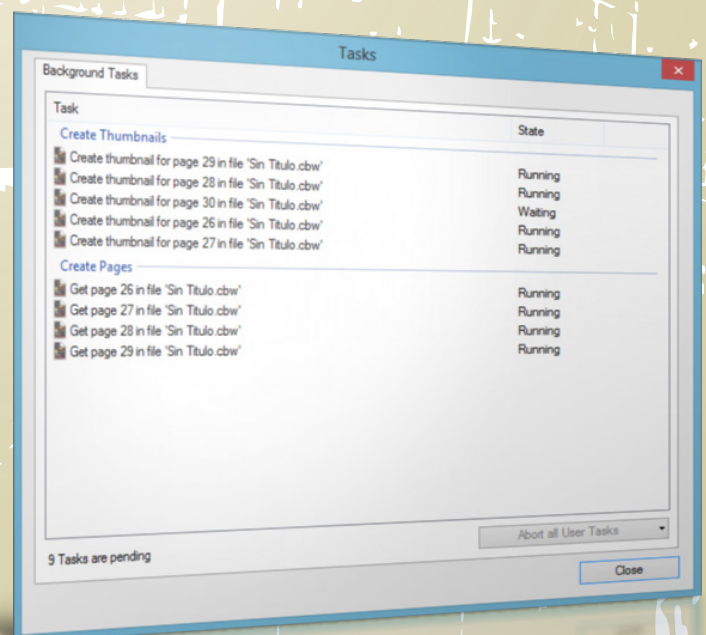
Extract all the pages of a comic book to a user specified folder



# Chapter 10: Web Comics

If you like to read comics published on a website, ComicRack can download, save and update them for you. Read this chapter to learn how!

<b>WEB COMICS: BASICS .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>WEB COMIC HELPER .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>WORKING WITH WEB COMICS .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>UPDATING WEB COMICS .....</b>	<b>83</b>





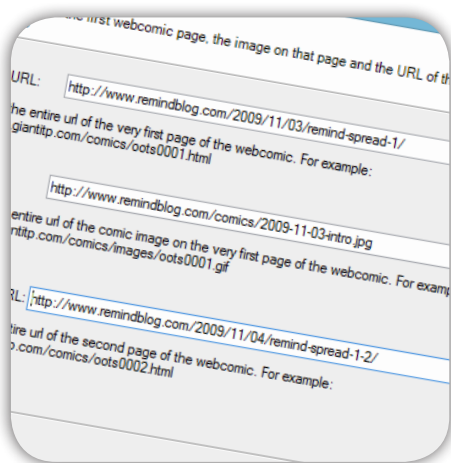


ComicRack supports Web Comic (.CBW) files. A CBW file loads the comic pages from the official site of the web comic. The CBW file itself will contain no image files. With Web Comics, ComicRack can read comics directly from web pages and display them as if they were standard digital comic archives (CBR, CBZ). Web Comics can be exported to other formats. If the definition supports it, a Web comic can update itself to add new pages (like for daily or weekly comics).



## Where do I get CBW files?

Very simply, CBW files are just small XML files that can be edited using any text editor (like Notepad++). For additional information on making Web comics, please read the article on the [ComicRack wiki page](#). Here we focus on 3 common (and easy) ways of getting web comics:



## WEB COMIC HELPER

This is the easiest way. The Web comic helper is a script freely downloadable from the ComicRack forum. Install the script & enter the required links (as instructed by the script dialogs) to make the .CBW file for the web comic of your choice. We discuss this script in detail on the next page.



## COMICCRACK FORUM

Just login to the [ComicRack forum](#) and go to the [Index of Web Comics](#). Our developers there have already posted a good collection of Web comics that you can download and use. New Web comics are regularly posted and requests for specific Web comics are entertained.



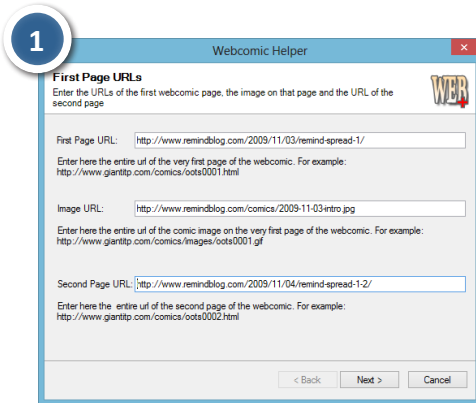
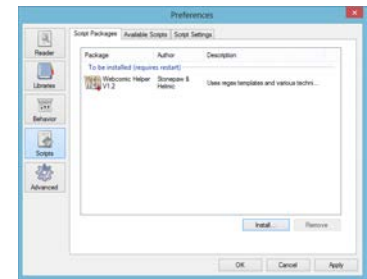
## TEMPLATES

A Web comic template can be easily edited to make the Web comic of your choice, which you can read (with daily updates) from within ComicRack. Templates for Gocomics.com (a website that contains a large number of daily comics) and Onemanga.com (a website containing lots of manga) can be freely downloaded from the ComicRack forum.

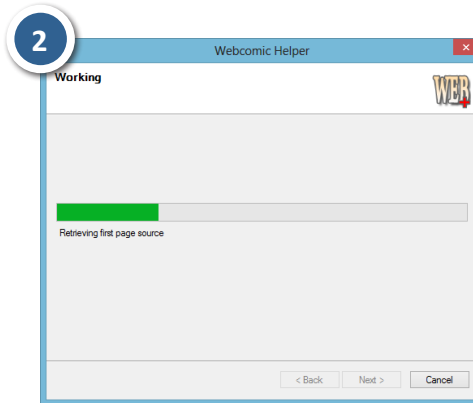


# Web Comic Helper

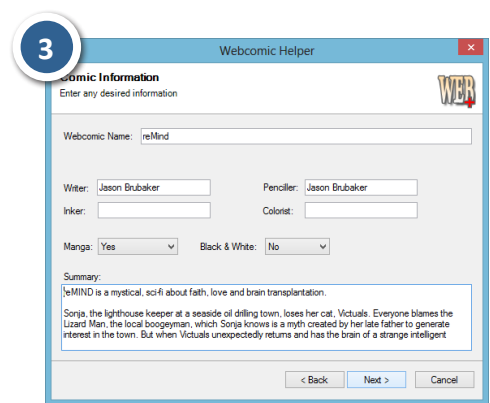
This script will allow you to easily read just about any web comic on the Internet from within ComicRack. Read the entire archive without waiting for each page to load, get automatic updates for new pages, and, of course, view and manage your web comics just like any other e-comic. Just [download the script](#) and install it. Go to **File** -> **Automation**, and then select **Webcomic Helper**. Follow the on-screen instructions and the script will make the CBW file.



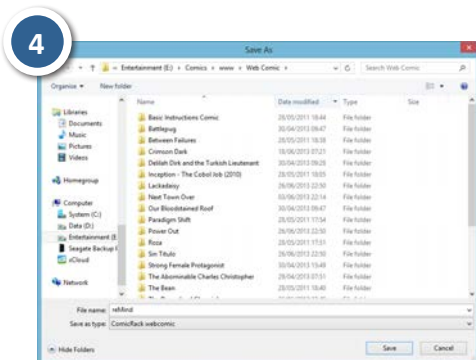
Enter the URLs



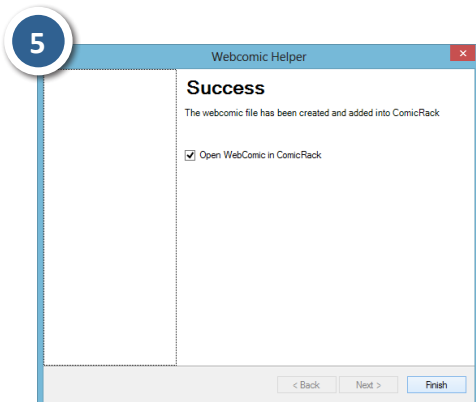
Let the script retrieve the page sources



