

SHARED AUTHORITY



Jenna Freedman

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ZINE UNION CATALOG FOR BEGINNERS

ZINE UNION CATALOG THANK YOUS ❤

PREAMBLE TO THE ZINE LIBRARIANS CODE OF ETHICS

We, the community of zine librarians and archivists believe that, because...

zines are often produced by members of marginalized communities,

we strive to respectfully engage with and represent those communities,

librarians/archivists are often part of the communities that make/read zines,

the material itself, so beautifully and wonderfully varied, is often weird, ephemeral, magical, dangerous, and emotional, and because

we reject the myth of library/archival ‘neutrality’, therefore

we want to be accountable to our users, our institutions, our authors, donors, and communities.

<http://zinelibraries.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/EthicsZine-rev-20151105.pdf>

G K A C O Y N P V C I K A D Q B Z K
S E E A P R J D I J C D J H U L L G
B T B L Q N U Q P N F I K D C A U I
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C L P X Q E Y O J X N O R G P C N C
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P W E I V D K I I Y F K R I Y T G W
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Z B D X T F E E E V I B D O L I U N

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Zine Union Catalog

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- Suze Myers,

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Metadata Librarian and Analyst at American Theological Library Association

May 2017

Dear You,

Welcome to the *Shared Authority: Zine Union Catalog for Beginners* zine. If you are reading this, there is a good chance we figured out how to upload, expose, and style zine catalog records from a few libraries in a Collective Access database. Yay us!

We've made this little zine to accompany our project launch and serve as a handy, informative keepsake. Like metadata? Here's some about this zine, shared as a xZINECOREx record (selected fields):

Title	<i>Shared Authority: Zine Union Catalog for Beginners</i>
Creator(s)	Jenna Freedman, Lauren Kehoe, Martí Massana Ferre, and Aleksandr Segal
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See also	<i>xZINECOREx: an Introduction</i> , <i>Zine Librarians Code of Ethics</i> , <i>Zine Librarian Zine #1-3</i>
Rights (freedoms and restrictions)	Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Free Culture License

(Two advisory board members have not opted into serving publicly.)

Thanks for reading! Feedback encouraged: zinecatproject@gmail.com

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

For several years, zine librarians across North America have been collaborating to build a union catalog for zines. A “union catalog” is a resource where libraries can share catalog and holdings information, the prime example being WorldCat, which has thousands of member libraries. A union catalog enables researchers to discover holdings by searching a single catalog, as well as making it possible for librarians to copy catalog records and facilitates lending across libraries. The zine union catalog (ZUC) will serve people working in English, Ethnic Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, Media Studies, History, Library and Information Science, Popular Culture, Psychology, Rhetoric, Sociology, and other fields.

The ZUC proposes to be:

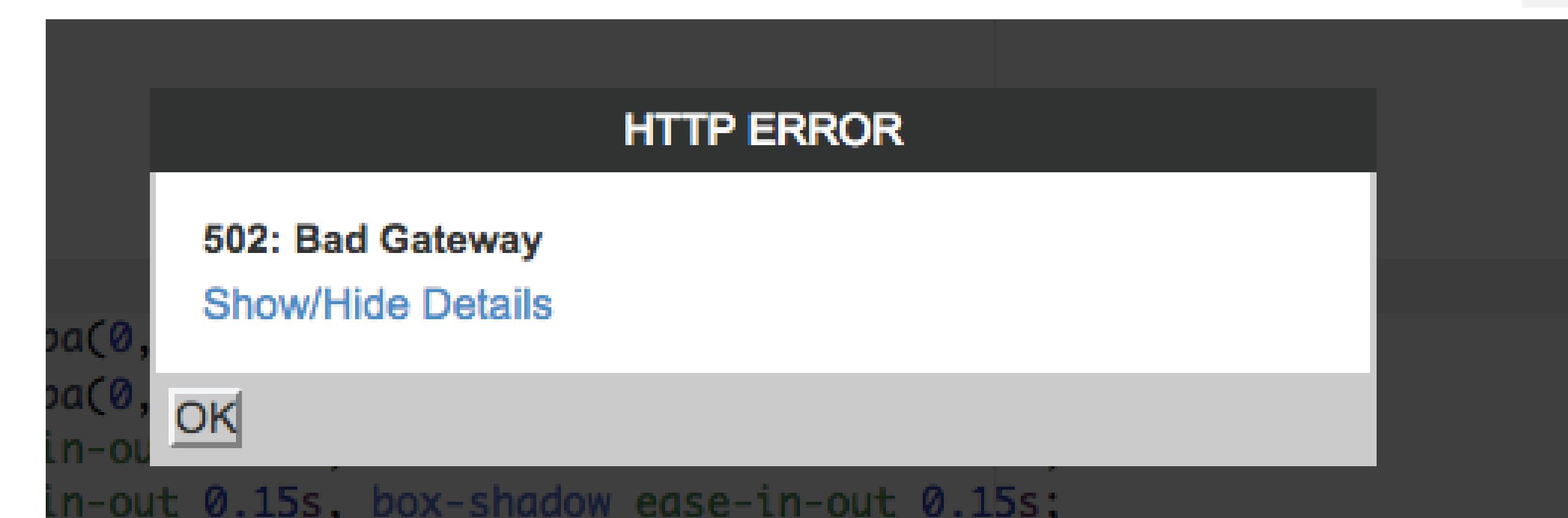
- A cross-repository resource for zine research, providing access to metadata about as many zines, and in as many ways (linked open data, links to digital content, etc.) as possible.
 - A collaborative platform for cataloging zines and their creators, by persons both within and external to the library profession.
 - A hub for zine research, where partners can seek inspiration and collaboration.
 - A promotional and educational resource for the zine genre.
 - A tool capable of supporting projects to incorporate digitized (and born digital) zine (and zine related) material into other platforms such as the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

