

Zine Union Catalog:
Strategic Planning

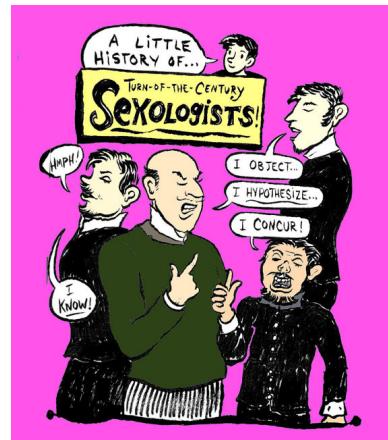
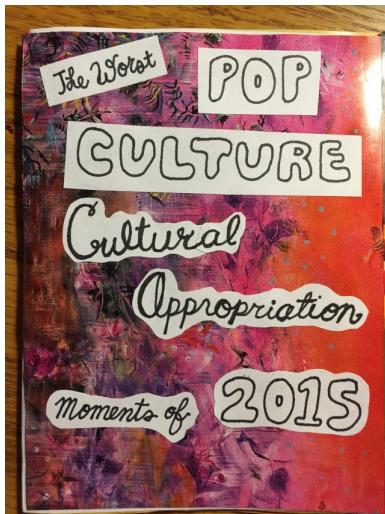
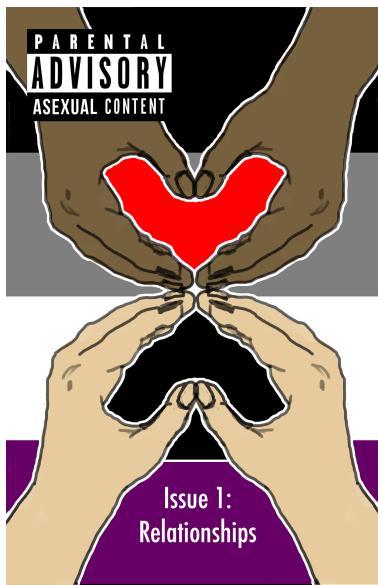
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Interactive Technology and Pedagogy Core II
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Introduction

[ZineCat](#) is the home of a union catalog dedicated to zines. A union catalog is a resource where libraries can share cataloging and holdings information from their individual collections. The Zine Union Catalog (ZUC) facilitates researchers' discovery of zine holdings by searching a single catalog search interface, and helps catalogers copy records and facilitates the lending of materials between libraries. ZUC serves educators, researchers, creators, librarians, archivists, and anyone in the general public with an interest in zines.

Zines are self-produced and self-published literature that often feature counter-cultural, political, and artistic content. Typically zines are produced in small print runs, and are often distributed directly by the author or through “distros” (i.e., specialized distributors of zines, crafts, and art prints). Zines provide a first-hand, intimate, and authoritative account of social, political, and art historical movements and provide evidence of knowledge production and dissemination within radical, queer, and other subculture communities. They are used by humanities scholars as primary source documents on a range 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 colleges, local scenes, and communities (small and large) around the world.¹

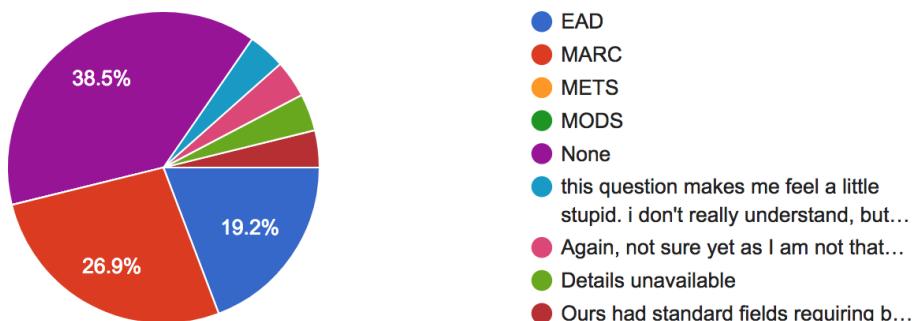
Because zines exist in a counterculture space, they have historically been collected and circulated first by independent collectors, then zine libraries and activist centers, followed later by research institutions. Over the last fifteen to twenty years, public libraries, special collections, and

¹ Zines pictures are *Asexual Content* by Olivia M., *The Worse Pop Culture Cultural Appropriation Moments of 2015* by Suze Myers and Jade Levine, and *A Little History of... Turn-of-the-Century Sexologists!* by Mr. Elvis.

academic research libraries have begun collecting zines as scholarly resources, as well as part of leisure reading collections. This hybrid environment of zine collections translates into dispersed and sometimes erratic mechanisms for access (not all libraries describe material in the same, standardized way). Zine descriptions and metadata, thus discovery of zines, are scattered across library catalogs, archival finding aids, standalone databases, spreadsheets, and online platforms such as LibraryThing. This diversity of access points poses impediments to finding and using zines in aggregate for research, teaching, and learning in the humanities. The Zine Union Catalog (ZUC) seeks to federate metadata from these disparate sources.

An encoding standard is a set of fields or bits of code used to organize information about a zine so it can be more easily read by an organizational program (like an integrated library system). Do the data elements in your records conform to a particular encoding standard? (i.e. do you use a specific set of fields or bits of code to denote that a certain string of words represents the title or author?)

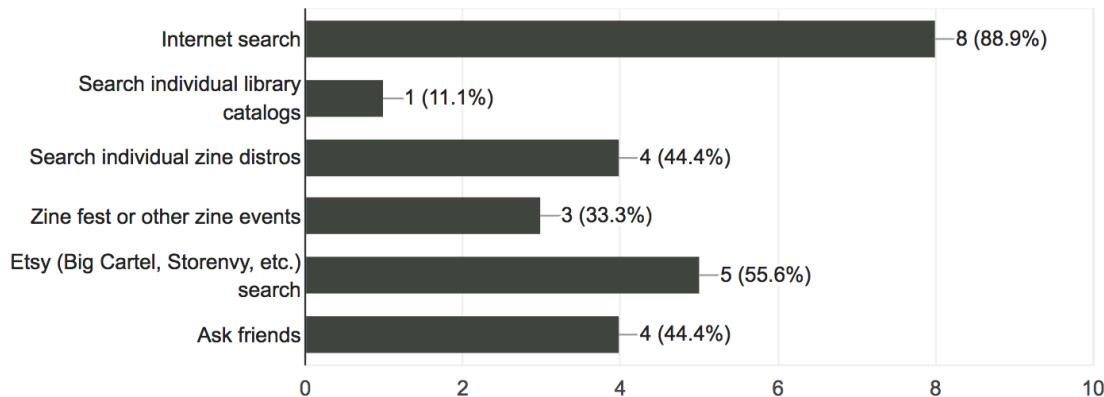
26 responses



In 2014 zine union catalog collaborators surveyed themselves and other zine librarians, and, in a separate instrument, zine researchers to determine the interest in a shared catalog. One of the questions was about standards in current use, and as expected, the results showed that there is no dominant metadata schema, and in fact, the lead standard was "none."

How do you currently find out where you can get/read a zine you already know about?

9 responses



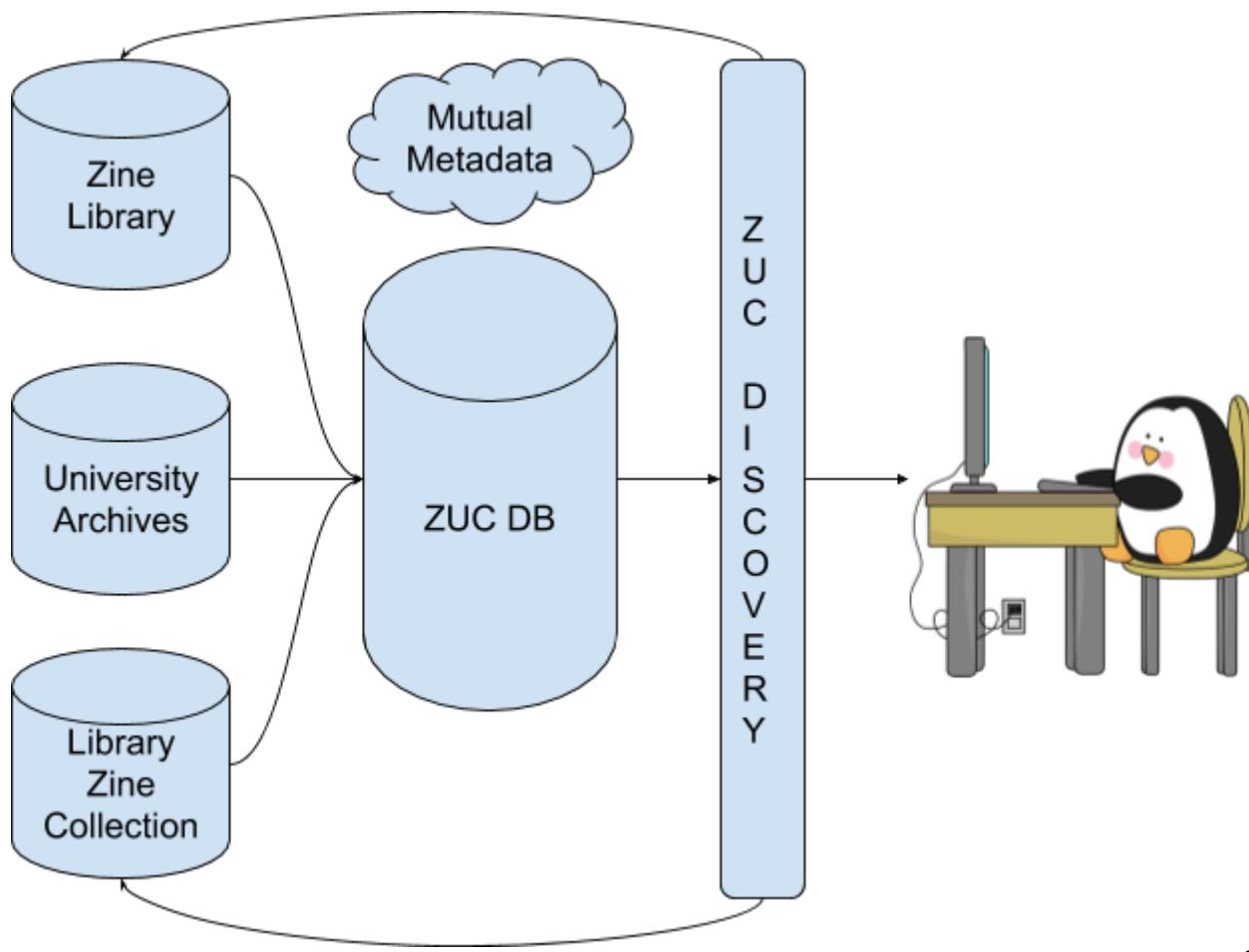
Discussion of developing a union catalog began in 2009. Over the last nine years, a collaborating group of zine librarians, metadata specialists, and web developers has worked to develop the ZUC, which is designed to be:

