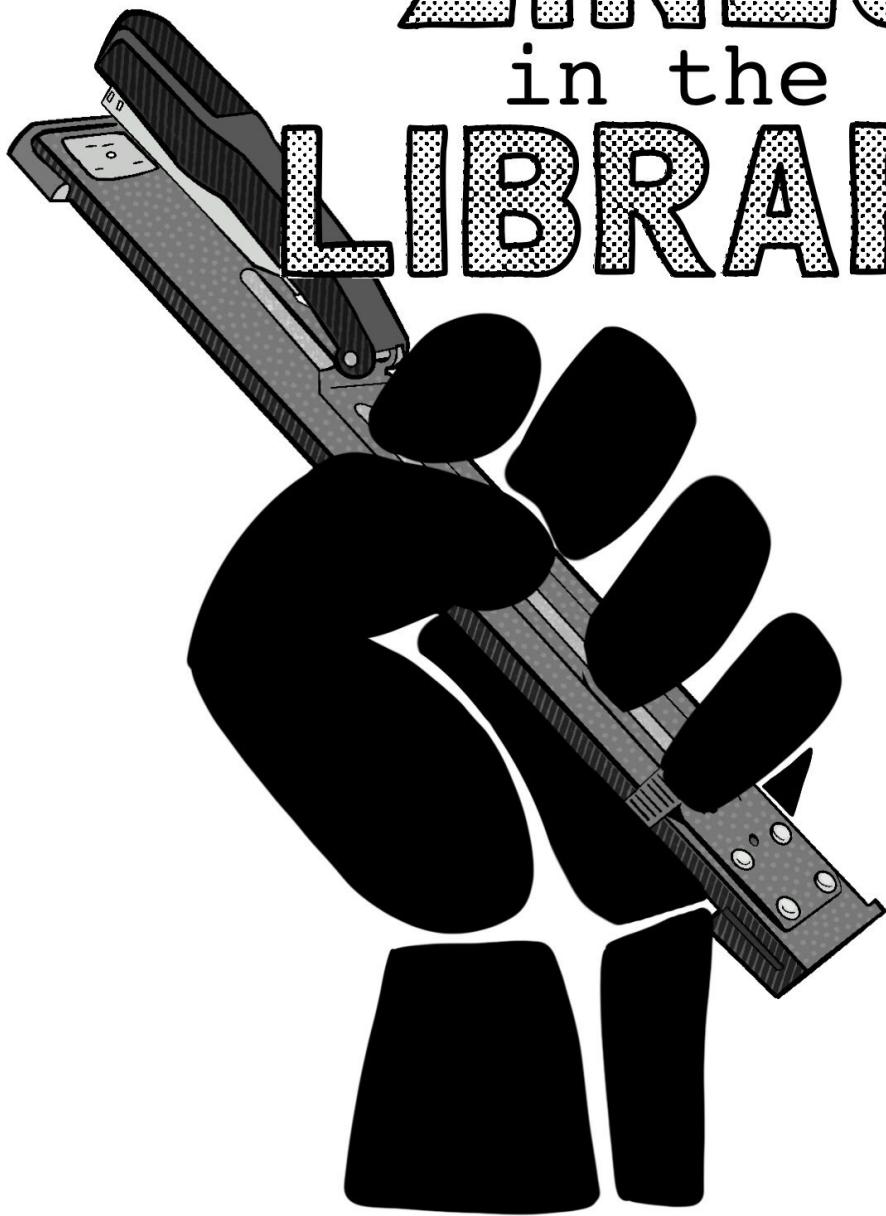


ZINES in the LIBRARY

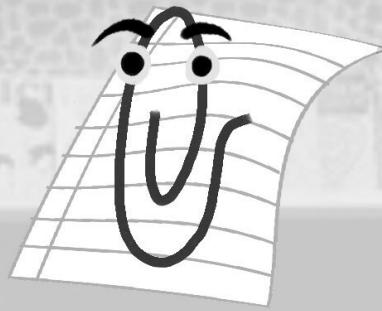


***SMASH BARRIERS,
PUBLISH COMMUNITIES'
OWN WORDS
AND JOIN THE ZINE
REVOLUTION!***

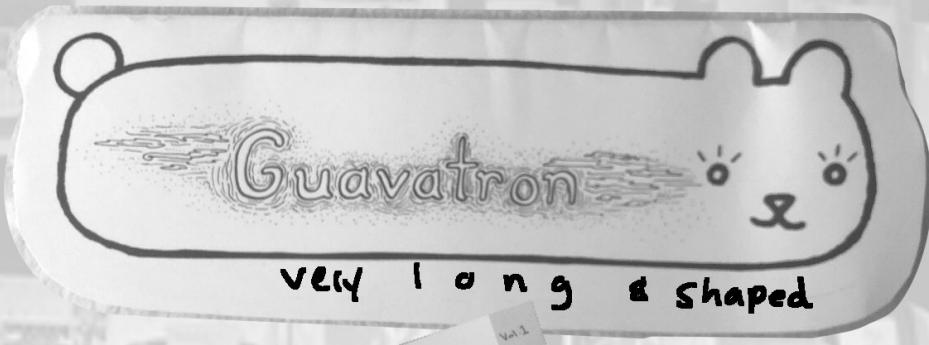
WHAT IS A ZINE?