MOSTAKE'S USEAGE
MAD

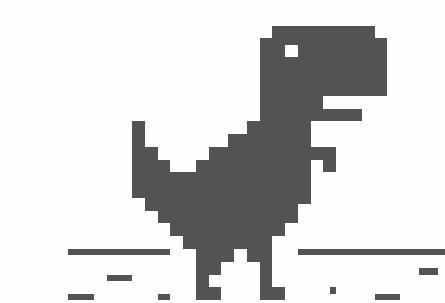
Z|C Zinecat.org

Errors occurred when trying to access /<"http://blog.zinecat.org/">/index.php

- View does not exist



Unable to connect to the Internet



File not found

Firefox can't find the file at /index.php/Gallery/Index.

- Check the file name for capitalization or other typing errors.
- Check to see if the file was moved, renamed or deleted.

Try Again

LOGIN

Login failed

**E-MAIL
ADDRESS**

PASSWORD



 The security token in your request is invalid.

COLLECTIVE ACCESS

CollectiveAccess Demonstration System

Login was invalid

Login with user `demo` and password `demo`

User Name:

ANSWER The answer is 1000.

Password:

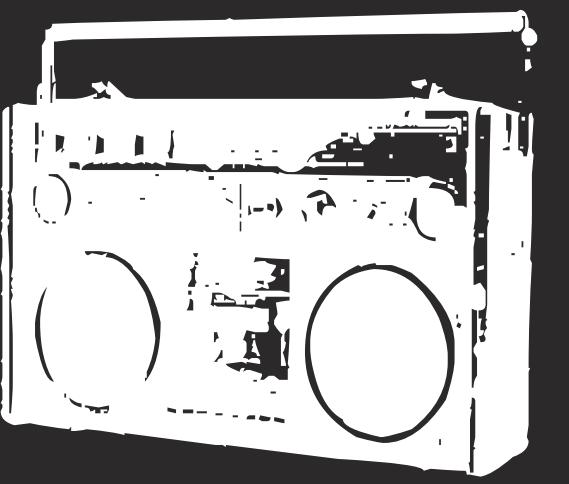
For more information about the study, please contact the study team at 1-800-258-4263 or visit www.cancer.gov.

A circular icon containing a checkmark, indicating successful login.

A demonstration front-end web site is available at
<http://demo.collectiveaccess.org/pawtucket/>

Searching files

Location: 
Search Regex: error



ZINE UNION CATALOG

PLAYLIST

SONG

ARTIST

+ Zine Cat Strut	The Zine Cats
+ Copy and Destroy	The Copy Scams
+ Tomorrow's Photocopier	YouTube Mix
+ Like to Get to Know You Well	Howard Jones
+ Teensploitation	Movie Montage Abilities
+ Everybody Wants to Rule the World	Tears for Fears
+ My Metrocard	Le Tigre
+ It's More Fun to Compute	Kraftwerk
+ Junior High Lament	The Butchies
+ Don't Drop the Baby	The Judybats
+ Late Night Maudlin Street	Morrissey
+ Us Amazonians	Kirsty MacColl



(Thanks to Matthew Murray, Milo Miller, and NinaZine for your suggestions.)

With this mission in mind, four students in the CUNY Graduate Center's MALS Digital Humanities Methods and Practices course (Spring 2017) have worked to build a prototype of the union catalog using Collective Access, an open source software tool that manages and publishes museum, archives, and library content.

At the reveal of the prototype on May 17, 2017 at the Graduate Center, there will be three collections represented in the ZUC containing about 120 objects. The group chose to include items from the Barnard Zine Library, Denver Zine Library, and Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP).

Over the last few months, the group has learned about building a catalog in Collective Access (and the technical difficulties of such an undertaking), has set up an Advisory Board and social media accounts to solicit feedback from potential users and other interested parties, grappled with standardizing metadata across collections and learning how to import large data through data import mapping, and the group has met with various metadata and Collective Access users at other institutions to provide guidance on the project along the way. Our ZUC prototype is still a great proof of concept and with the ongoing contributions of the zine librarian community, the ZUC will continue to flourish.



@zinecat

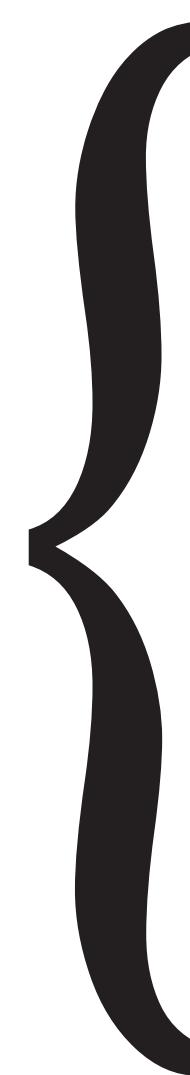
SIMILAR PROJECTS



Worldcat

Most straightforward model for ZUC to follow, but the size of WorldCat far exceeds the scope of ZUC.