- 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 creating authority files for 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).
- A model for bringing together data from disparate schema, replicable by developers working with other types of materials, including, but not limited to
 - Ephemera from dispersed protest movements like #BlackLivesMatter or Occupy Wall Street
 - Menus from archives and special collections
 - Alt-right materials not widely held in research collections

The ZUC, as a reference resource for the zine genre, will contain three primary components:

- Catalog records for zine titles (descriptive metadata), which give both identifying (e.g., title, creator name, production date and locality) and contextual information (e.g., subjects, genres, abstracts, biographical and historical details)

- Holdings information (details about libraries that hold specific issues, and how to access them)
- Digitized and/or digital content when available



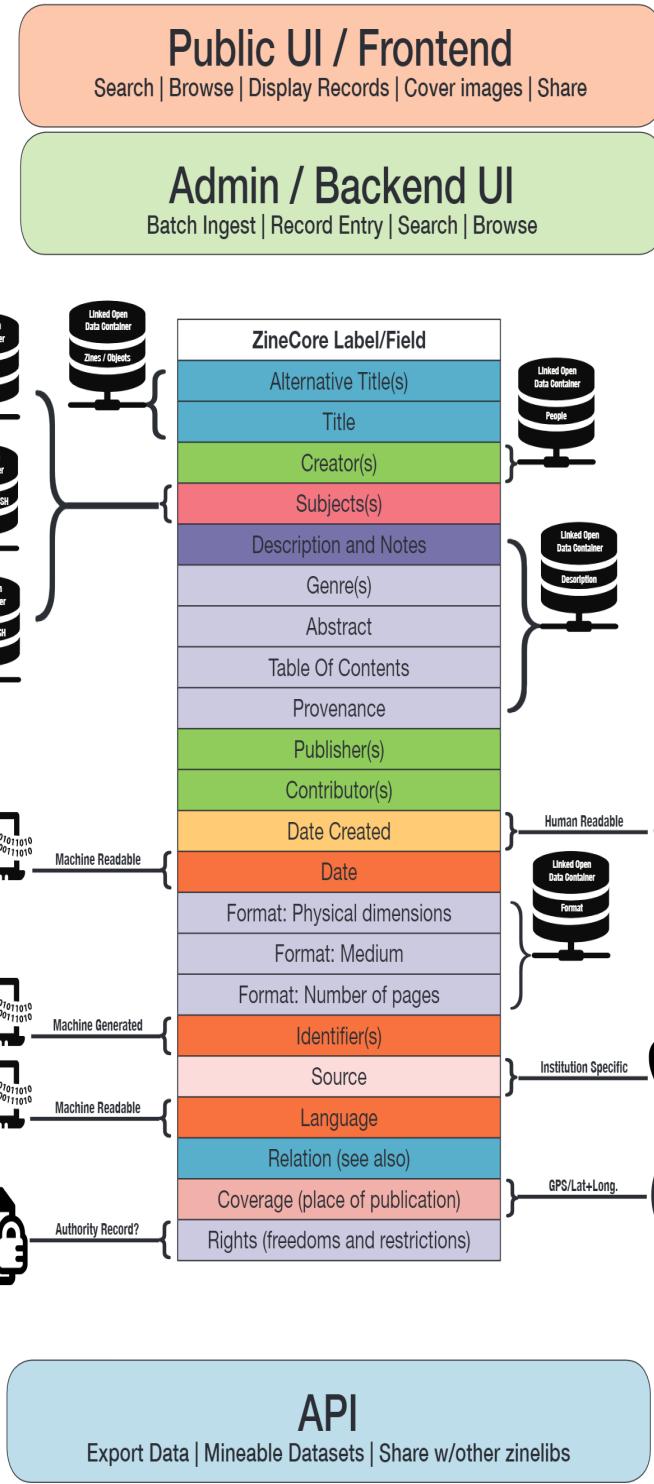
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The catalog [prototype](#) contains a sampling of records from three zine libraries, with a limited number of fields represented in each record: creator, title, non-normalized date, and non-normalized publication location. When the ZUC is more formally launched, contributions will be open to any library, and the scope of the ZUC will grow to represent zine collections and zine metadata across the globe.

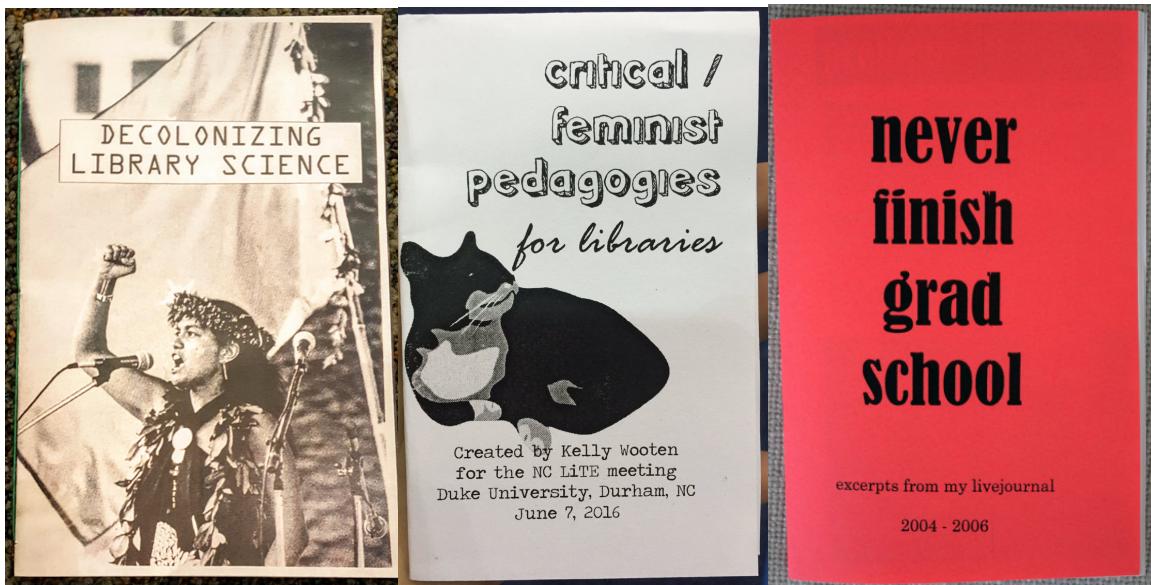
Since September 2014, the Zine Union Catalog (ZUC) planning team, a nationally-distributed group of zine librarians, metadata specialists, and web developers, has held regular virtual meetings and undertaken preparatory work for the development of an online platform that aims

² Image (by Amber Billey?) from: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1til-XhZVa5nSO2hgTLWiY8X_DKGLtQ4PMrvqz-Arm8w/edit?usp=sharing

to be a fully inclusive metadata aggregation and discovery interface to enhance free access to information about zine holdings across the United States.



³ Image by Milo Miller from: <https://github.com/MiloQZAP/xZINECOREx>



4

Narrative Contexts

Practical

The two primary models for ZineCat are [DPLA](#) and [WorldCat](#), both being cooperating cataloging efforts between multiple libraries and culture institutions. Both are explored in detail later in the [Environmental Scan](#) portion of this document. Other related projects include [ZineWiki](#), the [Queer Zine Archive Project](#) (QZAP) and Google—the search engine and also Google Books, which harvests holdings information from WorldCat. It is likely that ZineCat users will originate their search in a search engine and will find their way to ZineCat through exposure in the search engine search results. The structured data should boost ZineCat's search engine optimization, helping zine records appear high on results pages.

Throughout the development of ZineCat, collaborators have considered using ZineWiki as the catalog itself. Like Wikipedia, ZineWiki is built on [Mediawiki](#) software. It attempts to serve a similar function to Wikipedia, but for solely in the context of zine culture. There are entries for zine creators, zines themselves, zine libraries, zine distros, and zine events. Entries, or articles, are linked by categories connecting zines and zinesters by decade, nationality, genre, location, and others. ZineWiki has changed administrative hands three or more times and is not currently an active site of development. However, ZineCat collaborators have root access and can activate the project as time and interest allow. It is likely that ZineCat will explore whether or not

⁴ Zines pictured are *Decolonizing Library Science* by Kalani Adolpho, *Critical/Feminist Pedagogies for Libraries* by Kelly Wooten, and *Never Finish Grad School: Excerpts from my LiveJournal 2004-2006* by Amy Burek.