ZINES are short-form, do-it-yourself small batch magazines made by independent authors and artists

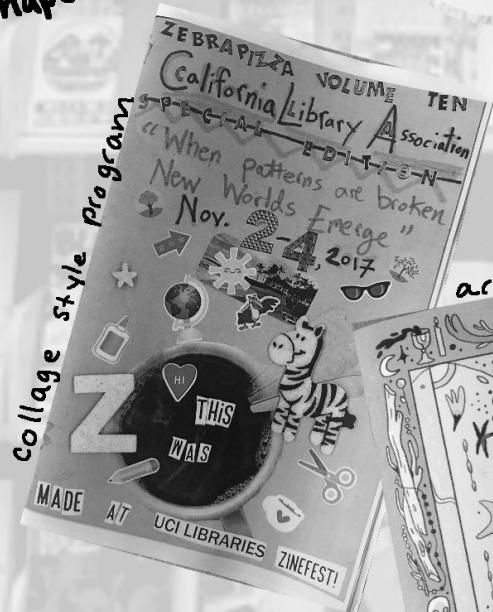
Zines can be: rough, Xeroxed single-page folded zines; professionally produced glossy art books; tiny or weird-shaped! Here are some zines from one of our group member's personal collection:



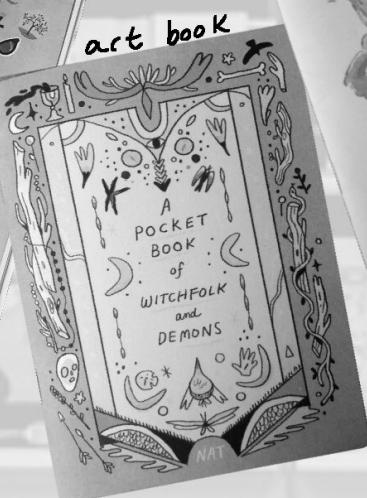
shaped like a cat!



very long & shaped



collage style program



art book



THE WORLD
DONUT JOURNAL

styled like an
anthropological
journal

vaporwave vibes

Days in my Life



@namehere360

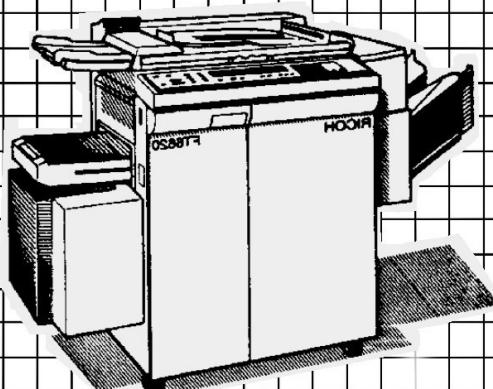
History of the Zine

a zine is a handcrafted (ripped ‘n’ torn, in zine parlance), short run periodical (but oftentimes only in a period of a single edition) that has anywhere from 5-1000 copies. These numbers are mostly arbitrary, and serve only to underscore the fact that zines are unique in both their content and the small readership base they have. Zines, shorthand for “magazines” or “fanzines” are frequently handwritten, collaged, hand drawn periodicals on topics of every kind, or none at all, according to the author(s) desires. Even the authors can be single or collective.

The heart of what drove historical trends in zines, aside from social movements and oppression, is printing and publishing technology. When fanzines first originated in the 1930s, mass scale printing was by then easy enough for those in possession of a printing press, but largely impossible for anyone else and as such, the first zines were entirely hand written or typed on a typewriter and reproduced at great time expense. However, the invention of the mimeograph a few decades later made zine creation far more accessible and less time-consuming (Jorgensen-Sakum, 2018). The invention that injected zine creation with its most potent fuel, however, was the Xerox copier, which roughly coincided with the rise of the punk scene. Now, zines could be made and reproduced extremely quickly and cheaply, and the game was changed.

EVERYONE COULD DO IT

EVERYONE DID



their influence on the formation of influential communities who are traditionally marginalized, such as the queer community (from the 1960s onward), punk music in the 1970s-80s, feminists, the incarcerated, civil rights activists, and others is probably very immense.

At their heart, zines are a representation of an anarchic, alternative media that operates outside the mainstream and contain the multiplicity of voices and interests in any given society, community, or culture. By design zines have an extremely narrow distribution window and low readership and operate at fringes of society, making their influence on society as a whole difficult to measure, and probably not quite so large.

potential topics are only limited by the imaginations of creators in any given community

with zines appearing throughout history about

women's suffrage

**LABOR
MOVEMENTS**

*SCIENCE
FICTION
FANDOM*

**PUNK
MUSIC**

**RIOT
GRRRL**

BIRDS?