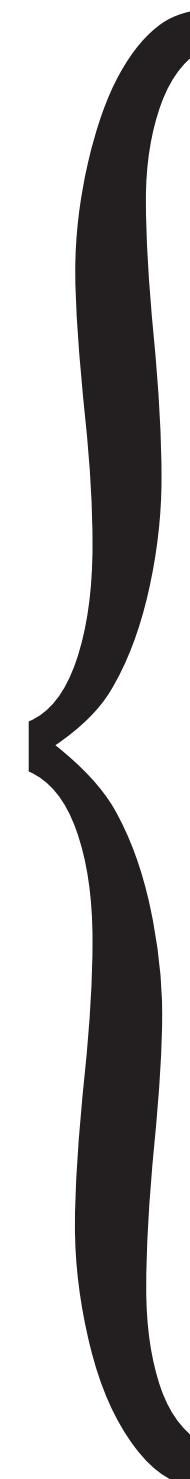
Does illustrate how messy metadata sharing can be.



Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

Admire the ability for DPLA to aggregate multiple metadata formats into one searchable interface.

However, not a model in regards to digital representation since the immediate goal of ZUC is not to provide digital access to zines.



The Modernist Journals Project

A joint project of Brown University and The University of Tulsa, The Modernist Journals Project is a major resource for the study of modernism in the English-speaking world, with periodical literature as a central concern.

As DPLA also does with metadata, the mission of the Modernist Journals Project is to produce digital editions of culturally significant magazines from around the early 20th century and make them freely available to the public.



MAP WAG GOL CATAA CAZ ZON ZIN WE ZIN NI

JENNA FREEDMAN

I have been dreaming about this project for years. At least eight years, since the first Zine Librarians (un)Conference held in Seattle in 2009. I wrote about it in my application to the MALS program, figuring it could be a capstone project. Who knew I'd get to work on building a union catalog for zines in my second semester (of ten semesters, I'm on the has-a-full-time-job, paying 100% out-of-pocket plan)?



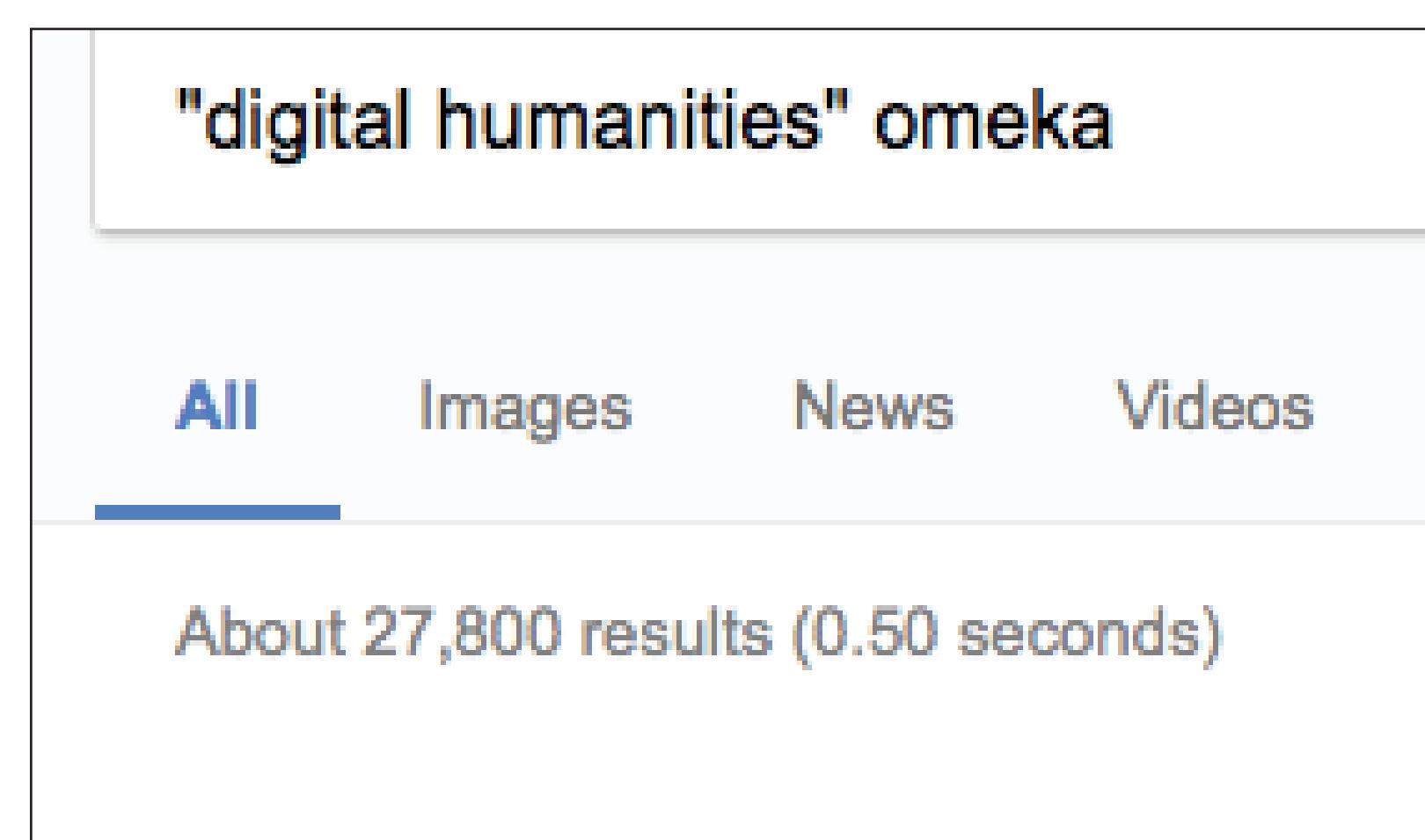
It has been gratifying to get the chance to work on something of such personal and professional importance to me, and to have my class/teammates take the project as seriously as I do. It's been a struggle, and our final "product" may not resemble what I've had in my head for these eight years, but by doing the work in a structured environment, supported by our professor Lisa Rhody, who has the ability to see through chaos to the root of project issues at a glance, and break down issues into navigable chunks. It's finally out of my head and onto the web.

