



Democratizing

Documentation

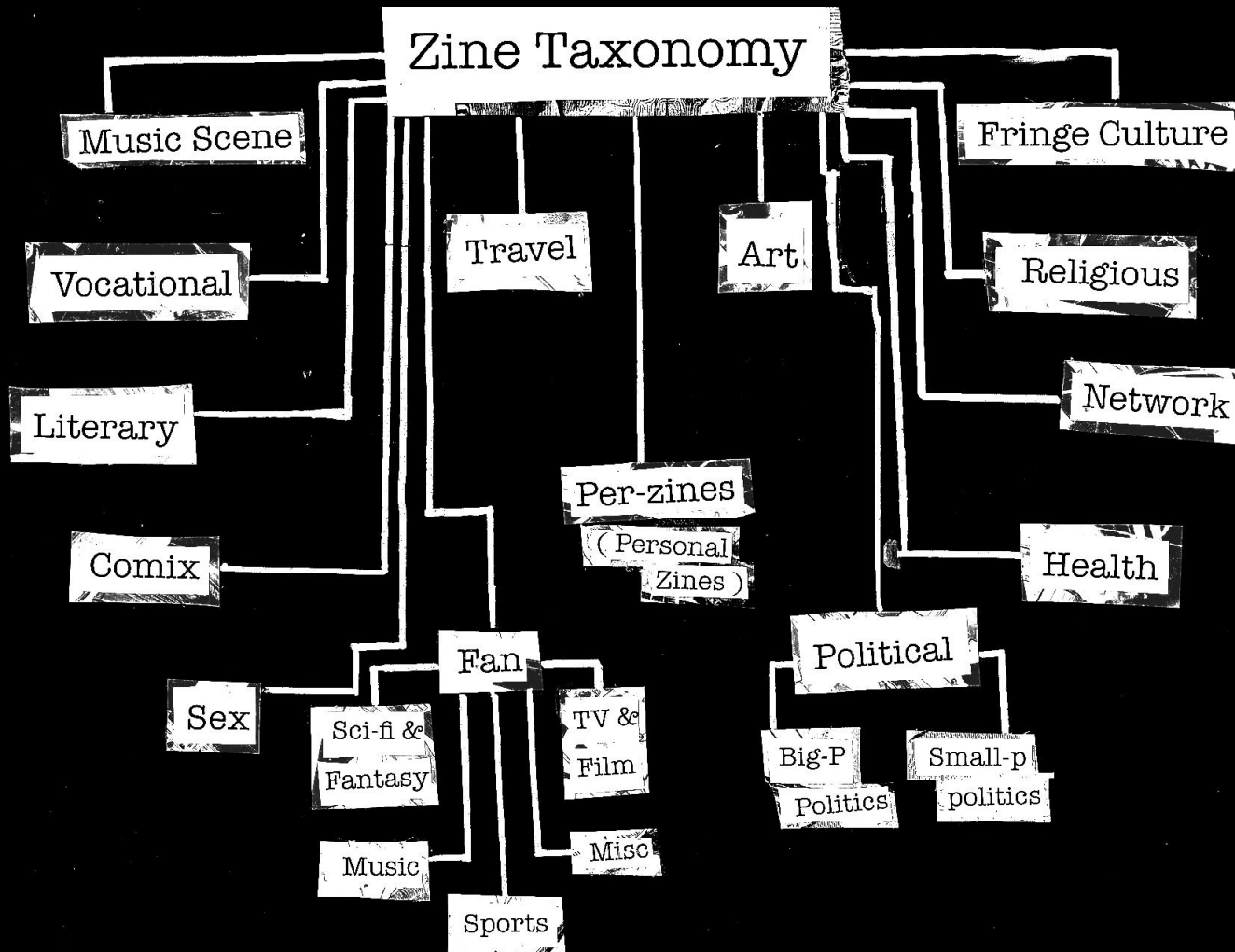
Implementing D.I.Y. Ethic in
Open Source Publishing

zine

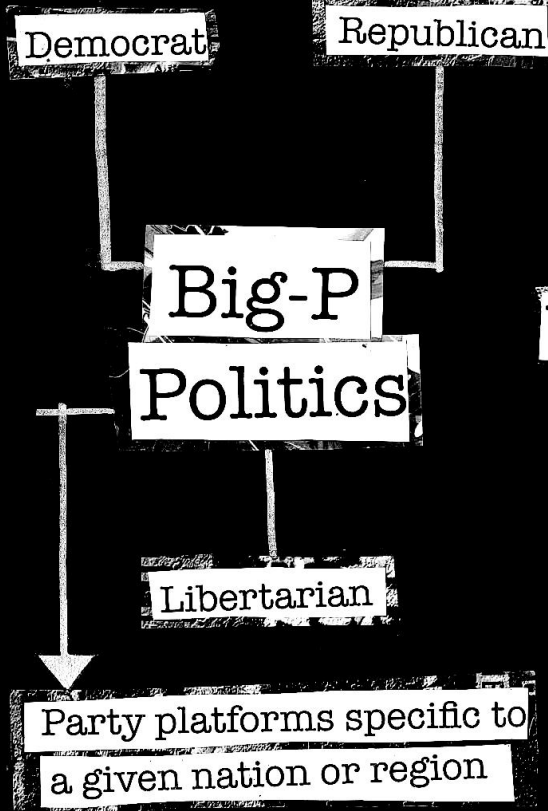
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Non-commercial small-circulation magazine, usually self-published.