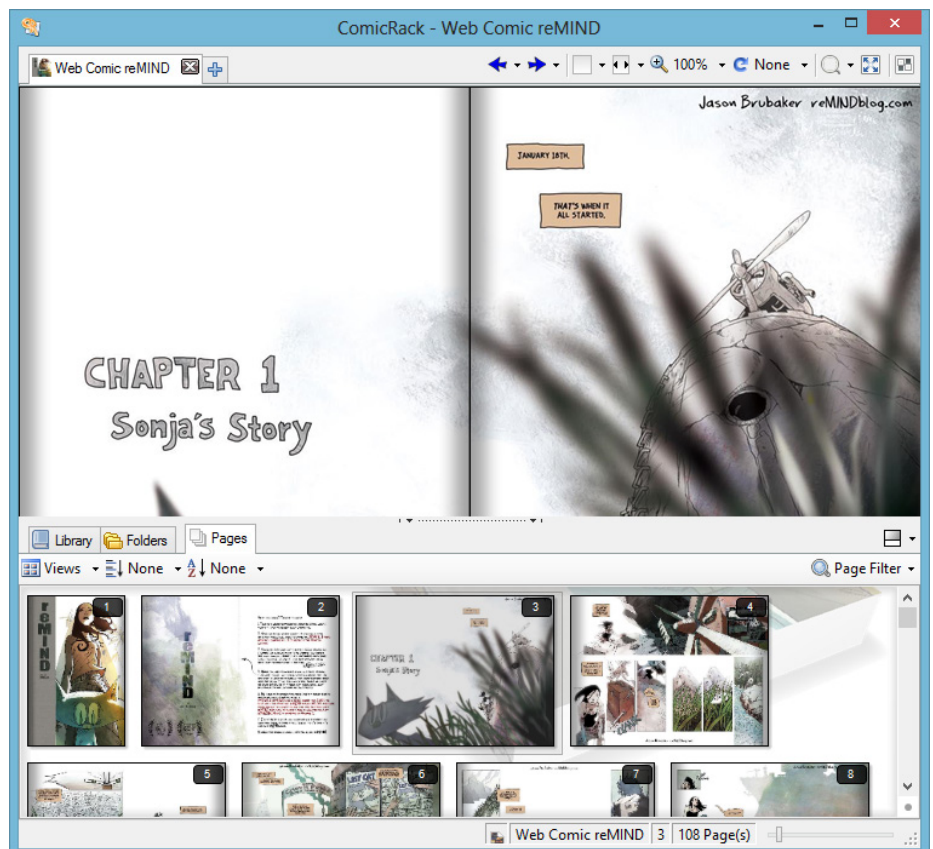
Fill in the metadata



Save the web comic to a location of your choice



Click Finish

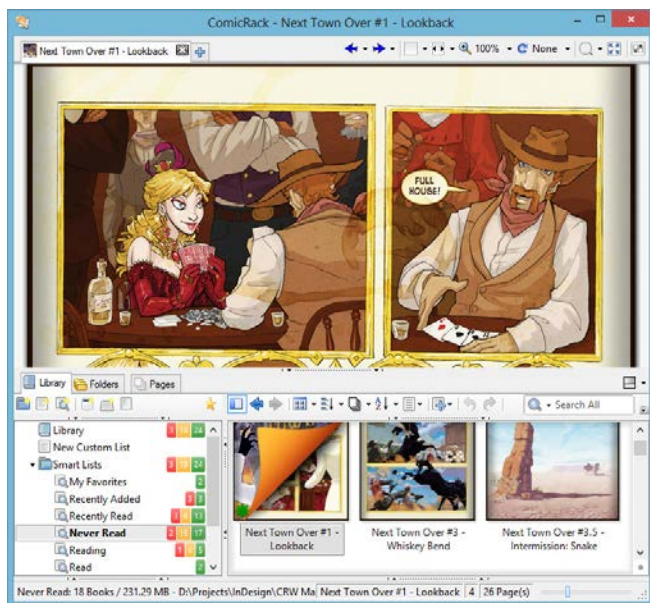


You can now read the web comic!

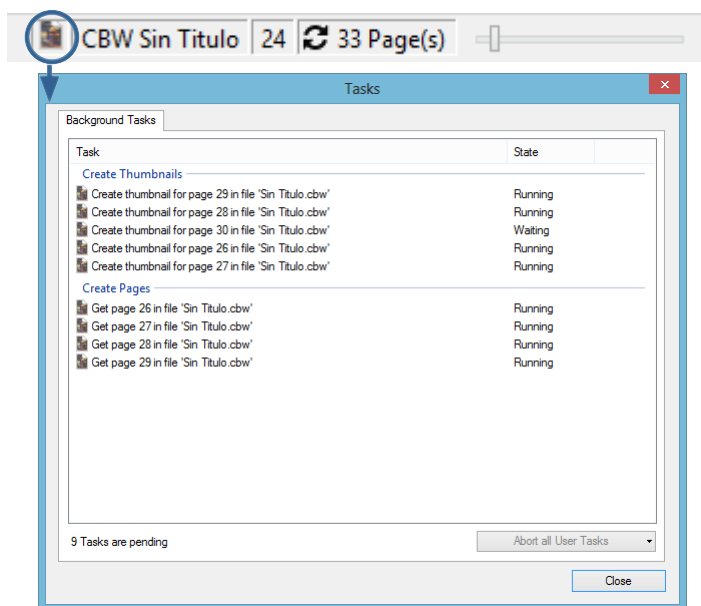


# Working with Web Comics

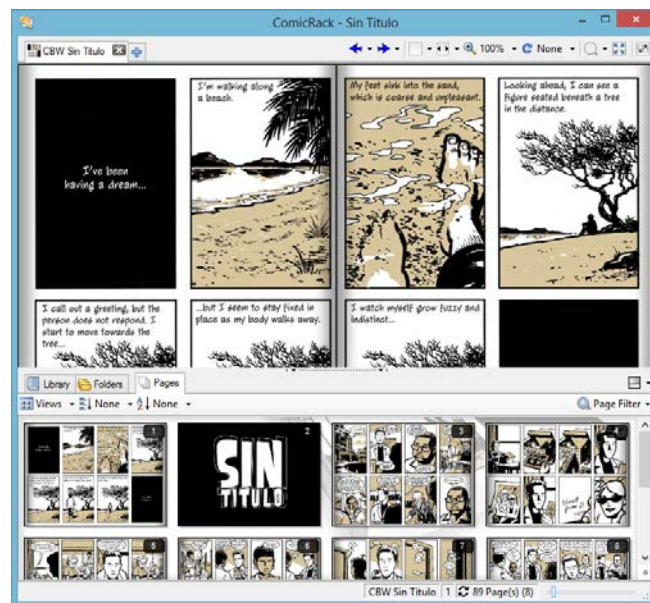
ComicRack treats Web comics just like standard eComics. All features of ComicRack have the same level of functionality for Web comics as well. The only difference is that reading a Web comic is dependent upon the speed of your internet connection. This also depends upon the total number of Web comics in your collection, the internet cache size, and the dates from which the Web comics begin (overall size of a Web comic). In most cases, however, the individual pages of a Web comic are rather small in size & get updated very quickly.



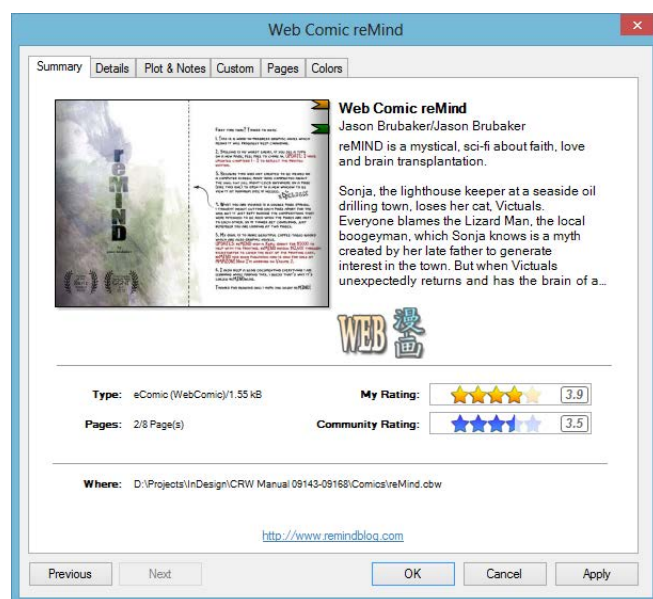
Drag-and-drop any CBW file into the Browser to add it to the ComicRack library. Double-click it from the browser to open it in the reader window as the pages get downloaded. If your file is in the Library, then the page at which you have stopped reading the web comic should be remembered so the next time you open the web comic, this last page should be displayed instead of the first page.



While a Web comic is updating, clicking on the **Pending background tasks indicator** reveals the pages getting downloaded.



Double-clicking any web comic (.CBW file) from Windows Explorer opens it directly in the ComicRack reader and starts displaying the pages as they are downloaded from the web. The Status bar shows the name of the open Web Comic, the current page, & the page count of the open book.



Just like with normal comic book archives, you can open up the **Info** dialog for Web Comics, and view and edit their metadata.

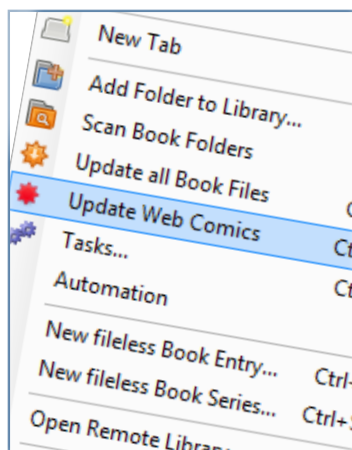


# Updating Web Comics

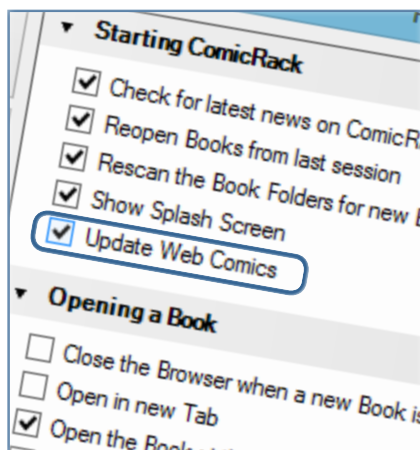
As Web comics link to comics from web pages, they need to be regularly updated to keep reading the latest pages.