Over the eight years I've been working on the zine union catalog project, with zine librarians from all over the United States and Canada, people who have become my affinity group and my collective crush, this project has felt huge, daunting, and like something that was beyond me. Tbh, it still feels that way to some extent, but with a prototype data map made, and a planning grant application in the works (also shepherded by Dr. Rhody), I'm thinking it might actually happen one day!

WHY COLLECTIVE ACCESS (CA)?

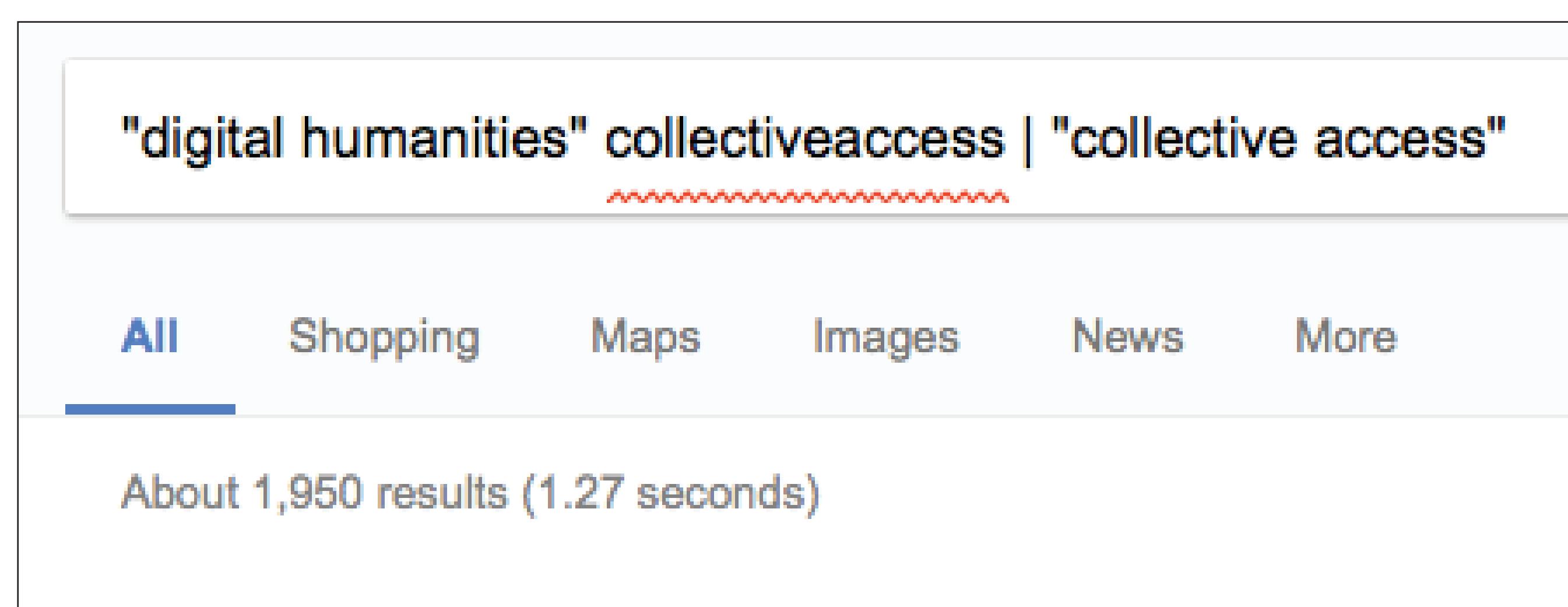
"CollectiveAccess is free open-source software for managing and publishing museum and archival collections."

When our friends at the Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP) were choosing a platform for their catalog, they compared multiple tools, including Omeka. They ultimately settled on CA and built a successful installation, just ripe for us to copy!



Even with QZAP as a prototype, Digital Humanists may wonder why we chose CA instead of a similar tool, Omeka, which even has a hosted version, something that CA does not offer.

Omeka is more popular among the DH crowd by far, if Google search results are a good metric for that sort of thing. The primary thing that CA has over Omeka that is essential to this project is the ability for "entities," most usefully creators, to serve as authority records.



QZAP (Queer Zine Archive Project)
2935 N. Fratney St. / Milwaukee, WI 53212
qzap.org

"The primary function of QZAP is to provide a free on-line searchable database of the collection with links allowing users to download electronic copies of zines. By providing access to the historical canon of queer zines we hope to make them more accessible to diverse communities and reach wider audiences." Superpower: LiteBriting.