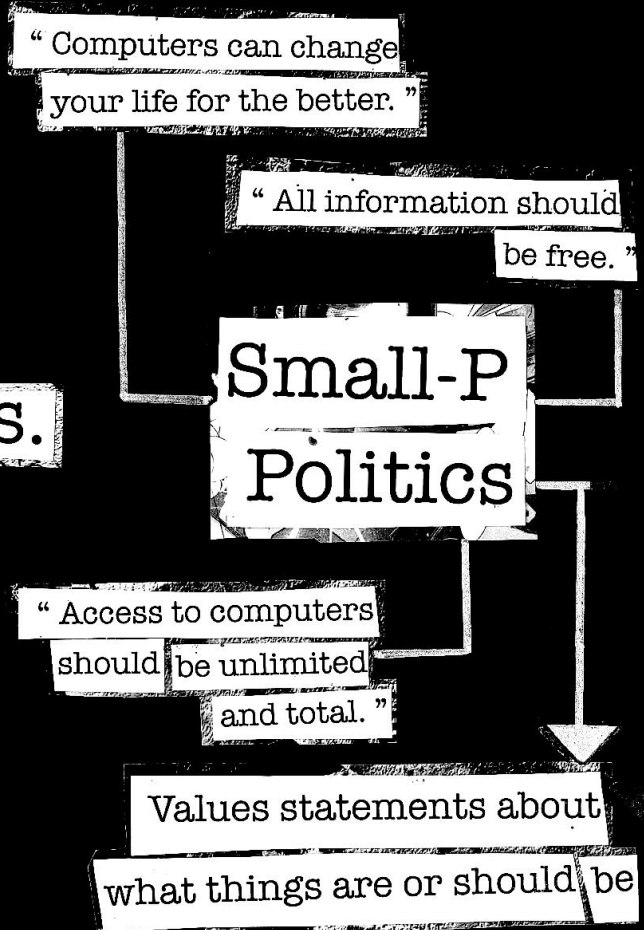
Commonly created by a single person, sometimes created by a collective or curated by an editor, who is usually also the publisher.



THE
PERSONAL
IS
POLITICAL



VS.



Julia Evans

@b0rk

It is possible to create
beginner-friendly technical
content that doesn't rely
heavily on industry-specific
jargon

NETWORKING!

A COMPUTER
NETWORKING
ZINE!

ACK!

BY JULIA
EVANS!



Stephen Levy's Hacker Ethic

1. Access to computers should be unlimited and total.
2. All information should be free. "
3. Mistrust Authority- promote decentralization. "
4. Hackers should be judged on their hacking, not bogus criteria such as degrees, age, race, and position.
5. You can create art and beauty on a computer.
6. Computers can change your life for the better.

Allison Parrish's New Hacker Ethic

1. Who gets to use what I make? Who am I leaving out? How does what I make facilitate or hinder access?
2. What data am I using? Whose labor produced it and what biases and assumptions are built into it? Why choose this particular phenomena for digitization/transcription? What does the data leave out?
3. What systems of authority am I enacting through what I make? What systems of support do I rely on? How does what I make support other people
4. What kind of community am I assuming? What kind of community do I invite through what I make? How are my own personal values reflected in what I make? •
5. You can create art and beauty on a computer.
6. Computers can change your life for the better.

Who gets to use what I make?

Who am I leaving out?

How does what I make help or hinder
access?



Topic Selection and Scoping:

What defines “Standard” Knowledge?

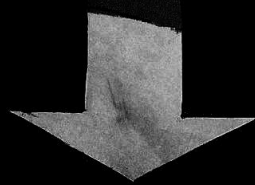
What data am I using?

Whose labor produced it?

What biases and assumptions are
built into it?

Why am I choosing this particular
phenomena for digitization/transcription?

What does the data leave out?



Research:

Is this the soundest data I have access to?

What systems of authority am
I enacting through what I
make?

How does what I make support
other people?

What systems of support do I
rely on?

What kind of community
am I assuming?

What kind of community
do I invite through what
I make?

How are my own
personal values reflected
in what I make?

Zine Distribution:

Who am I within the context
of my community?

Who is my intended reader
within that same context?



Where to Start Looking for Zines:

List of Zine Distros:

<http://stolensharpierevolution.org/distros/>

List of Zine Libraries:

<http://zines.barnard.edu>

Popular Zine Creators and Presses:

<https://shop.bubblesort.io/>

<https://wizardzines.com/>

<http://www.smallsciencecollective.org/>

Searchable Online Archive:

<http://archive.org/details/zines>

Cut-Paste Zines

- Cheap, most people already have the majority of the components needed
- Time consuming to assemble
- Style tends to be super specific to each creator.
- Traditionally assembled by hand and scanned and reprinted
- Can be distributed purely in physical form or uploaded as a PDF to digital archives

Digital Zines

- Created on computers and/or tablets
- Print versions are sometimes available, but are generally not the primary way the zine is intended to be consumed
- Procreate can be used to give the zine a more zine-traditional, handwritten vibe
- Adobe InDesign is the standard choice for typesetting and layout, for more “polished” zines
- Lots of room for open source tooling expansion
- LaTeX, though less commonly used, is a really good tool for building digital zines

Resources:

<https://github.com/shy-pangolin/>

DemocratizingDocumentation/blob/main/
ZineResources.md

The background is a solid black surface. It is decorated with several pieces of torn, aged paper and strips of translucent tape. The paper pieces are scattered around the text, some overlapping it. One piece of paper in the top right corner has the number '20' and a small portion of another number '23' visible. Another piece on the left side shows some illegible markings. The overall aesthetic is that of a handmade, punk-style poster or collage.

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