There are 2 ways to update:

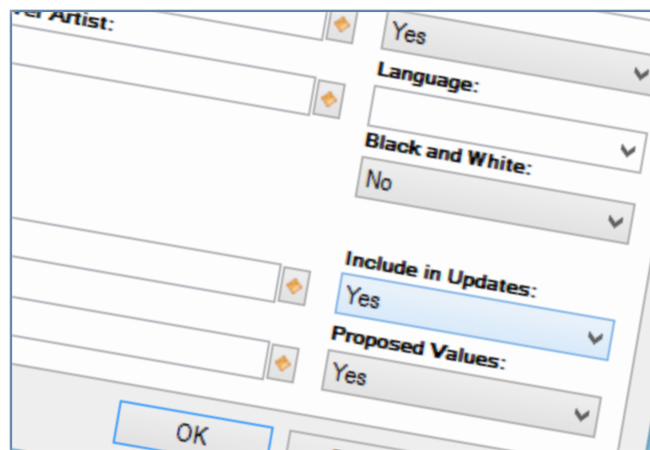
1. **Manual Updates:** From the **File Menu** → **Update Web comics**
2. **Automatic Updates:** From **Preferences** → **Behavior** → **Starting ComicRack** → Select the option **Update Web comics**. This way, ComicRack will check & download all updates for all your Web comics on startup.



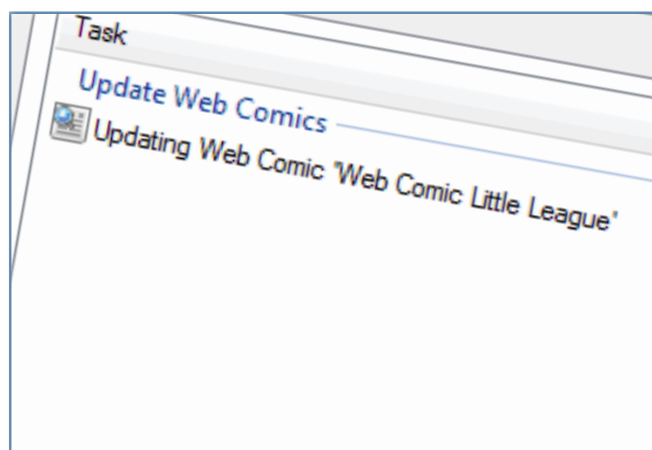
Use this option in the File Menu to manually update your web comics.



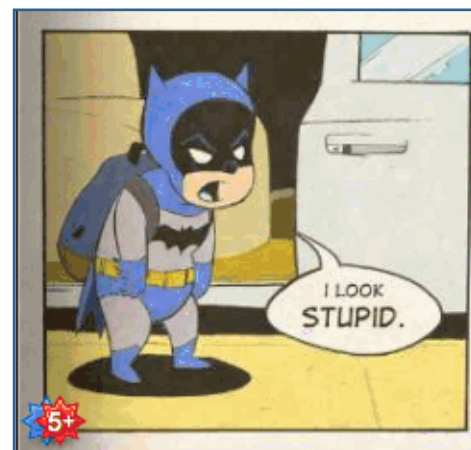
Check this option in the Behavior tab of the Preferences dialog to get automatic updates



From the **Details** tab of the **Info** dialog, you can choose whether to include a particular Web Comic in the updates or not.

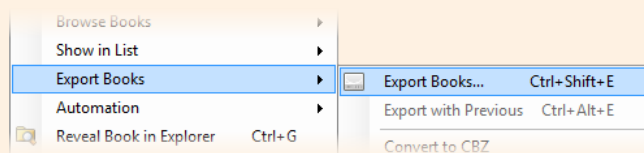


You can view the current status of the web comic update in the pending background tasks indicator. Once the Web comic has been updated with new pages, you will see the red star state indicator on the web comic thumbnail in the browser. The number is the number of new pages. Once the new pages are read, the red stars disappear.



## Offline reading!

If you wish to save a Web comic for offline reading, just export it to a place on your computer. The Export eComics function works for Web comics with exactly the same functionality as it does for regular eComics. Please note that the Web comic would be exported only till the last page that has been retrieved from the net. While exporting Web comics, it is not recommended to delete the original pages after export, as ComicRack would have to download them again if you re-update it.



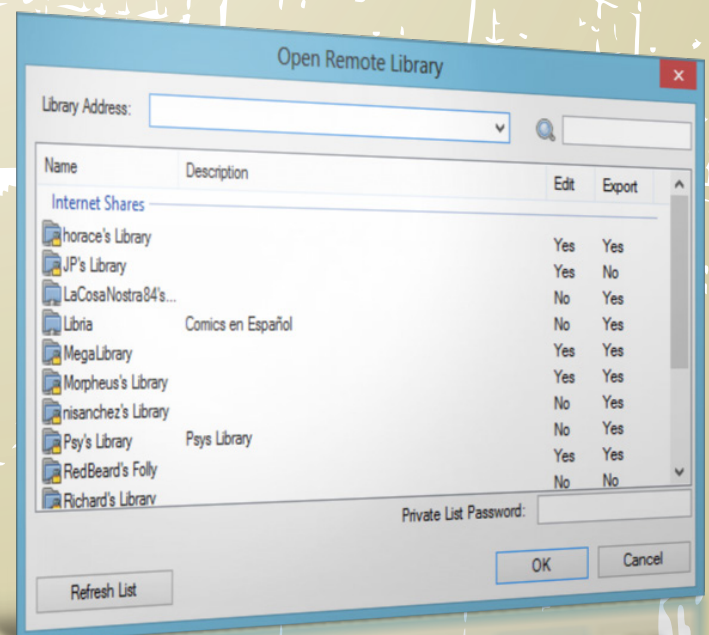
Right-click the Web comic from the browser and go to the **Export eComics** option. Choose your preset, or use options in the export dialog to fine-tune the export process to your choice.



# Chapter 11: Network Sharing

You can access remote comic book libraries of your friends and family using the network sharing features of ComicRack. You can even share your database with others!

<b>OPENING REMOTE LIBRARIES .....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>ENABLING NETWORK SHARING .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>SHARING OVER THE INTERNET .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>USING A SHARED DATABASE .....</b>	<b>88</b>

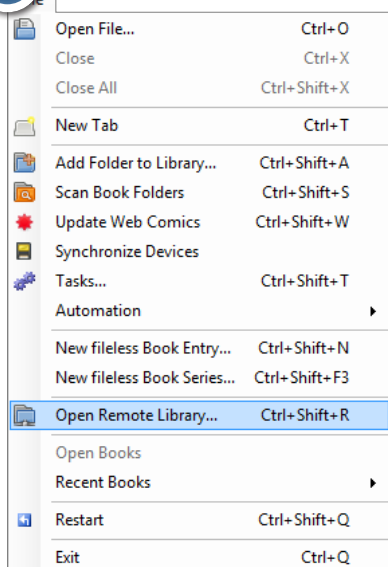




# Opening Remote Libraries

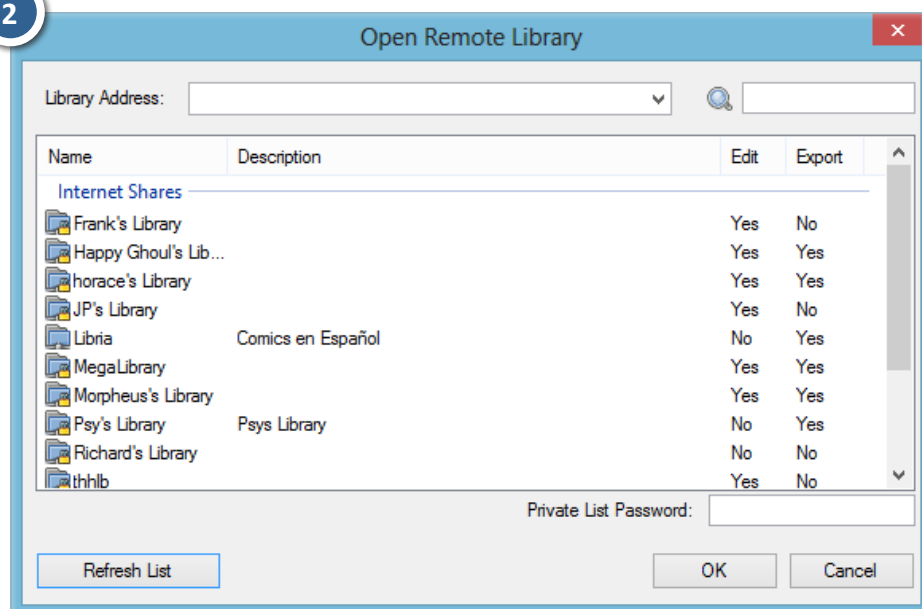
Using the network sharing functionality of ComicRack, you can open the shared library of other ComicRack users over the internet. In this section, we explain how to work with remote libraries, while the next section will focus on sharing your own library with other ComicRack users. Please follow the copyright laws for file sharing in your region.