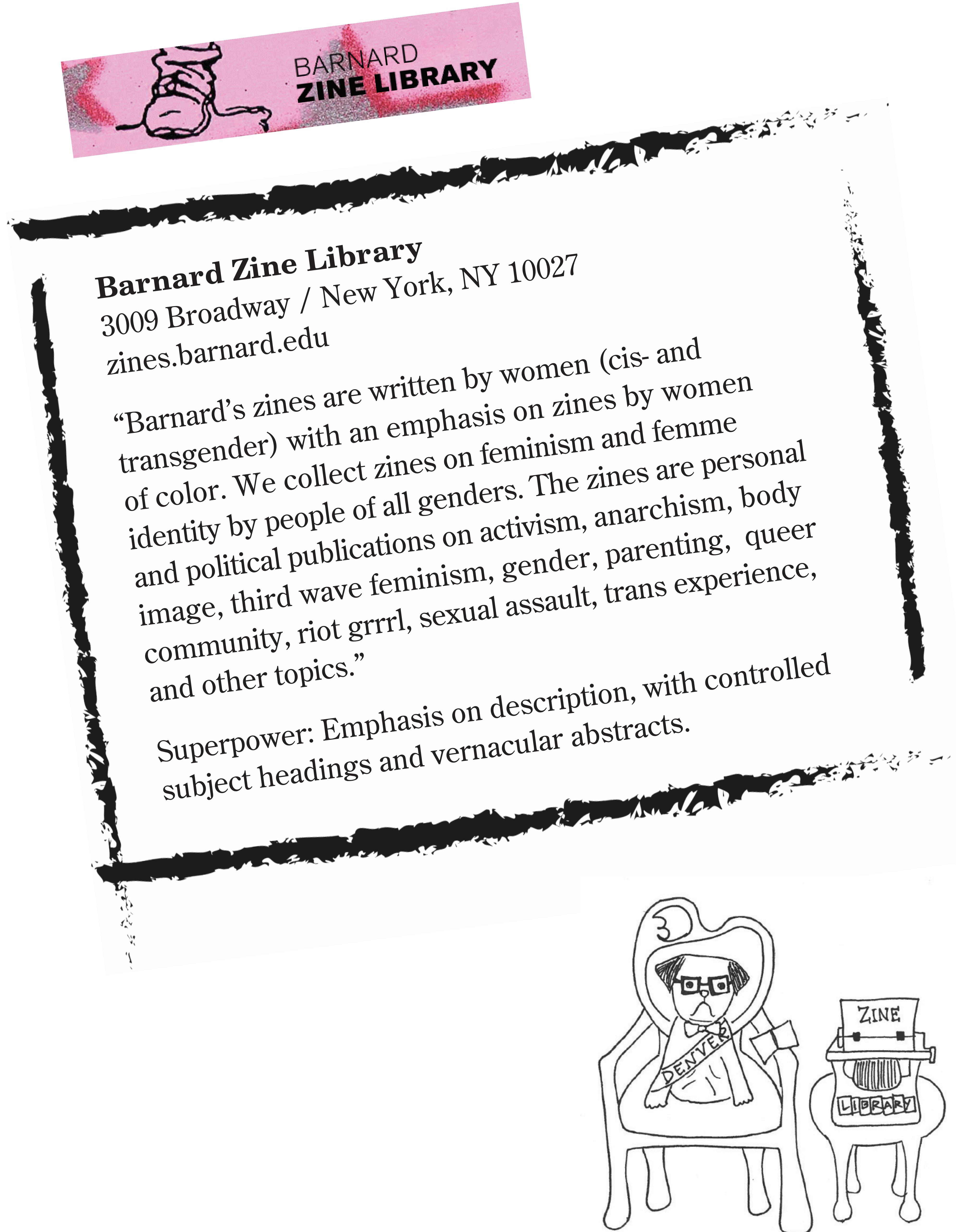
Denver Zine Library

Visit: 2400 Curtis / Denver, Colorado 80205
Mail: PO Box 13826, Denver CO 80201
denverzinelibrary.org

The Denver Zine Library is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 whose mission is to preserve, protect and promote the culture of zines and self-published original work through archival collection, workshops and events. It currently houses a preserved collection of over 15,000 independent and alternative zines. The organization is entirely volunteer run, and the public can access the full library and archives during open hours on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am-3pm.

Superpower: Maintaining a completely volunteer run lending collection for over a decade.

Zine Libraries in Our Pilot



Still, CA required multiple installs, didn't display our records properly out of the books, and required a lot of fuss to map. We are hoping that the more complex the back-end, the simpler the front-end, as well as allowing for a greater level of control for administrators and catalogers.

"Collective Access has been great to work with because it offers a very clear and stable starting point that is understandable even for novices such as myself. I was able to make sense of what I needed to do, how to do it, and apply what I learned for future changes. Obviously, knowing PHP would have been tremendously helpful—there were moments that felt especially puzzling. But, in the end, I felt that Collective Access enabled our creative effort more than it hindered it."

- Alex Segal

"There was a steep learning curve for using CA efficiently, but as with any program, the more you use it, the more you get to know it. Luckily, there's a pretty substantial knowledge base and CA users often post and respond to the CA Forum. Since I'm not a programmer in any sense I think it was very difficult for me to fully understand the ins-and-outs of CA and how all the parts worked together (i.e. front end display showing data that was added in the back end dashboard, etc). I also think that as a result of not having to design the site from scratch (thanks Milo @QZAP for sharing your instance with ZineCat), I didn't have the chance to learn CA from the ground up. However, after my experience on this project, developing a database is less daunting (although, there's still a lot to learn) and I could see using CA in other settings for showcasing and organizing collections."