[WikiData](#) can be employed to serve as a source of author, title, and other authorities on the project. Authorities--or Mutual Metadata, as anarchist ZineCat participants prefer to think of them--and controlled vocabularies are central and daunting elements to the ZineCat project as zine catalogers attempt to reconcile names and naming conventions that are inconsistent throughout the participating collections, and even among zine creators. Zine creators identify themselves by first name only in one edition, with family and married names, chosen names, names that change with their gender presentations, nicknames, names that are taken from their zines, and are subject to other variations. It is a central part of the zine librarian ethos to respect creators' preferred identities while having a simultaneous desire to provide consistency across zines and other projects.

The Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP), founded by long-time zine makers Milo Miller and Christopher Wilde is an all-digital project now using the Digital Assets Manager [CollectiveAccess](#), which is the chosen platform of ZineCat. This shared software preference is not coincidental. Miller has been involved in ZineCat since the Zine Librarians (Un)Conference (ZLUC) in 2009 where the concept was first discussed. Miller serves on the ZineCat Advisory Board, along with open source technologist Eric Goldhagen, who helped QZAP with their CollectiveAccess implementation. Goldhagen also attended the 2009 ZLUC meeting in Seattle. At that meeting, participants did not consider CollectiveAccess for the project. Platforms explored included Drupal, ZineWiki, and even proprietary tools like FileMaker. Unfortunately, the conference website, which lived on Wikispaces is no longer accessible, so it is unclear at this time what the other platforms were.

Given the context of a tool and resources no longer recoverable after merely nine years, one might wonder why attempt to make a standalone catalog, when a web search might suffice for a researcher. It is true that a search engine will turn up zine holdings that are hosted anywhere on the web, though it might take a lot of clicking and sifting through irrelevant results. One of the challenges with relying on Google and other search engines is that not all zine library holdings are posted on the internet, or they are, but their metadata is not well-structured, or in the case of archival finding aids, typically only author/title information is provided, and at worst, there are only box and folder numbers, and a researcher must physically handle the box or folder to see what is inside.

An ambition of ZineCat is to harmonize zine metadata and work with archivists to surface box and folder contents. Using shared information from libraries that perform item-level cataloging, zine holdings from finding aids can be enriched to benefit local users, as well as the extended zine community. Google Books already harvests metadata from WorldCat, but zine cataloging practice is inconsistent from library to library. The same concept of shared cataloging enhancing local information holds true in that context, as well.

Historical

The ZineCat project has unique qualities in that it is bringing together holdings from disparate library types, but of course it is not the only union catalog to do so. Before choosing



CollectiveAccess as a platform, ZUC collaborators considered [Open Library](#) (OL), a project of the [Internet Archive](#) built on a wiki platform that the developers created for OL.

There is much to be gleaned from OL about harmonizing metadata, and from their automated ingest processes and work with MARC formatted materials. It seems that while the project is still active, development has slowed down since its initial project leader's death in 2013. E.g., the [Developer Information](#) page has been deleted.

CUNY ONESEARCH

Select College

All CUNY

Enter Search Term

zines

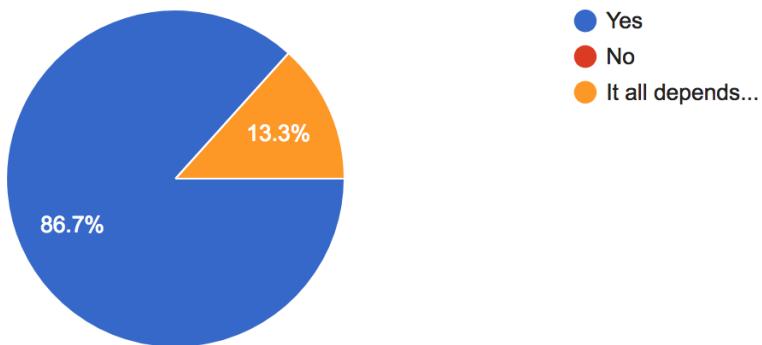
Search

There are many--possibly thousands--of examples of consortial and shared catalogs. The [CUNY Library System's OneSearch](#) is an example. A search on the word < zines > yields results from twenty libraries and fourteen resource types beyond library-owned holdings. A researcher can limit results by peer-review status, full-text availability, and whether or not the item is physically available. Switching the search to < "finding aid" > in an attempt to return archival resources, one gets results from [only a dozen libraries](#). The records themselves are about finding aids and include links to pdfs, but the finding aid data are not integrated meaningfully into the catalog, which is something ZineCat developers aspire to do.

Digital asset managers, DAMs, like CollectiveAccess, are another type of platform for uniting varied holdings from different institutions. A proprietary system, [Daminion](#), will "Make ALL digital assets EASILY searchable by anyone in your team" for \$175/month out-of-the-box, or more if you need access for more than five users and/or customizations. Daminion is exclusively for photographs, but within that medium provides granular description options. There are "tags" for Camera Model, Camera Lens, Categories, Keywords, Place, Rating, Color Label, Media Format, and Saved Searches. Some of these catalogs make more sense in the zine context (and in the librarian context) than others.

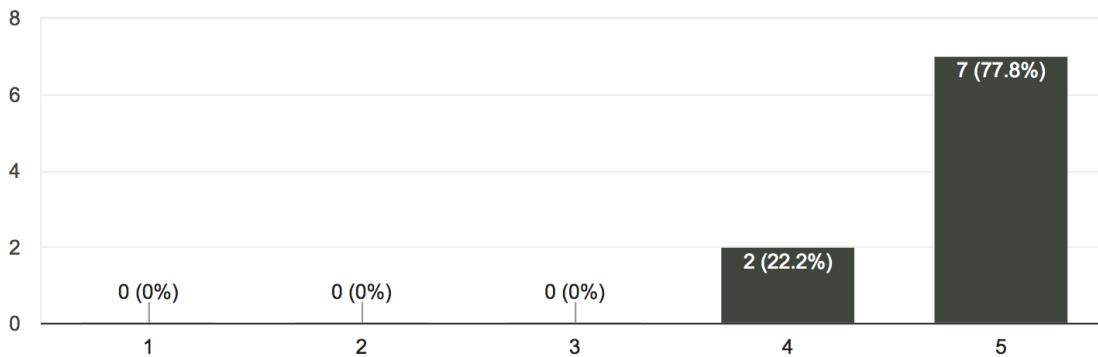
Would you be in favor of having your library or zine collection records included in a shared catalog, available to all searchers on the web?

30 responses

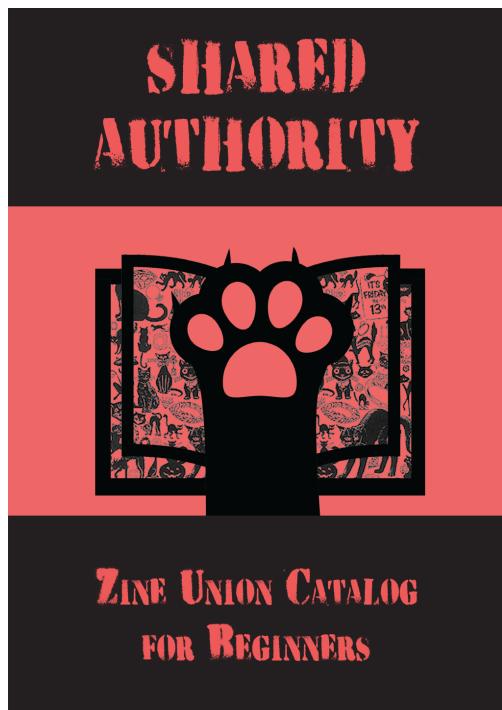


So, now that you've answered our questions and thought about a shared zine library catalog, how into it are you?

9 responses



On the topic of [librarian](#) (and [user](#)) context, in 2014 ZUC collaborators surveyed zine library workers and potential zine union catalog users to see what their priorities and concerns were. The surveys were completed by thirty zine librarians and nine researchers, so the practitioner results are likely to be of more use than its companion. Responses were generally pro-union catalog, with the primary concerns being about patron privacy.



Though long in discussion, the zine union catalog project did not make substantial tangible progress until Lisa Rhody's Spring 2017 Digital Humanities Praxis class took it on.⁵ Along with Lauren and Jenna, Martí Massana Ferre and Alex Segal became the short-term development team. Martí was project manager and designer, Alex the lead developer, Lauren metadata specialist, and Jenna community manager. Alex installed CollectiveAccess and a WordPress blog. Lauren and Alex mapped and loaded sample holdings from three zine libraries: Barnard College (MARC), Denver Zine Library (independent schema), and the Queer Zine Archive Project (xZINECOREx). Martí designed the catalog site, and Jenna established social media accounts and an advisory board. At the end of the semester, the four presented the catalog to the CUNY Graduate Center community at the Digital Initiatives End-of-Year Showcase. They accompanied their presentation with a zine handout, [Shared Authority: Zine Union Catalog for Beginners](#).