1



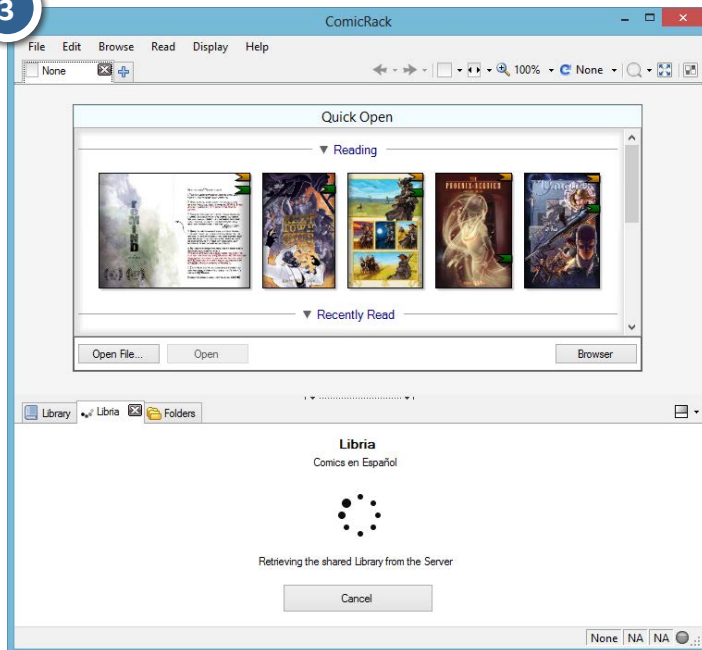
Click on the Open Remote Library option either from the File menu, or from the Tools menu.

2



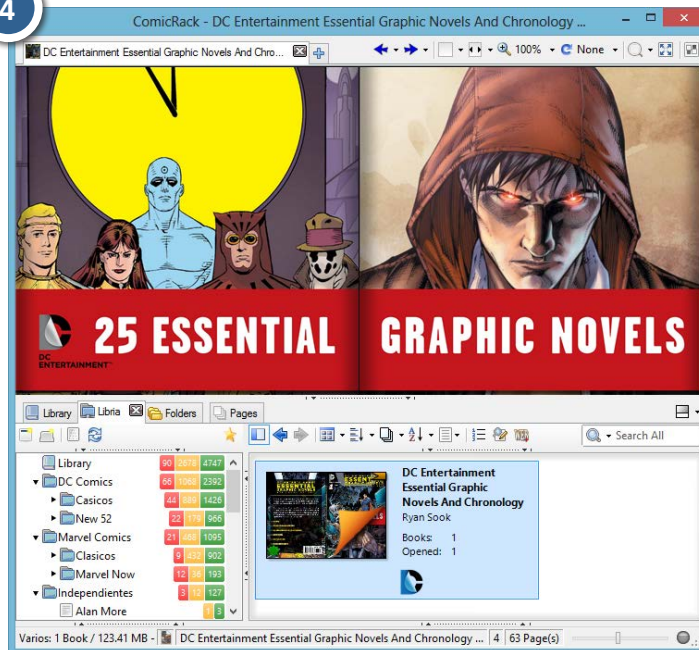
The Open Remote Library dialog will open. The names and description of available libraries can be seen. Also seen are the Edit and Export properties for the shared libraries. Please note that the  icon indicates a password-protected library, for which you'll have to contact its user through the ComicRack forum.

3



Double-click on any library name, and ComicRack will try to connect to the server to get information about the shared library. The Shared library opens up in the Browser Tab Bar next to the Library tab, and it tries to open connection to the remote server. If the library is password-protected, you will be asked to enter the password to retrieve the library.

4



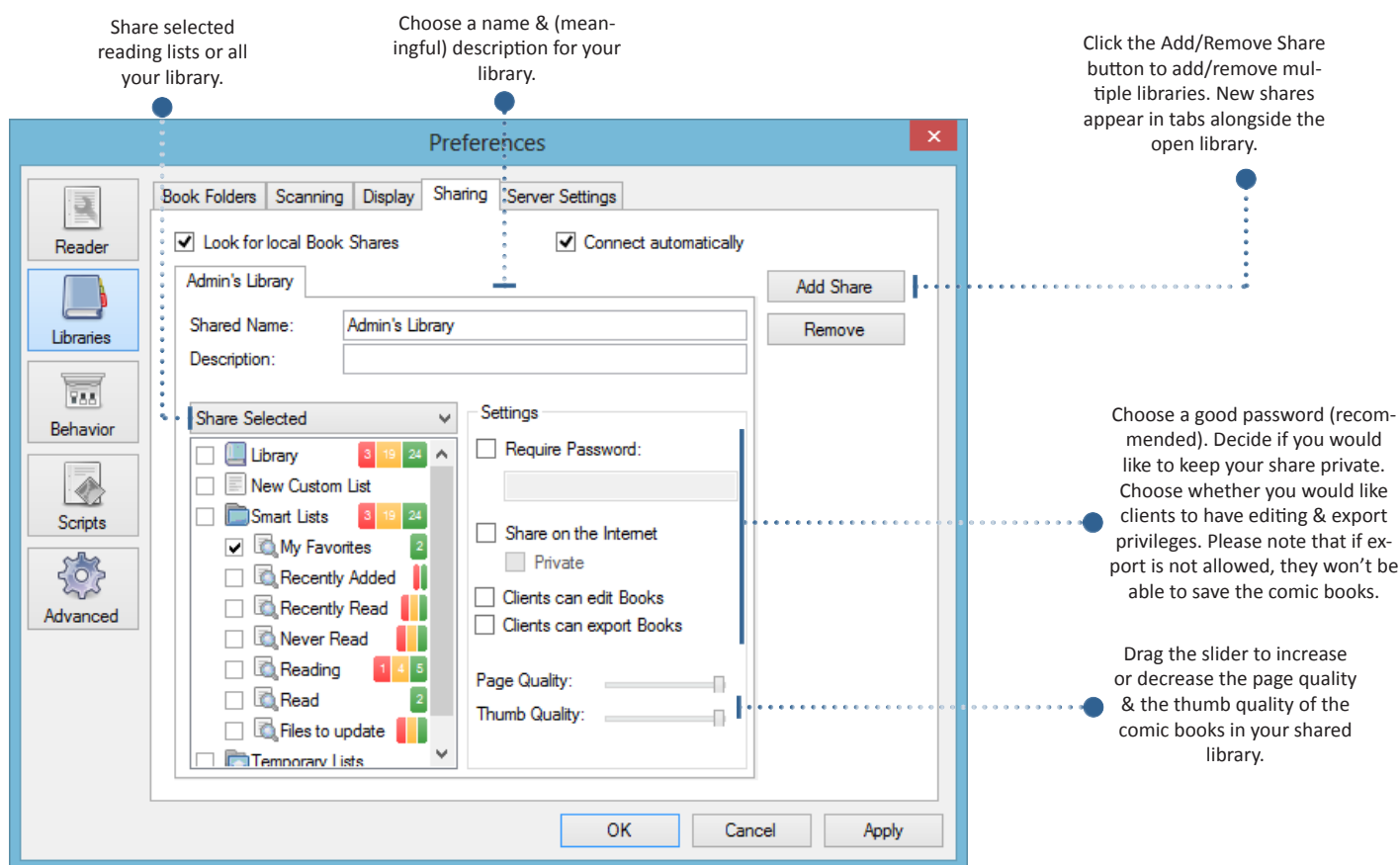
The remote library will load in the Browser Tab Bar next to the Library tab. Double-clicking on any comic book will retrieve it from the user's library and open it in the Reader. The time taken to completely download the comic book depends on your internet speed and the file size. The remote library supports all the functions of ComicRack, just like your library. Group, arrange, stack, reorder, recolor, search shared comic books just like you would do for the regular ones.



# Enabling Network Sharing

Now that you have learned how to access other users' shared libraries, you will definitely like to share your own library with your family and friends. We will now discuss how you can do this with ComicRack. This functionality has a slightly different set up if used within a LAN or over the Internet.

To enable network sharing, go to **Edit** menu → **Preferences** → **Libraries** tab → **Sharing** section → Click **Add Share**. Here you can also select if you want to share your complete library or only selected lists. You can also select to make your library password protected (recommended) or editable.



If you are sharing your library over the network, you will see a round icon at the extreme right of the **Status Bar**; this is the **Server Statistics** button, clicking which will open the **Server Statistics** tab of the **Tasks Dialog** displaying all the detailed server statistics for your shared library.