... virtually any experience

INTERVIEW

A. Wynn, zine
librarian at Alta
Dena Zine Library

Q

How many zines do you have?



We have 117 zines. They range from political, to perzines, to music.

A.



How do you choose to display them?

The zines are displayed in between the magazine display [...] On one of the middle shelves, I have a zig zag acrylic display that was sent to me by Jenna Freedman, zine librarian at Barnard Library.

COOL!!!

I am currently displaying them so that colorful ones are more in a rainbow spectrum with plain ones thrown in, and smaller ones and larger ones are respectively grouped together.

What topics are the most popular? Who do you find reading zines the most often?



Our zine reading demographic can be found in the adult age range, from 25 to 65, but there are also younger zine readers - as in, early twenties! - at this library. I am not sure about the amount of teens that check out zines, if at all, but when I realize that zines are checked out and I look to see the age range of who is checking them out, it is usually older adult.

The zines that are most popular here are political. They have slowly been circulating, but that's what I've noticed.

How do you go about collecting them/ choosing what to buy?

I look at various zine distros, or distributors, to check up on what is new or popular. When we got started, I knew there was a handful of zines that I wanted to buy because of their popularity. I also keep tabs on what my friends are making. The zine community is very supportive and friendly, so it is easy to become colleagues with a zine librarian or a peer of a zinester!

Ethics

"ZINE LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS SHOULD STRIVE TO MAKE ZINES AS DISCOVERABLE AS POSSIBLE WHILE ALSO RESPECTING THE SAFETY AND PRIVACY OF THEIR CREATORS"

Zine Librarians Code of Ethics

"RECEIVING DONATIONS FROM THIRD PARTIES:

It can be difficult to determine where the donor acquired their zines, so this can be an ethical quandry."

zine culture has its own set of core values

"Always notify sellers that you are a library, not a private individual, and that their content will be available on the shelf for all to enjoy."

"Though it helps me on a personal level to know preferred pronouns for creators, there is a sphere of privacy that zine librarians try to accord to zinesters and try not to breach."

Acquisition, or: WHERE DO I GET ZINES?

Image courtesy Isabella León-Chambers



zines exist outside of corporate publishing models, created abroad.

Since zines exist outside of corporate publishing models, zine librarians are forced to use unconventional methods to locate them.

unconventional methods

There is no "zine publisher's database" listing zines regularly pushed out to subject librarians for their consumption. There are resources available to zine librarians online via the ZineLibraries.info WordPress site,⁷ but as every zine library is different, it is necessary, to a certain extent, to cultivate your own network of zine resources.

appreciation of the work zinesters create,

spread the word about zines

build our own network of contacts.

social media.

following zine libraries, zine distros, and zinesters.

hashtags such as #zines and #poczines.

problems is through social media. Communication with the

Etsy shops,

notifications¹ whenever there is new content

available in your favorite shops;

overlooked. It was Twitter that led us to purchase such titles as *Black women & self-care: Thoughts on*

potentially discover new

Nano Feminist perspectives on Harry Potter

content.

Another quasi-social media site where you can locate zines is Etsy. A number of zinesters sell their creations in Etsy shops, and it is worthwhile for zine libraries to create an Etsy account. This functionality will allow you to "favorite" the zinester's social media accounts

follow (or favorite)

make a conscious effort to tweet

about new acquisitions,

mentions of the

In order to expand our network of zine contacts, it has been found that zinesters make to

small interactions



are simply part of being a good zine citizen.

zinester. In our view, these types of small interactions are simply part of being a good zine citizen. We like to publicly acknowledge our appreciation of the work zinesters create, and tweeting about our library contact allows us to publicly acknowledge our

appreciation of the work zinesters create,

spread the word about zines

⁷ Her job talk was about acquiring and cataloging zines at the University of Chicago Library.

⁸ Or zine librarians to meet and exchange insights and expertise on a range of topics.

Collection Management, or:

**NOW I HAVE ALL THESE LOOSE ZINES
HOW DO I ARRANGE OR CATALOGUE THEM???**

*Check out this article for an
in-depth guide!*

Cutter & Paste: A DIY Guide for Catalogers Who Don't Know About Zines
and Zine Librarians Who Don't Know About Cataloging
By Jenna Freedman and Rhonda Kauffman

describe what you can

only have title and subject matter? ok!
got author, title, year, volume, isbn? woah! awesome!

**treat zines like a book or
magazine and catalogue
accordingly**

**try to keep two copies of each
zine**

one for safekeeping, one for circulation or
reference. Zines can get worn out easily!

**look into adopting an existing
catalogue strategy like xZinecorex**

Learn as you go!

CONTRIBUTORS

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laura dintzis

Glen Theory Sturgeon

and special thanks to

Kyla Worrell



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