Theoretical

Zine librarians, many of whom are also zine creators, are tuned into privacy concerns and other ethics issues and have in fact addressed them in the [Zine Librarians Code of Ethics](#). The code is broken into seven sections: [Preamble](#), [Acquisition & Collection Development](#), [Access](#), [Preservation](#), [Use](#), [Organization](#), [Conclusion](#), where collaborators define best practices in each category. Since first version was published in 2015, it is due for an update, including adding a section on accommodating requests from zine creators to alter or remove their work or how it is described. ZUC will be further developed with a zine community (anarchopunk leaning) ethos in mind, as well as with the beliefs and priorities of library and archives professionals. The two cultures are not completely at odds, but zine folk may privilege the creator and the new over librarians and archivists who are charged with preserving and providing access to human culture.

⁵ Lisa M. Rhody, "PraxisSpring17," accessed May 22, 2018, <https://github.com/lmrhody/PraxisSpring17>.



The access piece of human culture includes physical and digital access, but also how an item is retrieved intellectually: description (metadata). Librarians have been known to say that if an item isn't in the catalog, it may as well not exist. Historians make similar claims about materials and topics that have not yet been written about. But what is having a thing or even book length analysis of a thing, if that thing cannot be found? Archivists would add that the thing needs to be contextualized to be understood. Who is the creator, what are the forces that influenced them, what things are similar or different, how did the thing come to be in the archive? Cataloging and finding aids are the methods librarians and archivists use to describe their holdings, make them visible.

The ZUC, which currently has fields only for creator and title, and links to related and source collections, will eventually contain other descriptive fields, both structured and free, to facilitate findability. The two primary schema for the metadata are [MARC \(AACR*](#) and [RDA](#)) and [xZINECOREx](#), but the whole point of this exercise is that there are many other descriptive structures that exist in zine libraries and collections. Perhaps the biggest challenge of this endeavor is to map the conflicting schema without losing the unique personality of each participating zine community. Many of the formal libraries use Library of Congress subject headings for content description. [Anchor Archive](#) in Halifax, Nova Scotia has its own [subject thesaurus](#), since adopted by the Minneapolis Community and Technical College ([MCTC](#)) and added to the Open Data Registry by MCTC librarian Elissah Becknell. ZUC collaborators are still working to harmonize disparate metadata about zines and zine creators.

ZUC collaborators have looked to Linked Open Data (LOD) systems as theoretical models for automating catalog ingest, including subject descriptions, but at this point are still mostly in the “scratching their heads” phase of exploration. Projects and networks to consider include Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives and Museums ([LODLAM](#)), Linked Data for Libraries ([LD4L](#)), Bibliographic Framework ([BIBFRAME](#)), and [Linked Jazz](#).

So far, despite thought deeply about zines and zine cataloging with regard to race, gender, gender expression, sexuality, class, and other marginalized identities, ZUC collaborators have yet more than cursorily considered how to make the catalog more accessible to people with physical, emotional, and cognitive disabilities. Doing so will now be a priority, beginning with an accessible design literature review and analysis.⁶ There was a brief discussion in a [CollectiveAccess forum about ADA accessibility](#) in 2014. We have not found follow up on more recent updates of the software.

Technical

The technical backbone of this project is a software package called CollectiveAccess that is built on php and has a complex graphical user interface. Library catalog data in formats including, but not limited to .csv, .mrc, and .xml are stored in a [Github repository](#). Collaborators clean and map the data in the process of ingesting it into ZUC. It is a hope that one day the information in ZineWiki can be harvested to harmonize name and title authorities, and Wikidata is another tool that collaborators plan to explore.

Collaboration has so far taken place via email, etherpad, Google documents, a Google site, and a Slack channel. In order to structure and formalize the project, collaborators will begin using the project management tool [Redmine in its web-based hosted version](#).

Environmental Scan

There are two primary models for the work we hope to accomplish with ZineCat:

OCLC's WorldCat: Union Catalog Model



OCLC's WorldCat is a union catalog with 72,000 members in 170 countries and territories who contribute their metadata and collection holdings to the database.⁷ This tool provides ZineCat with a model for standardizing metadata and building a collectivized community of contributors to ZineCat so that users (researchers, scholars, students, zinesters, etc.) can discover information about zines, and zine collections, closest to them and in the world at large. It will also serve as a mechanism for reducing the time collectors spend doing original cataloging of zines in their collection.

⁶ Preliminary Literature review: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t4vD5yl_aQpACeOkp0SUapb7pm-KAYpQ7l2E4-XnQ/edit?ts=5ad3ea0#heading=h.wljqomx13bqn

⁷ OCLC, "Homepage," <https://www.oclc.org/en/worldcat.html>.

It is important to note that the scale of ZineCat will be much smaller than OCLC. The number of cultural institutions looking to contribute to ZineCat is far fewer than the number of OCLC members. It is perhaps likely that there will be 1% of the members of ZineCat than there are to OCLC. According to [ZineWiki](#) there are 75 zine collecting institutions.⁸ However, this has not been updated since 2015, so it is entirely likely that this number has grown or shrunk.⁹ (As an outgrowth of the work being done on ZineCat--and time permitting considering Jenna and Lauren are both graduate-students-with-full-time-jobs--project participants will update the ZineWiki and use WikiData to inform the development and growth of both projects.)

The Digital Public Library of America: Aggregator and Project Development Model

The [Digital Public Library of America \(DPLA\)](#) is a discovery tool that provides information (metadata) from libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions within (and beyond) the United States on their varied digital collections.¹⁰ The DPLA aggregates metadata from cultural institutions and makes them discoverable via their search platform. The data is aggregated through a networked model of nationally distributed hubs working with their regional institutions to standardize the transfer process of metadata records from institution to the DPLA.¹¹



Although few of the zines in ZineCat will be available in digitized form (in contrast to the materials discoverable in DPLA), the project development for DPLA will set a model for ZineCat development. In the sections below, we highlight the development and workstream models and how ZineCat will design its development based on the DPLA model.

Decision Making (aka Governance):

DPLA defines their Governance Structure as a system of decision making processes and management of the project.¹² In ZineCat's case, the decision making model has not been strictly defined. Until the Digital Praxis course at the CUNY Graduate Center (spring, 2017) where

⁸ ZineWiki, last modified August 4, 2017, accessed May 22, 2018, http://zinewiki.com/Main_Page.

⁹ "Revision History of 'Main Page,'" ZineWiki, last modified August 4, 2017, accessed May 22, 2018, http://zinewiki.com/zinewiki/index.php?title=Main_Page&action=history.

¹⁰ The Digital Public Library of America, "About Us," accessed May 22, 2018, <https://dp.la/about>.

¹¹ The Digital Public Library of America, "Hub Network," accessed May 22, 2018, <https://pro.dp.la/hubs>.

¹² The Digital Public Library of America, "Member Governance," accessed May 22, 2018, <https://pro.dp.la/hubs/governance>.

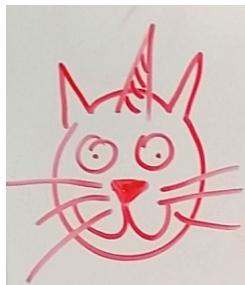
Jenna, Lauren, and two other graduate students developed the prototype for the Zine Union Catalog, the discussion and decision making was handled through a series of online meetings and informal discussions at zine related events like the Zine Librarians UnConference (ZLUC). Going back to 2014, a nationally distributed group of librarians, metadata specialists, developers, and zinesters began tracking their conversations about the development of a Zine Union Catalog on Etherpad and on the Zine Librarians UnConference Wiki.^{13, 14} As early as 2012, there were published blog posts about the catalog's possibilities.¹⁵ In 2016, the working group developed a Governance Plan proposal.¹⁶

As part of the work proposed for the ITP Independent Study, and in preparation for outlining a project roadmap for ZineCat, a more formalized steering committee will be formed. It is an important step in the long term strategizing that needs to be done. A major responsibility of the decision making structure should be ongoing and regular assessment, both internally and with external stakeholders and community members.

Steering Committee:

DPLA's steering committee formed in 2010 to "guide efforts toward the creation of DPLA."¹⁷ A steering committee is further defined as a collection of vested stakeholders who meet consistently to discuss the development of the project. In 2012, the steering committee formally passed leadership over to the DPLA Board¹⁸.

In ZineCat's case, this refers to the work commenced in 2014 with the ZUC Planning Group (and prior to that less formally starting in 2009) and continues with the work being carried out at the Graduate Center. As stated above, in August, 2016, the Working Group published a draft Governance Plan which will be updated to reflect further development's in ZineCat's governance structure.¹⁹ During



¹³ Zine Librarians Zine Union Catalog Working Group to web forum, accessed May 22, 2018, <https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/zineunioncatalog>.

¹⁴ Zine Librarians Interest Group, "Zine Union Catalog," *zinelibraries.info* (blog), accessed May 22, 2018, <http://zinelibraries.info/zine-union-catalog/>.

¹⁵ Zine Librarians Interest Group, "Cataloging," *zinelibraries.info* (blog), accessed May 22, 2018, <http://zinelibraries.info/category/cataloging/union-catalog/>.

¹⁶ Zine Union Catalog Team, *Governance Plan*, [Page #], August 2016, <https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTyqg3SR1b4UAlnRTfvotDvO05HD8tFD9v9QBHNPfi3WAMRA8tZfuptGbTt3OZBPY7OajlbrSv5DTXw/pub>.