- Lauren Kehoe

Nia King → *Borderlands: Tales from Disputed Territories between Races and Cultures*

PHYSICAL (PRINTED) ZINE

CREATED:
Location: Denver
Date: 2008

CREATOR AND/OR PUBLISHER:
Nia King

RELATED COLLECTIONS:
Barnard Zine Library

LINK TO SOURCE COLLECTION:
<https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/6917372>

ZINECAT IDENTIFIER:
1343

Example of visible facets of a certain object in our Collective Access platform.



UNION CATALOGS COMPARED TO DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Many digital humanities projects involve creating a digital archive. That's not exactly what our union catalog is, so we thought we'd explore what the differences are for you, as well as for ourselves.

The primary difference, with some exceptions, is that union catalogs bring together information about holdings (metadata) from multiple institutions, rather than the digital representations of the materials themselves. A union catalog is a cooperative endeavor, where a single record may represent an item that is held by multiple institutions. In an archive (digital or otherwise), the holdings themselves are unique (like a letter or a photo or a 3D object), rather than items that have copies in more than one institution (like a zine). Digital archives and union catalogs are both built with an emphasis on providing helpful metadata and delineating relationships between items, creators, publication locations, and more. What's funky in a union catalog is that library workers at each cooperating institution may describe their materials differently from one another, per a metadata schema* they use—if they even use an established schema.

One of the challenges of building ZineCat is reconciling these variations in metadata while respecting, even celebrating, each library community's wants, needs, and personality quirks. Most zines—and zine librarians may have differences of opinions on this (and they're all right)—are born as print objects, and remain so. In digital archives the whole point is that the holdings are available for online inspection and download. An important function of the shared catalog is pointing readers to the institution/s that have the item. If the institution has the digital rendition of the zine, then users of the ZineCat have found it not in the cooperative catalog itself, but through the holding institution's site. Therefore, ZineCat is inherently not a digital archive, but can lead to digital assets through its ability to aggregate metadata and push a user to the holding institution's content.

*A schema is a logical plan showing the relationships between metadata elements, normally through establishing rules for the use and management of metadata specifically as regards the semantics, the syntax and the optionality (obligation level) of values [International Standards Organization] 23081.1 s3 Terms and Definitions).

MARTI MASSANA FERRE

Prácticamente no tenía ningún conocimiento acerca de zines antes de empezar a trabajar en este proyecto con Jenna, Alex y Lauren en Febrero. Apuesto lo que sea a que no hay ningún zine-aficionado de dónde vengo yo — un pequeño pueblo a las afueras de Barcelona.

Pero ahora ya sí.

Puede que el siguiente paso para el Zine Union Catalog sea empezar a importar catálogos bibliográficos de bibliotecas españolas — aunque, bien, mejor empezos por “europeas”. ¿Quién sabe? Lo que sí que sé es que nos queda mucho camino por recorrer, y yo no podría estar más contento de formar parte de ello.

I barely had any knowledge of zine culture before I started to work on this project with Jenna, Lauren, and Alex back in February. I bet there are no zine enthusiasts where I come from—a pretty small town right outside Barcelona.

But not anymore.

Maybe the next step for the Zine Union Catalog is to start importing catalog records from Spanish—well, let's begin with “European,” first—libraries. Who knows? What I know is that there's a long road ahead of us, and I could not be happier to being a part of it.



WHY DO ZINES MATTER TO A DIGITAL HUMANIST?

Zines are short for “magazines” or “fanzines,” and they are self-produced and self-published literature that feature counter-cultural, political, and artistic content. Zines are produced in small runs, and are often distributed directly by the author or through “distros.”

But, why should anyone care?

Zines are used by humanities scholars as primary source documents on a variety of topics, and are regarded as a critical record of third wave feminism and the riot grrrl movement, punk-rock and the punk aesthetic, popular culture and fandom, and local history in urban centers. They are made by people who are otherwise un(der)represented on library shelves due to their age, class, race, gender, sexuality, radical viewpoint and general lack of access to power. Even when they are on the shelf, it's usually as the subject—or even object—of a journalist or scholar's work, not under their own, unmediated agency.

Zinesters write for a peer audience about political and social issues like racial justice, personal/mental health concerns like self-injury, and share instructions on anything from herbal remedies for menstrual cramps to home greywater reclamation techniques. People who want to locate zines include scholars in fine arts, history, media studies, women's studies, education, Black studies, Asian studies, Latin studies, psychology, library and information science, English literature, and religion, as well as leisure zine readers and creators and journalists in all media.

Zine librarians from across North America have been discussing the idea since 2009, including monthly conference calls for the last few years, but we didn't have much tangible to show for it until now. The ZUC team has managed, in two months, to sketch a proof of concept of the zine union catalog that integrates the values of openness and accessibility.

Lauren KeHoe



MY KNOWLEDGE OF ZINES WAS MINIMAL AT BEST WHEN THIS PROJECT FIRST STARTED, BUT I WAS INTERESTED IN THE WORK JENNA IS DOING AT BARNARD PRIOR TO THAT, SO I WAS HOPING SHE'D PITCH THE ZINECAT PROJECT TO OUR #DHPRAXIS17 CLASS AT THE CUNY GRADUATE CENTER. LUCKILY, SHE DID! NOW, ZINES SEEM TO BE EVERYWHERE...WHICH, OF COURSE, ONLY CONFIRMS HOW IMPORTANT THIS PROJECT IS.