## FAQ

### » Why should I keep my shared name same as my ComicRack forum username ?

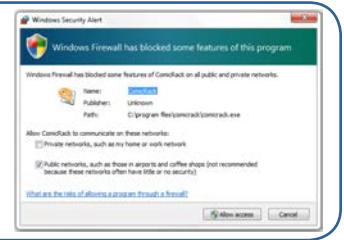
There is no way for a user to request the password to your library unless he recognizes your shared name. This is only possible if you use your ComicRack forum username as the name for your shared library. This way other users can PM you on the forum, and you could reply back your password to those you wish.



# Sharing over the Internet

The configuration needed for sharing a ComicRack library over the internet depends on how you connect to the internet. You can, for example, connect to the net simply by attaching an external modem to your desktop. Alternatively, you may be connecting via a router. Here we discuss these scenarios, along with the steps required to share your library.

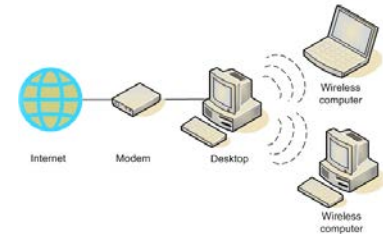
Typically when ComicRack starts for the first time, you're presented with a pop-up window asking if you want to allow or block its access. Check Allow access to allow ComicRack to communicate on both private & public networks.



## » Sharing via a modem

The following steps are required for enabling network sharing for ComicRack for a PC connecting to the internet via a dial-up / DSL / cable modem:

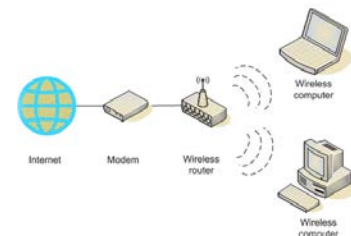
1. Allow ComicRack access to your firewall
2. Enable network sharing, via **Edit** menu → **Preferences** → **Libraries** tab → **Sharing** section → Click **Add Share**
3. Choose from all the options as described earlier, and click Ok.
4. Restart ComicRack
5. Now your ComicRack is ready for sharing your library over the internet. Users who would like to access your library have to follow the steps outlined in the **Opening remote libraries** section of this chapter.



## Sharing via a router

If the computer sharing the library is behind a router, you will need to follow these steps:

1. Go to the Router configuration, to a section called "Port Forwarding" (or similar, varies across brands)
2. Create a new port forwarding for the port 7612 TCP, so that the External port 7612 is forwarded to the IP of the computer sharing the library. For example, if the IP of the computer sharing the library behind the router is 192.168.0.5, you will need to forward port 7612 TCP to 192.168.0.5:7612.
3. Allow ComicRack access to your firewall
4. Enable network sharing, via **Edit** menu → **Preferences** → **Libraries** tab → **Sharing** section → Click **Add Share**
5. Choose from all the options as described earlier, and click Ok.
6. Restart ComicRack
7. Now your ComicRack is ready for sharing your library over the internet. To connect to this shared library, other users have to open ComicRack on their computer and go to **File** → **Open Remote Library**. Enter the external IP address of the router. If the port forward is done correctly, they should see a new tab appear with the shared library name.



### FAQ

#### » Why do my friends get an error message when they try to access my remote library?

If you have a very large library and a slow connection, your clients may encounter errors when they try to access your shared library. If it happens, try sharing only part of the library instead, by going into **Edit** menu → **Preferences** → **Libraries** tab → **Sharing** section → Click **Share selected lists** (instead of **Share All**).



# Using a Shared Database



ComicRack 1.64 and up support putting your library into a shared SQL server. For now only the book information is stored in the SQL server. Smart lists and configurations are stored in the local user profile. This is an experimental and advanced feature and requires some knowledge on how to setup SQL servers. MySQL and Microsoft SQL servers are currently supported. All ComicRacks accessing the shared database MUST have the same (latest) version.

## Why use a shared database?

ComicRack by default stores the database into a local file named 'ComicDb.xml'. This file is loaded when starting up, and regularly saved in the background when data changes. This means that it is possible to lose data when your system fails, as the saving is not done immediately after changes to the data occur. Also it is not possible to share this database with other users. Every user (on the same system or network) has to maintain his/her own database. Using a shared database solves all these problems. Users can share a library and changes get saved to the database immediately.

## Setting up your SQL server

As always, before playing around: **MAKE A BACKUP OF COMICDB.XML!**

You need to create an empty database with full access rights on your server. Usually you would create a new user (let's say comicrack) and a new database on your server (let's say comicdb):

### *MySQL*

For mysql, considering 192.168.100.3 the address where you have comicrack running, you could do the following to set up the database and user. Bold shows commands you have to type:

```
mysql -u root -p
Enter password:
(type the root user password for mysql)
mysql> CREATE DATABASE 'comicdb';
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.00 sec)
mysql> CREATE USER 'comicrack'@'192.168.100.3' IDENTIFIED BY 'PASSWORD';
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)
mysql> GRANT USAGE ON *.* to 'comicrack'@'192.168.100.3' IDENTIFIED BY 'PASSWORD';
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)
mysql> GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON comicdb.* TO 'comicrack'@'192.168.100.3';
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)
mysql> exit
Bye
```

On comicrack.ini, you should then add:

```
DataSource=mysql:Server=192.168.100.5; Uid=comicrack; Pwd=PASSWORD; Database=comicdb;
```

If you use MySQL add the following line to your comicrack.ini file

```
DataSource=mysql:Server=your_server; Uid=your_user; Pwd=your_user_password; Database=your_database_name;
```

Should you use a Microsoft SQL server (this sample uses integrated security)

```
DataSource=mssql:Data Source=your_data_source; Initial Catalog=your_catalog_name; Integrated Security=True
```

The first time you start ComicRack with these new settings ComicRack will create the structure in the database, copy all your local entries to the database (this can take some time) and delete your local database.



# Chapter 12: Tips & Tricks

Now that you have read all the basics, it's time to jump into some advanced features. Here we also give solutions to some common queries often asked by many users.

<b>COMICRACK.INI FILE .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>COMMAND-LINE SWITCH .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>MULTIPLE LIBRARIES .....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>PORTABLE COMICRACK .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>FORMATTING MY PC .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>COMICS WITH A RED X .....</b>	<b>95</b>
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<b>SOME FAQs .....</b>	<b>97</b>





# ComicRack.ini File

The **ComicRack.ini** file is the advanced configuration file for ComicRack. It is located in the install location of ComicRack (usually **C:\Program Files\ComicRack**). You can change the settings by **uncommenting** (remove the semicolon ‘;’ before the key word) the required line. ComicRack.ini changes are not kept between updates, because if you re-install ComicRack, the original ini file gets overwritten with the default settings. However, you can put a ComicRack.ini file in **%PROGRAMDATA%\cyo\comicrack** or **%APPDATA%\cyo\comicrack**. You don’t need a full file there, just the settings you change. The file in your %appdata% folder will override any conflicting options. This way, the settings will not revert to defaults when installing a new ComicRack version.

## Change Caption

The caption is the text you see below the thumbnail & tiles in the Browser window. The default style of the caption is: **Format/series/title/volume/number/year/month**

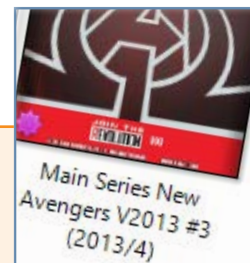
If you wish to change it, just open the comicrack.ini and look for this line:

```
; Format of eComic captions
; ComicCaptionFormat = [{format}] [{series}] [ - {title}] [ {volume}] [ #{number}] [ ({year}[/{month}])]
```

Alter it to what you wish to change, for example:

```
ComicCaptionFormat = [{series}] [ - {title}] [ #{number}] [ ({year}[/{month}])]
or
ComicCaptionFormat = {filename}
```

This will also change how eComic titles are displayed in the library view, as well as the titles in the open tabs.



## Changing QuickOpen

If you want to change the number of lists displayed in the QuickOpen box, just change the value at the end of the following line in your ComicRack.ini file:

```
; QuickOpenListSize = 10
```

You can also hide the default smart lists in the QuickOpen box by changing this option to ‘true’:

```
; ReplaceDefaultListsInQuickOpen = false
```

## For low-powered PCs

You can also try to tweak ComicRack for your low powered system. Write the following line into your ComicRack.ini:

```
TextureManagerOptions = BigTexturesAs16Bit
```

You can also try to reduce/expand the size of texture memory available with the line:

```
MaxTextureMemoryMB = Your Graphics card Memory
```

## Changing Temp/Cache

If your C drive is short on space, you can change where the Temp and Cache files are stored. You can do this two ways: via a command switch or changing the ComicRack.ini file.

Locate these lines in the comicrack.ini:

```
; TempPath =
; CachePath =
```

Remove the ; character and put in the full paths after the = sign.