¹⁷ The Digital Public Library of America, "Steering Committee," accessed May 22, 2018, <http://blogs.harvard.edu/dplaalpha/about/steering-committee/>.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Zine Union Catalog Team, *Governance Plan*.

the Zine Librarians UnConference²⁰ in summer, 2018, many of the individuals who have worked on the development of ZineCat will be in attendance. One of the workshops Jenna and Lauren will conduct, as a result of our work in ITP Core II, will get the community up to speed on the decision making needs for the continued sustainable growth of ZineCat. Additionally, there will be attendees that may not have previously been involved with the ongoing development of ZineCat that will want to join the steering committee. To accomplish this, Jenna and Lauren will provide an opportunity for ZLUC attendees to commit their time during and after the unconference to becoming active members of the steering committee. We will also communicate through email lists operated on the [Zine Libraries](#) website and through the [Zine Librarians email list](#) with a Google Form like [this](#) to solicit participation.

A list of potential subcommittees for ZineCat:

- Collective Access / Database design
 - UX / Accessibility
 - Developer
 - API
- Mapping / Ingest of data
- Metadata / Authority Control / Deduplication protocols
- Legal/Ethical: Copyright, Accessibility, Bylaws for BoD
- Project management / Strategic Planning
- Outreach / Community Engagement
 - Education / Workshops
 - Zine Unconference
 - Zine Fests
 - Symposia
 - Talks/Presentations
 - Trainings / [Hackathons](#)²¹ (OpenGlam: <https://openglam.org/>)
- Internal information sharing / Documentation (Data Management Plan)
- Budget
 - Grants/financing/membership
 - Go Fund Me?
- Web Based infrastructure
- System metrics - how are people actually using ZineCat

²⁰ Zine Librarians Interest Group, "ZLuC 2018 MSP," [zinelibraries.info](#) (blog), accessed May 22, 2018, <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc-2018-msp/>.

²¹ The Digital Public Library of America, "DPLA Community Reps Produce Hackathon Planning Guide, Now Available," News, last modified October 7, 2014, accessed May 22, 2018, <https://dp.la/news/dpla-community-reps-produce-hackathon-planning-guide-now-available/>.

Board of Directors:

Ultimately, the BoD provide support and advisement to the project's development. DPLA's Board officially took over in 2012²² and consisted of many information professionals, technologists, and higher education faculty, many of whom served on the steering committee. Today, the Board still mostly consists of information professionals and technologists, some of whom are original members.²³ The Board's meetings are open to the community and the calls are archived on their site.

In addition to the planning committee, ZineCat also has an Advisory Board that includes librarians, scholars, zinesters, technologists, and digital humanists. Part of the recruitment process took place during spring, 2017, where members of the DH Praxis team identified librarians, technologists, zine makers, and others to be contacted as asked to be on the Board.

Content & Scope:

What is the Collection Development Policy for the project? The DPLA has a much larger scope than ZineCat. The DPLA's scope includes "bringing together the riches of America's libraries, archives, museums, and cultural heritage sites."²⁴ (However, it is entirely possible that ZineCat will one day feed its digital holdings into the DPLA, thus making zine discoverable in DPLA in addition to ZineCat and local collections.)

The ZUC will make disparate physical zine collections discoverable in a single interface. Furthermore, the current scope of ZineCat's content is to aggregate the metadata for its members zine collections, strictly including the physical material of the zine publications, but could eventually include materials related to zine making, ephemera collected in the zine making process, and other peripheral materials related to zines and zine making. Nevertheless, the project will respect and represent the Zine Librarians Code of Ethics (additional information below).²⁵

Prototype Development and Technical Aspects:

²² The Digital Public Library of America, "Board of Directors," accessed May 22, 2018, <http://blogs.harvard.edu/dplaalpha/about/board/>.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ The Digital Public Library of America, "Strategic Plan," entry posted January 2015, accessed May 22, 2018, <https://pro.dp.la/about-dpla-pro/strategic-plan>.

²⁵ Milo, "Code of Ethics 11/15: Web Version," *zinelibraries.info* (blog), entry posted May 30, 2016, accessed May 22, 2018, <http://zinelibraries.info/2016/05/30/code-of-ethics-1115-web-version/>.

DPLA put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) in 2012 to present proposals on how a national digital discovery system should look and function.²⁶ In ZineCat's case, this work was begun during the 2012 Planning Team and continued in the spring, 2017 DH Praxis course.²⁷ Collective Access²⁸ was discussed in 2012 as being a good choice for the Zine Union Catalog's needs. The Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP) created an install profile for their collection and then provided the documentation on their GitHub repository for future instances.²⁹ In DH Praxis, the ZineCat team installed a unique instance for the prototype which was stored on Reclaim Hosting for one year (sponsored by MALS DH).³⁰ The project's development at the Graduate Center was documented on the CUNY Academic Commons: Digital Praxis Seminar 2016-2017 blog.³¹

During ITP Core II in spring, 2018 the prototype's web contract was extended for two more years thanks to an ITP Micro Grant award.

Although it would be ideal to continue development and growth of the system and collections represented throughout the project's development, it was decided during the ITP mid-term project to focus on long-term strategizing and road mapping.³²



During summer, 2018, Jenna and Lauren, along with other Zine Librarians UnConference attendees, will convene a hack session to make improvements in ZineCat's Collective Access instance.³³ A major priority for the road mapping is to identify members of the zine community that could serve as developers and technical specialists. Alternatively, there are consultants that could be hired, such as Collective Access (Whirl-i-Gig).³⁴ Sustained growth, scalability, and

²⁶ Rebekah Heacock Jones, "DPLA Releases RFP for Front-End Design and Development," entry posted August 6, 2012, accessed May 23, 2018, <http://blogs.harvard.edu/dplaalpha/2012/08/06/dpla-releases-rfp-for-front-end-design-and-development/>.

²⁷ Jenna, "xZINECOREx: Union Catalog update," entry posted July 28, 2012, accessed May 23, 2018, <http://zinelibraries.info/2012/07/28/xzinecorex-union-catalog-update/>.

²⁸ Collective Access Home Page, Collective Access, <https://www.collectiveaccess.org/>.

²⁹ MiloQZAP, "xZINECOREx," xZINECOREx GitHub, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://github.com/MiloQZAP/xZINECOREx/>.

³⁰ Reclaim Hosting, "Reclaim Hosting Home Page," Reclaim Hosting, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://reclaimhosting.com/>.

³¹ DH Praxis 2016-2017 Zine Union Catalog Team, "ZUC Category," *Digital Praxis Seminar 2016-2017: Critical, Scholarly Practice in a Digital Age* (blog), accessed May 23, 2018, <https://dhpraxisfall16.commons.gc.cuny.edu/category/zuc/>.

³² Lauren Kehoe and Jenna Freedman, "Zine Union Catalog Planning Project Proposal for ITP Core II," *ITP Core 2 Spring 2018: Interactive Technology and the University: Theory, Design, and Practice* (blog), entry posted February 3, 2018, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://core2s18.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2018/02/03/zine-union-catalog-planning-project-proposal-for-itp-core-ii/>.

³³ Jenna Freedman and Lauren Kehoe, *Zine Union Catalog: Hack*, [Page #], accessed May 23, 2018, https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DG3K_WuhpOwLKwtWsZQUtahQNAmuqFtutu76Mrd9Q/edit#slide=id.g1f3591dc82_0_73.

³⁴ Consulting, Collective Access, <https://www.collectiveaccess.org/consulting>.

accessibility of the catalog are important aspects of the project's development and we commit to finding the right people to uphold that at a reasonable cost.

Funding (Financial/Business Models):

The DPLA is funded by several foundations and government agencies.³⁵ ZineCat plans to identify similar funding streams through its planning process this semester and beyond. Agencies that have been identified thus far:

- National Endowment for the Humanities³⁶
- NYCDH Graduate Student Award³⁷
- National Leadership Grants for Libraries and Sparks! Ignitions Grants for Libraries³⁸
- Knight Foundation³⁹
- Mellon Foundation Grant⁴⁰
- Awesome Foundation Grant⁴¹
- Northeastern University Grant⁴²
- CUNY GC Provost's Digital Innovation Grant⁴³

There have also been preliminary discussions about a membership contribution model that could work on a sliding scale for those institutions contributing to ZineCat. It is clear that ZineCat will need to secure grant funding to propel the project forward, but ongoing conversations will be had to ensure that the sustainability of ZineCat is secure through a variety of funding streams. Alternatively, ZineCat can start a crowdsourcing campaign, or simply, ask for donations from the zine and library communities.

³⁵ The Digital Public Library of America, "Private and Public Support for DPLA," accessed May 22, 2018, <https://pro.dp.la/about-dpla-pro/our-supporters>.

³⁶ Office of Digital Humanities, "Digital Humanities Advancement Grants," NEH Grants, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://www.neh.gov/grants/odh/digital-humanities-advancement-grants>.

³⁷ NYCDH, "NYCDH Graduate Student Project Award," NYCDH: New York City Digital Humanities, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://nycdh.org/nyc-dh-graduate-student-project-award/>.

³⁸ Institute of Museum and Library Services, "National Leadership Grants for Libraries," accessed May 23, 2018, <https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/national-leadership-grants-libraries>.

³⁹ John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, "Future of Libraries: Knight Topic," Knight Foundation, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://knightfoundation.org/topics/future-of-libraries>.

⁴⁰ The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Home Page, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://mellon.org/>.

⁴¹ The Awesome Foundation, "New York, NY Chapter," accessed May 23, 2018, <https://www.awesomefoundation.org/en/chapters/nyc>.

⁴² Northeastern University, "About NS4G," The Social Impact Lab, accessed May 23, 2018, <http://www.northeastern.edu/impactlab/ns4g-6/>.