MY ROLE IN THE PROJECT IS OFFICIALLY METADATA SPECIALIST AND DOCUMENTARIAN. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME LOOKING AT ZINE METADATA PROVIDED BY OUR SAMPLE INSTITUTIONS AND NORMALIZING IT. THIS IS NOT A NEW THOUGHT, BUT NOT ALL DATA IS CREATED THE SAME (WHICH PRESENTS MANY CHALLENGES FOR HARNESSING MANY SETS OF DISPARATE DATA). LUCKILY, A METADATA SCHEMA FOR ZINES ([XZINECOREX](#)) HAD BEEN WORKED OUT A FEW YEARS BACK AND I WAS ABLE TO USE IT AS A MODEL. AS DOCUMENTARIAN, I WAS INVOLVED WITH FINALIZING THE DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND TAKING LOTS OF NOTES (BUT, I MUST SAY WE ALL DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB CONTRIBUTING NOTES IN ALL THE COLLABORATIVE WORK SOFTWARE WE USED ALONG THE WAY).

BY DAY, I'M A LIBRARIAN AND THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE MCENTEGART HALL LIBRARY AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE IN BROOKLYN. I'M INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS AND SCHOLARS IN THE LIBRARY THROUGH PROVEN AND NEW METHODS OF ENGAGING WITH INFORMATION.



THE ZUC STEP BY STEP



Establishing primary modes of project communication and organization



Uploading records of three participating collections

Tips from Eric Goldhagen along the way

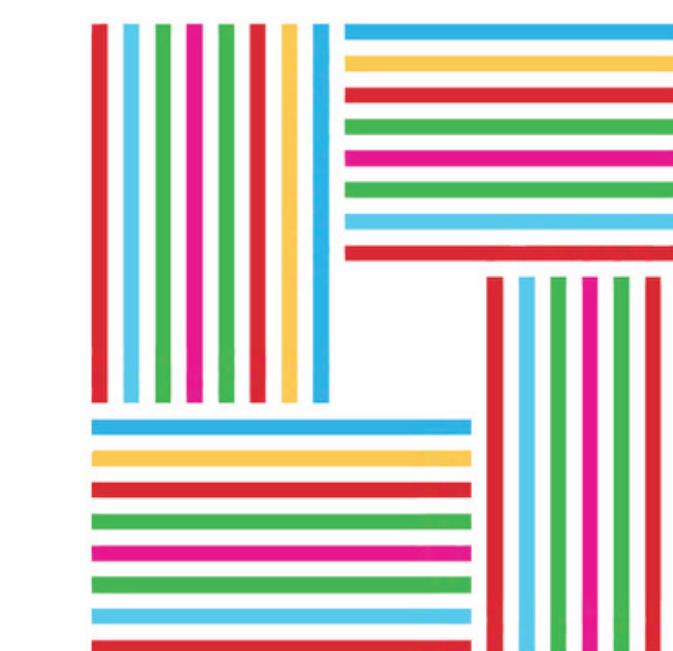
Customizing the ZUC interface

Weekly at different libraries including Barnard, St. Josephs, SIBL, and BPL.