## Changing Default lists

You can change the default value of days a Book date is treated as ‘recent’ by changing this line:

```
; IsRecentInDays = 14
```

Similarly, the completion percentage where eComic is treated as ‘Read’ can be changed by altering these:

```
; IsReadCompletionPercentage = 95
; IsNotReadCompletionPercentage = 10
```



# Command-line Switch

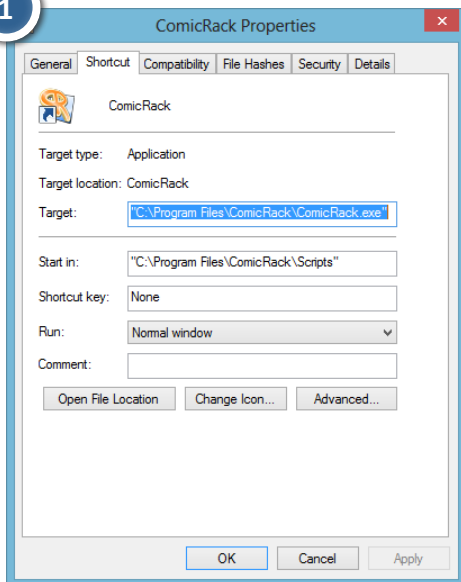


ComicRack supports a number of command-switches that modify its default configuration to the one specified by the user. Please note that ComicRack will follow the command parameter only when it is run from this shortcut that you have created. If you do not want the switch, simply run it from the default shortcut.

## Command-line Switch?

A command-line switch (also known as a command line parameter, flag, or an option) is an indication by a user that a computer program should change its default output. For example, in the OpenVMS operating system, the command directory is used to list the files inside a directory. When the user simply types directory, it will list only the names of the files. By adding the option /owner (to form the command directory/owner), the user can instruct the directory command to also display the ownership of the files.

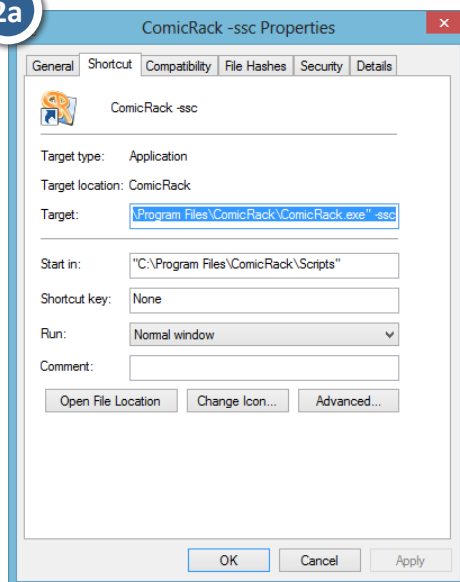
1



Make a shortcut to ComicRack.exe, or copy & paste a pre-existing shortcut. Right-click on this new shortcut, and click Properties.

Identify the Target field. The default target reads:  
**C:\Program Files\ComicRack\ComicRack.exe**

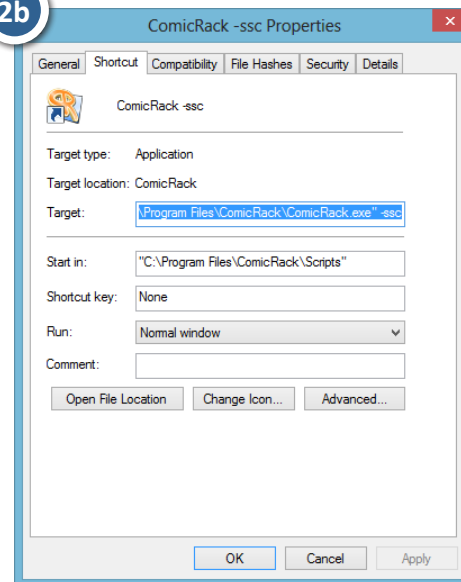
2a



Add the command switch at the end of the default target (after the " mark, put a space and write the command). The command switch should follow the format listed in the table below.

Save this new shortcut by clicking Ok.

2b



In this example, we add the -ac [Config Name] command-switch to the target field. We write doc for the [Config Name] field, so the switch reads -ac doc. Starting ComicRack from this shortcut brings on the default ComicRack window with an empty library.

Command	Description
-ac [ConfigName]	ConfigName is the name for the new configuration space. It will be initially empty (like after a fresh install).
-cp [CachePath]	To force a different cache path
-cdb	To force a database consolidation (instead of the default consolidation every 50th run)
-db [Path to Database]	To force a different database path (e.g. shared databases)
-dbr	Disable Broadcast: Switch to turn off network broadcasting
-dfv	Disable Folders View: to disable Folders View (if not needed or wanted)
-dso	Disable Script Optimization: Scripts are always reloaded when executed. Otherwise they are compiled once during startup
-hwd	Disables any OpenGL support
-hwf	Forces ComicRack to use OpenGL (even if no hardware acceleration is available)
-lm [Value in MB]	To limit the memory ComicRack uses
-ssc	Show Script Console: With this you get a look at all your script output (good for debugging messages)
-ws [workspace name]	Force ComicRack to use this workspace setting at startup



# Multiple Libraries

If more than one user is using a ComicRack install on a single PC, they would like to have their own reading stats, lists and ratings. ComicRack has the capability to support (with a few limitations) multiple shared databases on a single PC. You would need to know about the Command-line switches supported by ComicRack. There are two ways of having more than one library on a single PC. You can either make multiple configurations, or change the database path. Both of these are detailed below.

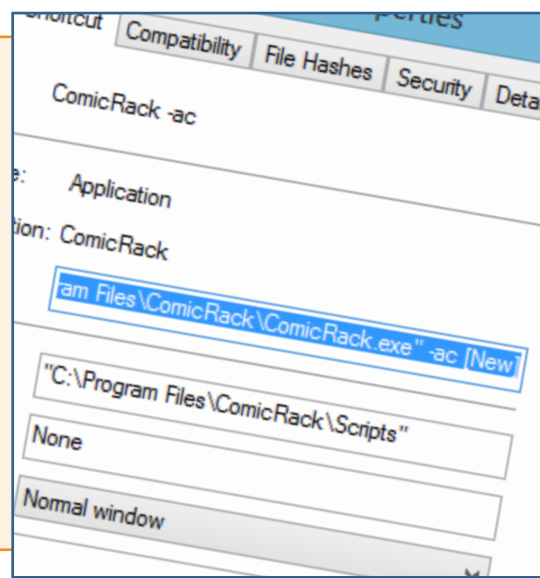
## ≡ Make new configuration

Start comicrack with the **-ac CONFIGNAME** parameter. This will create a subfolder in your Comicrack Appdata folder, and everything will be like a fresh install (including your preferences, lists, etc.). Make as many more copies as the number of libraries you need. Rename each one to the name of your library. You need to launch the program at least once for the appdata folder to be created.

If you ever want to delete one of them, just delete the relative folder from

**%appdata%/Roaming/cYo/Comicrack/configurations**

If you want to delete the 'main' library, remove everything BUT the configuration folder from **%appdata%/Roaming/cYo/Comicrack/**



## ≡ Change Database Path

You *could* share the library file by using the **-db** command line switch or setting it in comicrack.ini. But because ComicRack reads the database only at startup and then only writes changes back, you've to make sure that no two copies of ComicRack run at the same time or you would lose changes.

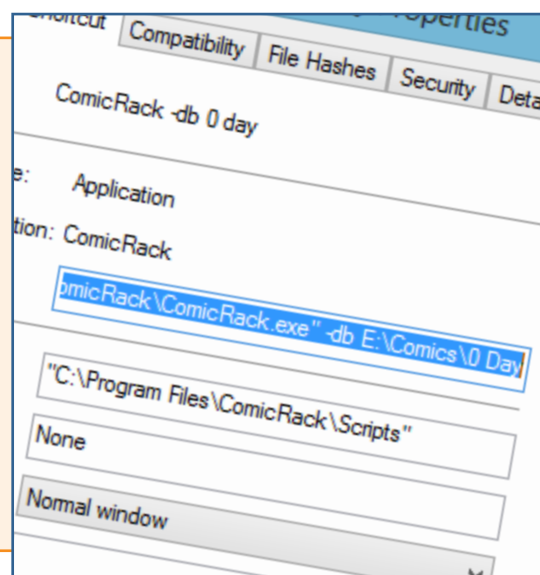
With the **-db** database switch you can start ComicRack with a different database. This way two ComicRacks can use the same database file (with the described limitations).

You can also set this in ComicRack.ini by changing the database path.

Look for this line in the comicrack.ini file:

```
; DatabasePath =
```

Remove the ';' and set a new directory for it to store the database file



## FAQ

» **How do I completely remove old library & start a new one?**  
I tried to uninstall ComicRack, but the old library stays on despite the complete uninstall.

Go to **%appdata%/Roaming/cYo/ComicRack** and remove the ComicDb.xml file (and the ComicDb.xml.bak file, if you want to get rid of the backup, too). This will completely remove the old library.