⁴³ CUNY GC Digital Initiatives, ed., "Provost's Digital Innovation Grants," GC Digital Initiatives, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://gcdi.commons.gc.cuny.edu/category/provosts-digital-innovation-grants/>.

Legal Issues:

Recognition and knowledge of the myriad legal issues involved in providing access for intellectual property in an online environment is essential to the success of ZineCat. The DPLA planning initiative wiki defines it very well: "...how to approach and influence the legal and copyright environment in order to support equitable knowledge distribution in a digital world."⁴⁴

The rights and privacy of zine creators is a top priority for the Zine Union Catalog as is elucidated through the Zine Librarians Code of Ethics.⁴⁵ In 2016, Jenna wrote a blog post titled "Favorite copyright/fair use statements in zines" on the Zine Libraries blog which highlights many of the creative statements within zines referring to copyright.⁴⁶ The post also references the digitization of zines through a linked post of Kelly Wooten's.⁴⁷ The Zine Union Catalog will not be a digital repository of zines, but will provide access to zines digitized ethically with permission from the rights holders. Essentially, as a community of individuals responsible for the dissemination of knowledge, we uphold the rights of the creator and will do everything within reason to secure and uphold those rights. Additionally, we will make it clear that our partners should uphold a similar respect for intellectual property. However, we recognize that the legal issues surrounding copyright, both nationally and internationally, is often a messy and confusing landscape, thus we will look to the DPLA for a model.

The DPLA and Europeana have worked together to develop a clear and straightforward explanation of the various rights statements available to materials in today's information landscape.⁴⁸ "RightsStatements.org provides twelve standardized rights statements for online cultural heritage."⁴⁹ The Zine Union Catalog will make it a point to follow this clear model and include rights information within the details of the materials discoverable in ZineCat.

Furthermore, any requests to remove content from ZineCat will be handled promptly. Simply, there will be clear instructions on [zinecat.org](#) that provide information takedown requests if creators are inclined.

⁴⁴ The Digital Public Library of America, "Main Page: Welcome to the Digital Public Library of America Planning Initiative Wiki!," Internet Archive, last modified February 11, 2013, accessed May 23, 2018, http://web.archive.org/web/20160316200044/http://dp.la/wiki/Main_Page.

⁴⁵ Milo, "Code of Ethics," [zinelibraries.info](#) (blog).

⁴⁶ Jenna, "Favorite Copyright/Fair Use Statements in Zines," entry posted March 19, 2016, accessed May 23, 2018, <http://zinelibraries.info/category/copyright/>.

⁴⁷ Jill Katte Vermillion, "Why We're Not Digitizing Zines," *Duke University Libraries* (blog), entry posted September 21, 2009, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/digital-collections/2009/09/21/why-were-not-digitizing-zines/>.

⁴⁸ The Digital Public Library of America, "Getting It Right on Rights," accessed May 22, 2018, <https://pro.dp.la/projects/getting-it-right-on-rights>.

⁴⁹ RightsStatements.org, RightsStatements.org Main Page, accessed May 23, 2018, <http://rightsstatements.org/en/>.

ZineCat Values: It is worth stating that the zine and zine librarian community upholds a strong ethic of fairness and respect for its community and zine creators. The Zine Librarians Code of Ethics can be read in full here: <http://zinelibraries.info/code-of-ethics/> The Zine Union Catalog adopts the same values.

Strategic Plan:

Midterm Update:

As was laid out in the ITP Core II midterm, in 2015, the Zine Librarians Zine Union Catalog Working Group (Working Group) developed a list of functional requirements for ZineCat:

Zine Union Catalog Functional Requirements: What we want this thing to do! ZLuC 2015, 1:30pm 6/5/2015
Need to group by API, database, UI (Allison will sort)

1. Importing single item into ZUC
2. Importing batch records into ZUC
3. Exporting single item out of ZUC
4. Exporting batch records out of ZUC
5. Ability to create a record in ZUC
6. Ability to EDIT a record in ZUC
7. Delete records? (community agreement)
8. Have access to previous versions
9. ability to add holdings to an existing record
10. Holding record - to know who holds an item
11. Live querying without exporting
12. Reporting (cataloger) -- need to figure out what kinds of reports to run
 - 12.1. items held by individual libraries
 - 12.2. analyze usage of catalog
 - 12.3. number of records added over a time period
13. Ability to upload & store images, develop guidelines
14. Ability to serve as home database for participating libraries (2.0?)
- 14.1. circ module? (2.0?) holdings note only?
15. ability to search individual libraries/collections (1.0) (UI)
16. Matching algorithm? de-duping function/master record control
 - 16.1. Merging records -- curated model-no automated de-duping? or clustering? recommended/aspirational
 - 16.2. fuzzy logic, crowd/cataloger sourced response
 - 16.3. Rejection of importing of records that already exist in the catalog -- so then an existing ZineCat record (match on ZineCat ID) would NOT be imported (goes with de-duping)
17. Profiles for institutions so we know who created what record (see Holdings record) identifier (code? avatar?)
18. Diacritics - UTF-8?
19. Hyperlinked urls -- so that anything that starts with an http:// or https://
 - 19.1. identify broken URLs for manual fixes
20. Unique IDs for each ZineCat record AND a second field for local ID (e.g., OCLC)
 - 20.1. monographs and serials
 - 20.2. repeatable? Work ID vs record ID
21. Timestamp
22. Create templates in ZUC for producing records (preferred fields, split zines(tete-beche) other kinds of things we see a lot of)
 - 22.1. xZINECOREx
 - 22.1.1. Like this? http://www.dublincoregenerator.com/generator_zc.html
 - 22.2. RDA?

Chat  0

One might look at this list and be concerned that the collaborators are too far to one end of the simple to complex spectrum. Having already completed a bare-bones prototype, our main goal for this semester was to prioritize and sequence the above elements, perhaps even direct some to the someday = LOLnever file. Following is a first pass at separating the urgent from the someday. Items crossed out are completed.

- 0. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**
- 1. Importing single item into ZUC
 - 2. Importing batch records into ZUC
 - 3. Exporting single item out of ZUC
 - 4. Exporting batch records out of ZUC
 - 5. Ability to create a record in ZUC
 - 6. Ability to EDIT a record in ZUC
 - 7. Delete records? (community agreement) people w/ log-ins, BUT NO AGREEMENTS IN PLACE
 - ✗ 8. Have access to previous versions
 - ✗ 9. ability to add holdings to an existing record
 - 10. Holding record = to know who holds an item
 - 11. Live querying without exporting. THIS MEANS CATALOG SEARCH, RIGHT?
 - ✗ 12. Reporting (cataloger) -- need to figure out what kinds of reports to run
 - 1. items held by individual libraries
 - 2. analyze usage of catalog
 - 3. number of records added over a time period
 - ✗ 13. Ability to upload & store images, develop guidelines
 - ✗ 14. Ability to serve as home database for participating libraries (2.0?)
 - 1. circ module? (2.0?) holdings note only?
 - 15. ability to search individual libraries/collections (1.0) (UI) — WELL, MORE AS A FACET THAN A SEARCH DO WE MIND?
 - ✗ 16. Matching algorithm? de-duping function/master record control
 - 1. Merging records -- curated model-no automated de-duping? or clustering?
recommended/aspirational
 - 2. fuzzy logic, crowd/cataloger sourced response
 - 3. Rejection of importing of records that already exist in the catalog -- so then an existing ZineCat record (match on ZineCat ID) would NOT be imported (goes with de-duping)
 - ✗ 17. Profiles for institutions so we know who created what record (see Holdings record) identifier
(code? avatar?)
 - ✗ 18. Diacritics - UTF-8?
 - ✗ 19. Hyperlinked urls -- so that anything that starts with an http:// or https:// ?
 - 1. identify broken URLs for manual fixes
 - 20. Unique IDs for each ZineCat record AND a second field for local ID (e.g., OCLC) I THINK WE HAVE THIS?
 - 1. monographs and serials
 - 2. repeatable? Work ID vs record ID
 - 21. Timestamp - WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT AGAIN?
 - ✗ 22. Create templates in ZUC for producing records (preferred fields, split zines(tete-beche) other kinds of things we see a lot of)
 - 1. xZINECOREx → Really just DUBLIN CORE
 - 1. Like this? http://www.dublincoregenerator.com/generator_zc.html
 - 2. RDA?
- 23 CONSIDER ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES
- ✗ 24 API

During the midterm, we were tasked with defining how long the full-fledged version will take and to summarize the skills we currently have and to propose what we would have to learn.⁵⁰ The

⁵⁰ Maura Smale and Luke Waltzer, "Midterm Assignment," *ITP Core 2 Spring 2018: Interactive Technology and the University: Theory, Design, and Practice* (blog), entry posted March 5, 2018, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://core2s18.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2018/03/05/midterm-assignment/>.

aspirational list is quite extensive and is the product of many years' worth of discussion in planning for the Zine Union Catalog. To reiterate from the midterm, it is likely that the full-fledged version will take many years to reach full maturation, but there is currently a functioning prototype (thanks to DH Praxis and the hard work of the ZUC team at the GC in addition to the work done by the Working Group and ongoing work in the ITP Certificate Program).

The main goals for the ZUC project this semester were to draw a strategic roadmap of the project and plan for its continued development and growth over the next several years, in addition to identifying and defining the main priorities for ZUC's development (see annotated list above). Main priorities include defining the decision making structure and identifying funding opportunities. Additionally, we would like to ensure that the Zine Union Catalog is accessible and adaptable as it continues to grow in functionality and content. The project will regularly consider universal design best practices as it develops.