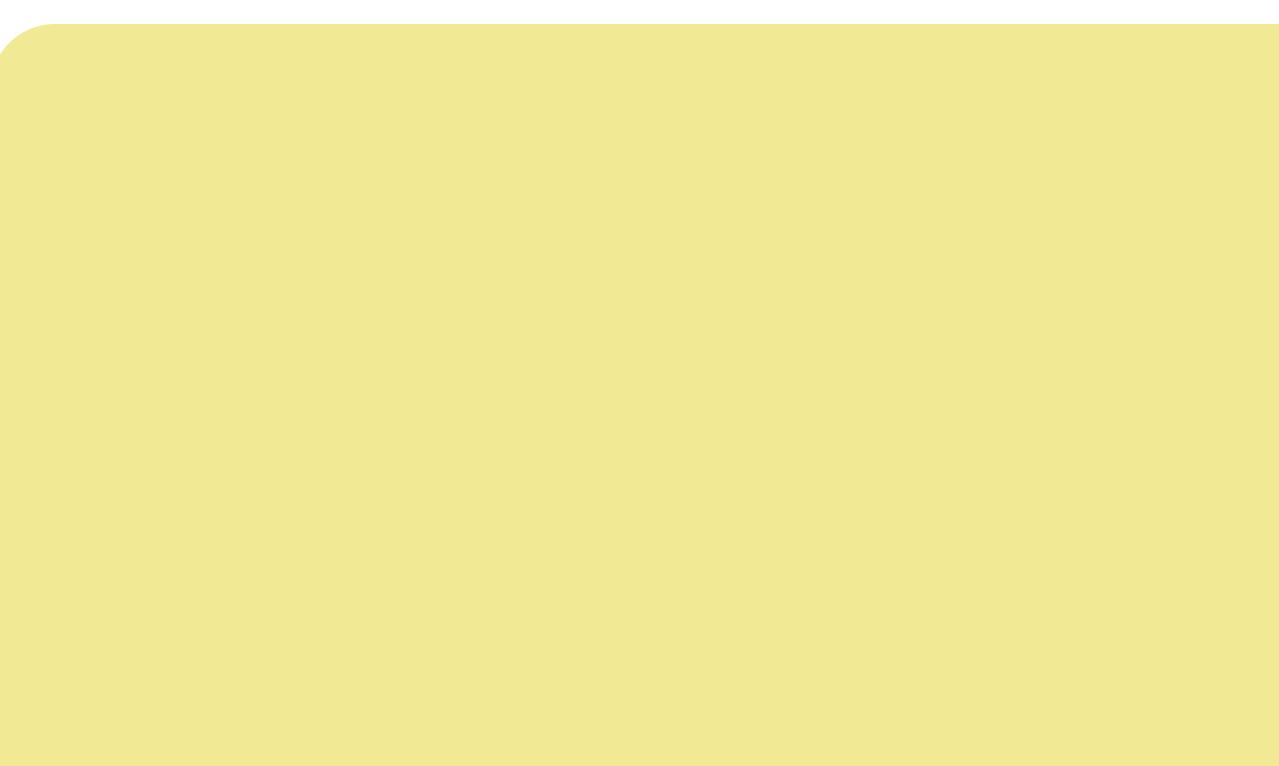
Creating the physical Zine



New York Public Library



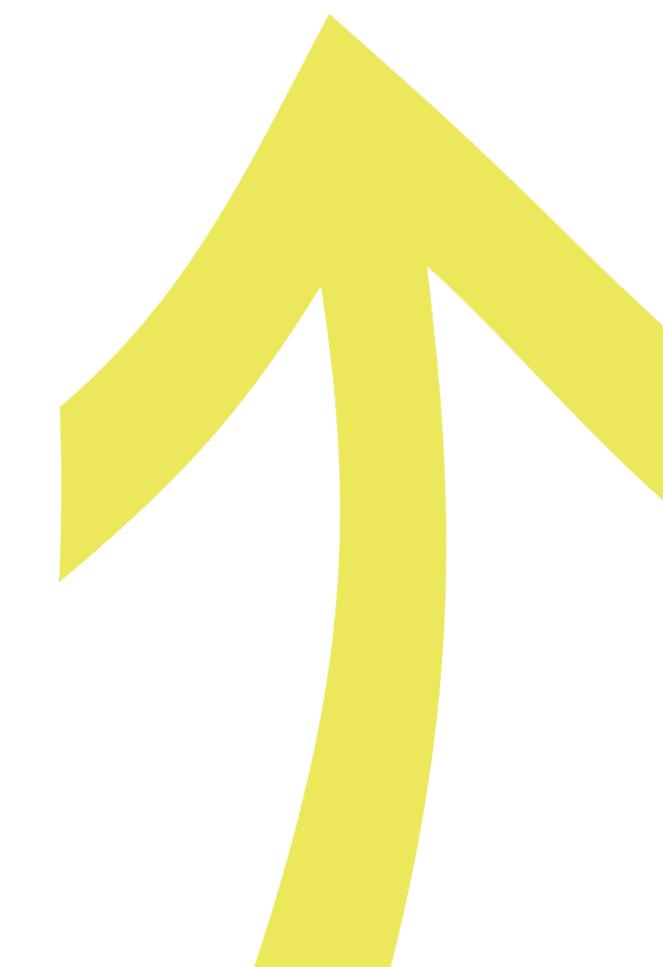
Installing CA with the xZINCOREx standard profile



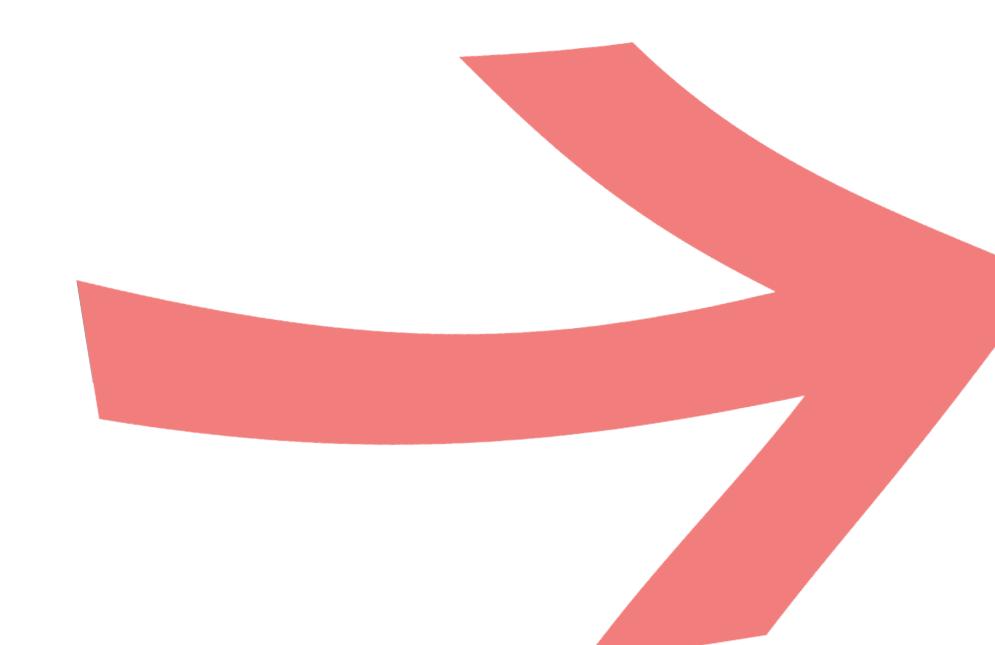
Creating a test site for developmental purposes



Creating an advisory board and conducting outreach



DH Praxis class with Lisa Rhody and Steve Brier



Zine Union Catalog @zinecat · 2h

We're working at @McEntegartLib, trying to finish up our catalog, preso, & zine. We're eating & drinking in the group study rm. Don't tell.