# Portable ComicRack



Many users like to run ComicRack from a portable location, like an external hard drive. This is useful in many scenarios, the most common being the ability to use the same Comicrack database on multiple systems. Just make sure that the portable drive is mapped to the same driver letter on every machine. A portable install needs just the altering of a line in the ComicRack.ini file. Here are the steps to do this:

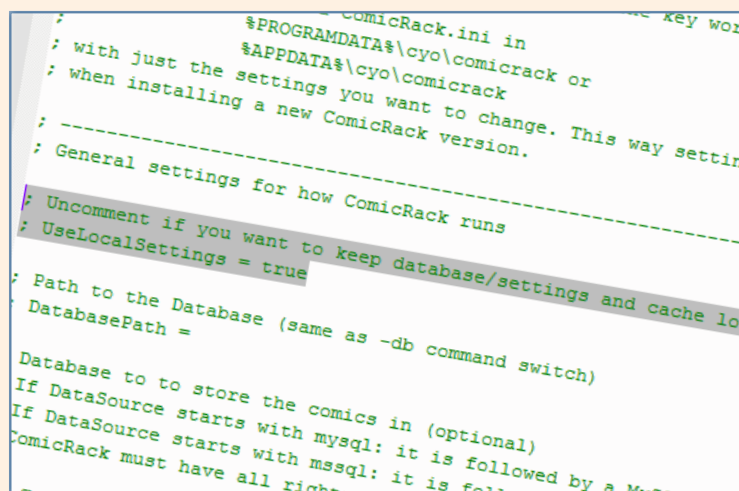
## ALL THE STEPS

1 Install ComicRack to the portable location you want.

2 Edit the **ComicRack.ini** file in the directory. Remove the ';' from the line:

```
; UseLocalSettings = true
```

3 Run the ComicRack.exe from the portable location. This should create a new database, settings and cache in the installation directory (**\\ComicRack\\Data\\**). Please note that you may need to Run as Administrator for ComicRack.exe after changing the .ini file.



```
ComicRack.ini in
; with just the settings you want to change. This way settin
; when installing a new ComicRack version.
; -----
; General settings for how ComicRack runs
; Uncomment if you want to keep database/settings and cache loc
; UseLocalSettings = true
; Path to the Database (same as -db command switch)
DatabasePath =
Database to to store the comics in (optional)
If DataSource starts with mysql: it is followed by a Mus
ComicRack must have all rights
```

The Local settings option makes all the settings and database files save to subfolders within the install folder. So regardless of what computer you use it should use the same files. Thus your settings and database remain the same.

Note that the ComicRack still needs .Net version 4 on whatever PC you use it on.

When you make ComicRack portable, it doesn't copy over the database already there, it starts a new blank one. So, if you are wishing for a fresh database, it is fine. However, if you already have a database as a regular install of ComicRack, and now wish to make it portable AND retain the old database, here is what you need to do:

1. Backup the database
2. Make ComicRack portable by uncommenting **UseLocalSettings = true** in the ini file
3. Copy the entire ComicRack installation directory to you portable drive
4. Open ComicRack and restore the database from the xml file you backed up in step 1

## Reading comics on NAS

1. Put all your comics on a NAS.
2. Your computer has to be running ComicRack, which must remain running for the sharing to work. Once you close it the sharing stops.
3. That computer has to have the ports 7612 & 7613 open and forwarded. Then load the comics (located on the NAS) into the library.
4. Configure the sharing options in the preferences menu of ComicRack.
5. Once you have the sharing set up you should be able to access your library from any computer on the same LAN and, assuming you set it up, from the internet as well.

Please note that although a NAS can run some simple apps, it can not run an operating system able to run ComicRack. So, you can't run a portable ComicRack install from a NAS.

## NAS?

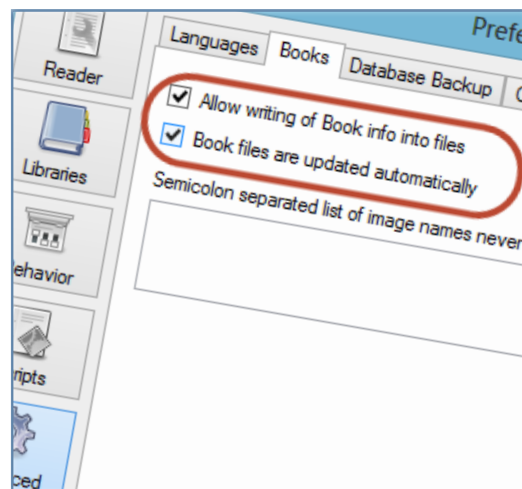
Network-attached storage (NAS) is a dedicated hard disk storage device that is set up with its own network address and provides file-based data storage services to other devices on the network. NAS systems are networked appliances which contain one or more hard drives, often arranged into logical, redundant storage containers or RAID.



# Formatting my PC

Sometimes you may be faced with the unfortunate situation of having to format your computer, or simply move on to a new system. As a regular user of ComicRack, you wouldn't want to add all the metadata again, and make all the lists & settings that you spent so much time on. Here we discuss the best ways to preserve your ComicRack install between system formatting.

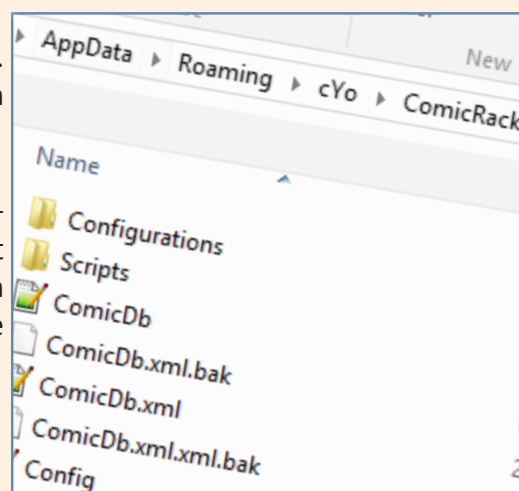
- It is considered a good practice to convert all your books to **CBZ** so that metadata can be stored in the archive itself. If you enable writing of book info into files, ComicRack can save the comic metadata inside **CBZ** files. However this is for **CBZ** (or **CB7**) only. **CBR** files won't have this information saved inside the archive.
- The **ComicBookDB.xml** contains all the metadata. You can easily export this file from ComicRack in the **Preferences** dialog. Note however that this file uses absolute paths to determine where the files are. If you don't put your comics files in the exact same place on the new system all the files will be marked as missing.
- You can get automatic backups with the **Backup Manager** script. You can create/restore backups manually by going to **Edit -> Preferences -> Advanced** and hit either backup or restore database. Please note that the following features are not backed up by the in-built backup manager: workspaces, list layout presets, options from preferences dialog & export presets.



Make sure that you have enabled the 'Allow writing of book info into files'. Also, you can turn on 'book files are updated automatically', as ComicRack only saves the changes made to the database on closing. If everything is in cbz and has the metadata automatically updated then this is much less of a crash/data loss if/when it happens.

## ALL THE STEPS

- 1 Make a copy of the entire **%appdata%/cyo/comicrack** directory. If you made changes to **ComicRack.ini** in program files, then make a copy of that too.
- 2 Copy the comics to the new computer and put them in the EXACT path they are in on the current one, meaning if they are at **c:/users/owned/comics** on the current one, they need to be in that location on the new system. The folder structure must be identical.
- 3 Install ComicRack on the new system.
- 4 Copy the contents of **%appdata%/cyo/comicrack** to the **%appdata%/cyo/comicrack** directory on the new system (it may not be the same exact path if user name is different but that's fine in this case) and overwrite everything. If you need to, also put the **ComicRack.ini** in the program files and overwrite the default).



This is usually a hidden folder. To access it, just write **%appdata%** in the Windows Explorer address bar, and hit **Enter**. Backing up this ComicRack folder backs up absolutely everything, including features not backed up by the in-built database backup.



# Comics with a Red X



Sometimes ComicRack may show some books with a Red X icon. Users find that they can open the file fine and read it in several other cbr/cbz readers. Many-a-times this is simply the case of users moving their files to another location, say, an external hard drive. But sometimes, the fault may lie within the archives themselves.