Project Goals:

- Articulate ZUC project organizational / decision making structure
- Draft policies and document standards and workflows
- Governance & Advisory Board
- Continue metadata aggregation and normalization tools and workflows
- Build templates for ingest to ZUC
- Adhere to principles of universal design
- Identify grant and other funding opportunities
- To accomplish this, we have identified skills we have and skills we need to continue to develop or outsource:

Currently available skills/accomplishments:

- Identified tool for building Zine Union Catalog: Collective Access,
- General understanding of ZUC's backend architecture, design, and functionality (it's been several months since we've had to work on this, so we need to refresh our skill set here),
- Ability to import several records from a collection through mapping functionality (refresh needed),
- Short term project planning – Jenna and Lauren can get through the project week to week; it's the long term planning that is overwhelming
- Defined metadata standard for catalog records – ZineCore (also known as xZINECOREx, adapted from DublinCore)
- Commitment to the Zine Librarians Code of Ethics
- Many talented zine librarians, catalogers, and developers following the project's development (more outreach is needed!). This includes:

- Team Northeast US Zine Librarians (Zine Librarians Union Catalog Working Group)
- ABC No Rio zine librarian, to be named (the collective member most interested in this project has moved to RISD, so we may be able to work with him from there)
- OK Fox, Silent Barn
- Rhonda Yen Kauffman, MIT
- Alana Kumbier, Flywheel and Hampshire
- Honor Moody, Radcliffe
- NYPL zine librarian, to be named (founding zine librarian recently retired)
Papercut zine librarian, to be named
- Kelly Swickard, MICA
- Katie Haegle, Soapbox
- Brooklyn College, if they identify a zine librarian
- Joan Singh is working on adding a zine collection at Lehman College
- Anne Hays may have a zine collection in the works at College of Staten Island

Skills/Accomplishments still needed / Mid-term wants (with progress updates):

- Universal design – how can ZUC be designed so that it's adaptable and accessible?
 - Update: On April 30, 2018, we applied for a NYCDH Grad Student Award to hire a consultant who would advise us on zinecat.org's accessibility compliance. A copy of the grant is provided in the [Appendix](#).
- PHP: Jenna and Lauren would like to be more comfortable with this programming language so that our ability to work with Collective Access and communicate more effectively with developer(s). This desire is ongoing and we set out at the start of the semester to contribute an hour or so each week to learning PHP. Jenna will use Lynda.com⁵¹ and Lauren will use Code Academy.⁵²
- More outreach to community invested in this project's success –
 - Advisory Board
 - On February 17, 2018, we communicated with our AB after several months of no communication. We shared with them the proposal submitted for ITP Core II's project proposal⁵³
 - On April 14, 2018, we communicated again with the AB by sharing our mid-term Core II assignment⁵⁴

⁵¹ LinkedIn Corporation, "PHP Training and Tutorials," Lynda.com, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://www.lynda.com/PHP-training-tutorials/282-0.html>.

⁵² Codecademy, "PHP," Codecademy.com, accessed May 23, 2018, <https://www.codecademy.com/en/tracks/php>.

⁵³ Lauren Kehoe and Jenna Freedman, "Zine Union Catalog (ZUC): An Updated Project Plan," *Zine Union Catalog* (blog), entry posted February 17, 2018, accessed May 23, 2018, <http://blog.zinecat.org/updates/zine-union-catalog-zuc-an-updated-project-plan/>.

⁵⁴ Lauren Kehoe and Jenna Freedman, "ZUC ITP mid-term update!," *Zine Union Catalog* (blog), entry posted April 14, 2018, accessed May 23, 2018, <http://blog.zinecat.org/uncategorized/zuc-itp-mid-term-update/>.

- Blog - We have communicated across many blogs at this point and will continue to update our community through ongoing posts:
 - Zine Librarians Interest Group: <http://zinelibraries.info/about/>
 - DH Praxis 2016-2017: <https://dhpraxisfall16.commons.gc.cuny.edu/category/zuc/>
 - ZineCat Blog: <http://blog.zinecat.org/>
 - ITP Core II Class Blog: <https://core2s18.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>
- Social Media - We use Twitter (@zinecat) and Facebook to communicate with our community.⁵⁵
- Defined relationship with Zine Librarians Union Catalog Working Group
 - On April 28, 2018, we conferreded with six other members of the working group to discuss a variety of items. The notes for this meeting can be seen [here](#). In an effort for us to be held more accountable to our community, we have pledged to share a short(ish) journal like entry to our blog on a regular (weekly-ish) basis.
- Long term planning – GOVERNANCE / ROADMAP / FUNDING -- During the ITP Exit Interview with Michael Mandiberg, it was suggested that we run a series of workshops in the metro NYC area on ZineCat. In addition to the workshops, we would like to use our time in ITP Independent Study to further develop our roadmap and identify one or two key grants to apply for.

As part of the final, we have expanded upon our original timeline (outlined below) and provided more details for our planning roadmap of which these priorities have been identified:

- Define the decision making process and build out the Zine Union Catalog team
- Create a realistic budget as well as identify immediate funding streams through strategic grant opportunities and explore longer term sustainable funding models
- Outreach with NYC community through workshops at the Graduate Center, Metro, and other libraries and cultural institutions (in addition to other opportunities outside of NYC as they arise, i.e. the Zine Librarians UnConference in Minneapolis, MN July 12-14, 2018)
 - Design assessment strategy to ensure that community feedback is gathered in a comprehensive capacity
- Continue to build out the catalog with more collections, metadata, and functionality while ensuring the ZUC adheres to the Zine Librarians Code of Ethics and principles of Universal Design and accessibility

⁵⁵ "Zine Union Catalog," Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ZineUnionCatalog/>.

Roadmap

Where We've Been:

2009 -

- Zine Librarian UnConference: Seattle, WA
- Zine Wiki created: http://www.zinewiki.com/Main_Page

2010 -

- Zine Librarian UnConference: Portland: OR <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc-2010-pdx/>

2011 -

- Zine Librarian UnConference: Milwaukee, WI: <http://mkezluc.wikispaces.com/>

2012 -

- ZLUC: Pittsburgh, PA: <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/pgh-zluc-2012-july-27th-28th-pittsburgh-pa/>
- xZINECOREx workplan is established:
 - July <http://zinelibraries.info/2012/07/28/xzinecorex-timeline/> & <http://zinelibraries.info/2012/07/28/xzinecorex-union-catalog-update/>

2013 -

- February, 2013: Anchor Archive Subject Thesaurus posted on the Open Metadata Registry: <http://metadataregistry.org/vocabulary/show/id/317.html>
- ZLUC: Iowa City, IA: <http://iczluc.wikispaces.com/>

2014 -

- ZLUC: Durham, NC: <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc2014/>
- Zine Metadata Review: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQsBqUE8Kxmdxj6JmzPnHXIjucCftTDaUekOf-Ai5WZF2qbx3-5WbUH9vtkVv9is_318t4waIfxLwrD/pubhtml
- Working Group meetings:
 - September 29 minutes first posted on [Etherpad](#)
 - December 13

2015 -

- QZAP ZineCore Repo: <https://github.com/MiloQZAP/xZINECOREx/>
- Working Group meetings:
 - January 10
 - March 21
 - April 4
 - April 18

- May 2
 - May 16
 - May 30
 - June 13
 - June 20
 - July 7 (discuss Knight Foundation Grant)
 - July 30
 - August 11
 - August 27
 - September 16
 - October 6
 - October 20
 - November 3
 - November 17
 - December 1
 - December 15
- ZUC Functional Requirements established:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQ-615-97tmLdVdKguIgtwENS3RbZ_TpeiF6BjRB8iHuBlnFnpFT6-VX7Fn8uPy8HGYNvVSB_myW3tr/pubhtml
 - ZLUC: Austin, TX <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc-2015-atx/>
 - ZLUC: Olympia, WA: <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc-2015-oly/>

2016-

- Working Group meetings:
 - January 13 (at Simmons College - ZUC Mashcat Breakout Session)
 - January 19
 - February 15
 - March 21
 - April 18
 - May 16
 - June 20
 - July 18
 - July 31
 - August 15
 - September 19
 - October 17
 - November 21
- ZLUC: Boston, MA <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc-2016-bos/>

- December: Jenna Freedman presents plan for developing the Zine Union Catalog in CUNY GC MALS 75400 Introduction to the Digital Humanities Course:
<http://lowereastsidelibrarian.info/dhpraxis16/dataset/presentation>

2017 -

- January - May, 2017: Development of zinecat.org prototype through work at the CUNY Graduate Center:
 - <https://dhpraxisfall16.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2017/02/01/zine-union-catalog-proposal-by-jenna-freedman/>
 - Developed a Data Management Plan:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZqKUzM-nSuQ3Ao0f_FAoHQ8EEVooc-R1rTa_kx1HPqI/edit?usp=sharing
 - Built out ZineCat prototype on Collective Access:
<https://dhpraxisfall16.commons.gc.cuny.edu/category/zuc/>
 - Presented at the CUNY GC Digital Showcase:
<https://twitter.com/cunygcldi/status/864938175684325376>
- Working Group meetings:
 - March 20
- ZLUC: Long Beach, CA <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc-2017-lgb/>

2018 -

- January - April:
 - Jenna & Lauren continue work on ZineCat through ITP Core II at the CUNY Graduate Center
 - May 14 Presented at ITP Core II class:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Gf5nFvYymjTndG3RHnck85-PQ6_yvWcc1GLoEf3vNo0
 - May 16 The Digital GC End of Year Showcase 2017-2018 presentation on ZineCat: <https://videostreaming.gc.cuny.edu/videos/video/5874/>
- April – June:
 - Jenna & Lauren will have a framework for moving forward with the project and an outline of the proposed governance structure
 - Set up a regular conference call with Working Group members
- Working Group meetings:
 - April 28
 - Future meetings TBD
 - Jenna and Lauren have committed to the Working Group to provide bi-monthly updates through the zine librarians listserv and through ZineCat's blog.
- June: decide on project management software and start to build it out based on work already done and the work that needs to continue and be assigned.

