

I love *webcomics*. I try to keep up to date on about seventeen of my favorite regularly-updated comics. I discovered online comics about six years ago and am completely hooked.

Webcomics are basically the same as newspaper comics, except that it costs the author almost nothing to publish their work to the web. Because of this, there are countless available comics to discover and read. These range from autobiographical, almost sitcom-like comics, to social commentary, continuing sagas, random fun or even poetry-focused comics. Part of the fun is browsing around and seeing what is out there. There is literally something for anyone!

Some webcomic authors create comics as a labor of love. Because of this, some of these comics disappear after being updated for a year or so. Other artists, however, have gained enough readership that they are even able to support themselves from their art.

One of my favorite authors is Ryan North of "Dinosaur Comics" (www.qwantz.com). The comic is always a shock to newcomers because after reading a couple, a pattern emerges: every comic, with few exceptions, uses exactly the same art! T-Rex, the main character, explores many topics (from book discussions to time-travel to ice-cream) in a particular care-free and simultaneously excited and timid style that I have come to expect and enjoy. It sounds strange, but it rocks. Check it out.

Another favorite of mine is Chris Hastings' "Dr. McNinja," (www.drmcninja.com) which is set up as a continuing story with a new page added every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He's a medical doctor, but also a ninja. He is torn between his training to heal and his training to kill. The comic is certainly zany, but a lot of fun and beautifully drawn.

Others that I enjoy that are worth mentioning (and can be found using Google) are: Joe Loves Crappy Movies – movie reviews and related comics, Real Life Comics, Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal (not for kids), Cat and Girl, Basic Instructions, The Book of Biff, XKCD, Questionable Content (not for kids) and Nedroid.

Some webcomic authors eventually end up publishing paper copies of their works. We've recently ordered a handful for the Waverly Public Library. So if paper is more your speed and you want to know what this is all about, we've got them and they will be available soon.

This list doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of the thousands of comics available on the web. If you enjoy comics or are just looking for something that will steal a little bit of time that you'll never get back (with no regrets!), look into webcomics!