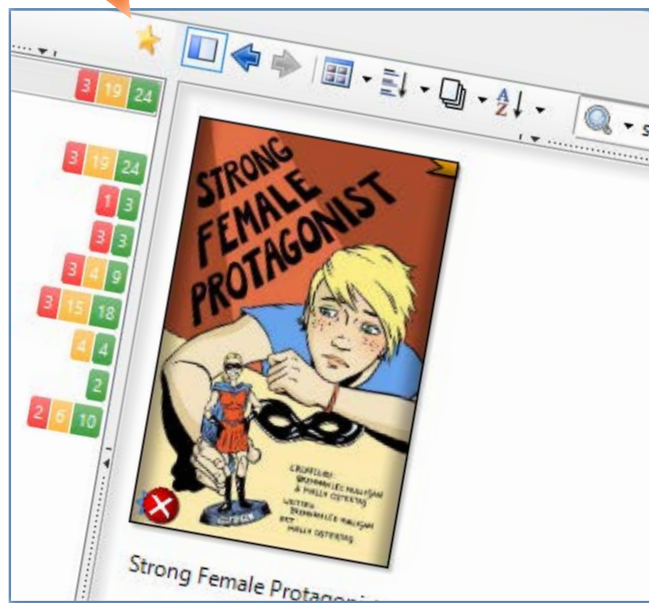
## Big X with no cover



If you see a big X in place of the cover image, it appears to be a case of corrupted archives, or even, few corrupted image files in the archive. You need to follow these steps to get the comic working:

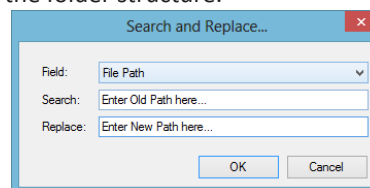
1. Unpack archive to a different folder.
2. Repack archive and rename to EXACTLY as the parent file.
3. Move and replace old file with new archive. ComicRack now shows the actual pages instead of the giant red X.
4. If rearchiving doesn't work, there may be some bad JPEGs in the archive. Convert the pages (using a program like XNview) from jpg to bmp back to jpg then rearchive the file.

## Small X with cover



ComicRack displays a small red X icon for all files that it can't locate. Here is what all you can do:

- If you have moved the file to another location that is included in the scan folders ([Preferences dialog](#)), then you may simply restart Comicrack to re-scan at startup & the file will be located in the scan.
- It is always considered a good practice to move files from WITHIN ComicRack, using the [Move eComics](#) script.
- Another option is to use the in-built [Search and Replace](#) script on the filename within comicrack. It will re-point the database to your new location. You only have to search and replace the main folder as long as you don't change the folder structure.



## FAQ

### » How to deal with a changed drive letter?

I changed the location of my main comics folder from E:\Comics to F:\Comics

If your drive letters get changed, ComicRack faces problems locating these comics. The easiest way to fix this is open the [comicdb.xml](#) in `%APPDATA%\cyo\comicrack` with a text editor and replace all E:\ with F:\ or whatever your letters are.



# Managing new books

New users want to organize things first and then add them to the library, while actually it is the other way around. You are supposed to put all your books (no matter how unorganized they are) in one folder and then add it to the library. Tell ComicRack to check the folder for changes, and scan it on every startup. Now, make a smart list for all the unorganized books, and then work your way up to organize them VIA ComicRack.

## ALL THE STEPS

### 1 Convert to CBZ

As you already know the importance of having CBZ files for storing the metadata information (as comicinfo.xml file), you should first preferably convert all the CBR files to CBZ files. Make a smart list that pull all the books which are CBR archives. Select all the books pulled by this smart list, and convert them to CBZ, using the **Export books** function from the browser right-click context menu.

```
Name "CBR Finder"
Match [File Format] contains "rar"
```

### 2 ComicVine Scraper

Make a smart list that picks up all the newly added books in the library. These are the books that have largely empty metadata fields, save for those that Comicrack automatically picks up from the filename (like series, year, number). Now run the **ComicVine Scraper** script on all these comics. The metadata fields will now automatically get filled via the information from the comic vine website.

```
Name "Scrape Me"
Match [Publisher] equals ""
```

### 3 Add Scanner Info

While the scraper fills in most of the fields, it cannot find the scanner's name (for obvious reasons). You need the Scan info from filename script for that.

Make a smart list to pull all the books which need to have the scanning information filled up. Now, just run the **Scan info from filename** script on the books pulled by your newly made smart list!

```
Name "Add Scanner Tags"
Match [Scanning Information] equals ""
```

### 4 CVDBSKIP

The comic vine scraper may miss some books due to lack of data in the comicvine website. Add a CVDBSKIP tag to these books by holding the CTRL key when pressing the skip button on the scraper. Make a smart list that pulls all the CVDB skip books. Fill in the metadata fields for these books manually.

```
Name "CVDBSKIP"
Match [Tags] contains "CVDBSKIP"
```

### 5 Commit Proposed Values

The Proposed Values are metadata auto-discovery that ComicRack does by processing the filename. It's there for convenience, so those fields stay in grey till the user confirms (or 'commits') them. Also, the uncommitted values will not be recognized by the Data Manager. So it is highly recommended to either commit them permanently (from the browser context menu **Automation -> Commit proposed values**) or hide them (if the guess is wrong) and manually over-write them.

### 6 Duplicates Manager

Use of ComicRack's in-built duplicates finder plus the excellent duplicates manager script. This script basically chooses which of the duplicated comics to keep (and which to delete) based on the rules you specify. So first, you need to setup the rules for the duplicates manager script. From the **Views** menu on the **browser toolbar**, choose the **Show duplicates** option. Now select all the books in the browser and click the duplicates manager button on the browser toolbar.

### 7 Data Manager

The Data Manager script fills in the metadata based on the rules specified by the user. Settings up the rules for the first time would require some time & effort, but, in the long run, this saves you a lot of work. After the books have been scraped, and the proposed values committed, just select them click the Data manager icon from the browser toolbar.

### 8 Library Organizer

The Library Organizer script allows for a highly customized user-specified organization (rename/copy/move) of the selected books and/or the windows explorer folders. User-defined settings decide the manner in which the script works. First select the books on which you wish to run the Library Organizer on. Now, click on the Library Organizer icon in the browser toolbar, or Right-click -> **Automation -> Library Organizer**

### 9 Clean-up

Correct books with incorrect 'of' values. e.g. 4 (of 3) using the Count Errors smart list. This needs to use a single regular expression based criteria: **Expression is True {StatsMaxCount}<->{StatsMinCount}**. You would now need to manually correct the count fields in the books pulled by this list.

Use the series gaps smart list to find the comics which are missing in a series run present in your library. The smart list needs to follow any of these 2 rules: **Series: Start of gap is Yes** and **Series: End of gap is Yes**.





## How can I display my comic archives as thumbnails in Windows Explorer ?

Just install the free software [CBXshell](http://free-sk.t-com.hr/T800/software/cbxShell.htm) from here:  
[free-sk.t-com.hr/T800/software/cbxShell.htm](http://free-sk.t-com.hr/T800/software/cbxShell.htm)



## What is the *Position* field used for?

The position field is editable in a custom list only. It allows you to slide the books up and down on a list without having to use an alternate number or another predefined setup to make a smartlist work. However, if you ever replace a book in your library with a newer/better version of that book, the old one will be removed from the list and you'll have to figure out where you had it previously.



## I was trying to update the author & other info but I can't. All the fields are greyed out, not allowing me to select anything.

It seems that you are trying to edit metadata for files which you have not yet added to the library. First add your books to the library (read manual for how to do so) & then you'll get editing capabilities 'unlocked'.



## How do I completely remove the tags? I've already tried doing it manually in the details tab, but the same old tags get put back up.

The trick is to remove the tag not only from the *tags* field of the *details* tab but also the *notes* field of the *plot & notes* tab. You can clear the tags AND notes in the *Multiple comic book Information* dialog. Check them both and clear the contents (if any).



## Is there a smart list to find comics that are not in any lists?

Create a folder, put all your smart lists inside that.

Then, outside of the folder you created, let's call it "ALL MY LISTS" for example, create a smart list like this:

*Name "Unsorted Books"*

*Not In [ALL MY LISTS]*

*Match [All] contains ""*



## I recently had a crash. I never backed up my database. Can I still recover?

If your database goes bonkers and you have never made a backup or don't have a recent one, check for *comicdb.xml.bak* in *%appdata%\roaming\cyo\comicrack* and if it's there make a copy of it and then remove the *.bak* extension.



## If I convert my comics from CBR to CBZ, will there be a loss in image quality? Which format takes more disc space? Which is preferable?

*CBR* and *CBZ* are pretty much identical when it comes to file size, and exactly identical when it comes to image quality. But ComicRack can be configured to save your metadata into your Comic archives, so it needs to be able to edit your files. That's possible with *CBZ* files, because the zip archive format is completely free and open for programmers to use. ComicRack can still do edits on *CBR* files without breaking any licensing rules, but those edits can get lost when you move the files to another computer. So, we recommend the *CBZ* format.





## If you like ComicRack...

You are encouraged to donate a small amount to support this project and keep it running. ComicRack has no functional limitation whatsoever if no donation is made. Hundreds of hours of work have been put into ComicRack to make it the best, most versatile and simply the most fun to use comic book reader and manager in the world. Starting out as a small fun project, it has evolved into what you currently see, a multi-language application with its own web site and support forums. So if you think ComicRack adds value to your life, please give something back.

## More by the same Author

"There was a time when users often complained of the lack of a manual on ComicRack. Making the ComicRack manuals was a challenge for me, a fun challenge. I know that people learn best when information is engaging, clearly written, and visually appealing. Unfortunately, most manuals read like dry catalogs. This is why I started writing the manuals on ComicRack."