- <https://zinecatalog.slack.com>
 - <http://www.hostedredmine.com/projects/zuc>
- July 12-14 Zine Librarians UnConference – Minneapolis, MN
<http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc-2018-msp/>
 - Opportunity to meet with stakeholders, catch them up on the work that's been done, and to introduce the project to those unaware of the Zine Union Catalog. Jenna and Lauren will provide three sessions at the ZLUC:
 - [Where We're At](#)
 - [ZineCat Priorities](#)
 - [Hack the ZUC](#)
 - A major outcome of attending this event will be identifying, or reaffirming, community roles in developing the Zine Union Catalog. Ongoing conversations will be had with the community to define roles, assign tasks, etc.
- August - Jenna and Lauren will ingest the community's feedback from the ZLUC and from Working Group activities. This will be accomplished through formal surveys administered after the ZLUC in addition to more informal feedback via comments on blog posts and in-person conversations, etc.
- Fall semester, 2018 –
 - ZLUC Workshops: During independent study, Lauren will offer another set of workshops at the Graduate Center, Metro, and at the Collective Access Users Group.
 - One major grant opportunity will be identified, and a draft of the grant will be completed. This will most likely be a Provost's Digital Innovation Grant (PDIG) or an NEH DH grant.
 - The ongoing development of ZineCat will be documented and circulated among formal (independent study paper, JITP article, etc.) and informal channels (blog posts and social media, etc.).
 - Ongoing discussion with Zine Librarians Union Catalog Working Group to formalize into a Steering Committee. As stated above, roles will be designated and tasks will be assigned with ongoing reflection.

Where We're Going:

- 2019-2020 Lauren and Jenna complete capstone work for the MA in DH. This could be one joint project or two separate projects that will further advance aspects of the ZUC. Details about Lauren and Jenna's degree progress still need to be worked out individually, but each is committed to their ongoing work for ZineCat.
- Additionally, Jenna and Lauren will identify and recruit a core working group who will each take on dedicated responsibilities for ZineCat's development.
- The Decision-Making Plan document will be finalized and adopted by the group.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Zine Union Catalog Team, *Governance Plan*.

- A budget for ZineCat will be established to understand the complete scope of funding required to scale the project.
- Ongoing growth of the catalog's content and capabilities will be built out.
- Jenna and Lauren will continue to present on ZineCat to relevant audiences and venues.
- Continue to set goals and refine project timeline.

Conclusion:

As was suggested in the midterm evaluation, ZineCat is past the proof of concept phase. This report demonstrates the progress made and work done in ITP Core II during the spring, 2018 semester including more focused attention on how the project can scaffold and sustain its growth, we have clarified the “problem statement” for defending why this project is valuable, and we have a roadmap for where we have been and where we are going. Nonetheless, we have not answered every question we have (i.e. site development, metadata ingest workflows, identifying specific members of the ZUC Steering Group, etc.) about ZineCat’s development and we recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done. As was also identified in the midterm assessment, building out the metadata in ZineCat, presenting on ZineCat during the fall semester, project managing, and applying for a grant is too much to be done in one semester. Nevertheless, we know that we are closer to debuting ZineCat to the world at large than we were a year ago thanks to the work accomplished this semester.

Appendix: NYCDH Grad Student Award Proposal 2018 - Zine Union Catalog

NYCDH Grad Student Award Proposal 2018: ZINE UNION CATALOG

1

The names of the project leaders:

Jenna Freedman, CUNY MALS

Lauren Kehoe, CUNY MALS

The name of team members:

Northeast United States Zine Libraries & Librarians

- ABC No Rio
- OK Fox, Silent Barn
- Rhonda Kauffman, MIT
- Alana Kumbier, Flywheel and Hampshire
- Honor Moody, Harvard
- NYPL zine library
- Papercut Zine Library
- Kelly Swickard, Maryland Institute College of Art
- Katie Haegele, Soapbox
- Andrew Clark, Simmons College

Technologist/Zine Librarian Groupie: Eric Goldhagen, Openflows

Short bios:

Jenna Freedman is a zine maker and zine librarian. She founded and curates the Barnard Zine Library at Barnard College, where she also serves as the Associate Director of Communications and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Librarian. She is currently taking her fourth class in the MALS program at the CUNY Graduate Center. A product of public school education, Jenna earned her MLIS at the University of South Florida and her BA in theater at SUNY New Paltz. Jenna's research and practice are primarily in the field of zine librarianship, a topic on which she writes and speaks frequently.

Lauren Kehoe is a librarian at New York University. She is currently pursuing a MALS in Digital Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center. She received her undergraduate degree in Dramatic Literature from NYU in 2003 and earned her MLIS from Pratt Institute in 2009. Lauren is interested in supporting researchers and scholars in the library through proven and new methods of engaging with information.

impediments to finding and using zines in aggregate for research, teaching, and learning in the humanities. The Zine Union Catalog (ZUC) seeks to aggregate metadata from these disparate sources.

Thus, a collaborative group of zine librarians, metadata specialists, and web developers is working to develop the ZUC, which is designed 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 creating authority files for 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).
- Scope and contents of proposed ZUC as a reference resource.

The ZUC, as a reference resource for the zine genre, will contain three primary components:

- Catalog records for zine titles (descriptive metadata), which give both identifying (e.g., title, creator name, production date and locality) and contextual information (e.g., subjects, genres, abstracts, biographical and historical details).
- Holdings information (details about libraries that hold specific issues, and how to access them).
- Digitized and/or digital content when available.

The [catalog prototype](#) contains a sampling of records from three zine libraries, with a limited number of fields represented in each record: creator, title, non-normalized date, and non-normalized publication location. When the ZUC is launched, contributions will be opened to any library, and the scope of the ZUC will grow to represent zine collections and zine metadata across the globe.

Since September 2014, the Zine Union Catalog (ZUC) planning team, a nationally-distributed group of zine librarians, metadata specialists, and web developers, has held regular virtual meetings and undertaken preparatory work for the development of an online platform that aims to be a fully inclusive metadata aggregation and discovery interface to enhance free access to information about zine holdings across the United States.

In the spring of 2017 a group of students, led by Dr. Lisa Rhody, in the Digital Praxis class at the CUNY Graduate Center built a [catalog prototype](#) with limited fields from sample records from

three zine libraries, thereby laying the foundation for this online catalog. Before further implementation of the ZUC, a decision needs to be made about how to implement the mutual metadata (authority control) for multiple institutions that have the same zine (but may catalog it differently) and how to represent multiple records by single authors within the catalog. Also, the long term development and viability of the ZUC needs to be determined.

Finally, through current coursework at the CUNY GC in the Interactive and Technological Pedagogy Core II course (spring, 2018), project leaders have prioritized ensuring that the ZUC is accessible so that users of all abilities can successfully use the catalog. Before continuing to develop the web interface, built using [Collective Access](#), we seek NYCDH funding to acquire consulting on the accessibility and universal design of the prototype, and to provide guidance on how to ensure that the growth of the ZUC continues to adhere to accessible principles of web design and usability.

A timeline for the project work:

We are proceeding carefully with this project, going slowly in order to consider and consult a diverse range of collaborators' needs, cultures, and ability to participate. Additionally, we not only take our collaborators' diverse needs into account, but those of the current and future users of ZineCat. We are looking to fund a consulting fee with a web accessibility expert. Our timeline for seeing this service is as follows:

- July, 2018: Zine Librarians UnConference(ZLUC) will take place in Minneapolis, MN. Project leaders will be meeting with other ZUC stakeholders to discuss accessibility.
- August, 2018: project leaders will summarize and prioritize the accessibility needs for the ZUC based on community input during the ZLUC. Project leaders will put out a Request for Proposal to accredited web accessibility consultants.
- September - November, 2018: project leaders will interview, hire, and meet with web accessibility consultant to ensure that the Zine Union Catalog is achieving optimal accessibility for its users. Platform optimization will be planned for as a result of the consultant's feedback and recommendations.
- December, 2018/Early, 2019: Receive a finalized report from consultant. Project leaders will share the report with the wider Zine Union Catalog community through various channels. It is believed that the consultant's report will ensure that the continued growth and development of ZineCat will consider and implement accessibility principles and best practices of accessible design.

A transparent, itemized explanation of your funding requirements, including a description of the labor, digital skills, funds and other resources involved:

Funding requirements:

- The full award will be used to hire a consultant to determine the accessibility of the Zine Union Catalog and to provide guidance on accessibility principles and best practices.
- Ideally, the consultant will work with the project managers onsite in New York City. If the project is not fully funded and/or if the consultant is not local, the project managers will work with them remotely.
- The consultant will be paid \$500 for their labor.
- The additional \$500 would pay for travel expenses and/or expenses related to design and implementation costs.

Other expenses

- Implementation of platform updates or redesign based on consultant's findings
- Workshops for the Zine Union Catalog community on universal web design and accessibility

Digital skills

- Universal and accessible web design
- Cataloging
- Linked open data
- PHP programming
- Collective Access experience
- Metadata transformation
- Github

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