Zines as Critical Praxis

Collapsing Discourse Around Who Owns Knowledge, and What It Means to be an Author

Madeline Veitch & Lydia Willoughby - SUNY New Paltz
The New Paltz Zine Library

read a zine
make a zine
put it in the library
ACRL-NEC Presentation and Takeaways

Presentation slides

ACRL New England 2017 - Reframing Librarianship in 21st Century

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Making the Case for Zines!
Zines Make the World Better
Zines – What?!

#DIY #cutandpaste #selfpublishing
#undergroundpress
#readermeetauthor
#saynototraditionalpublishers
#radical
#handmade

- What are your / our zine zerstories?
- What makes a zine a ‘zine’?
- How are zines unique or similar to other resources that we use in instruction?
Zines as Primary Documents -- Embodied Experience

- Democratic multiples / hand touches
- Intended to be reproduced and circulated
- Tactile, embodied connection with movements
- Often address topics through lens of embodiment
- Metaliteracy skills (zines reuse / remix, combine digital, visual, text)
Zines as Critical Voice in Critical Times

● With internet and easy downloads / reproduction, truly democratic.
● Beyond the academy - zines can reach wider / different audiences.
● Critical thinking and assimilation of ideas in design, layout and distribution of zines.
“Zines bring their creators and readers away from the digital world, and into their own flesh...Every zine creator I interviewed spoke of the pleasures of zine making, and most linked that pleasure to their bodily engagement with zines.”

--Alison Piepmeier, Girl Zines: Making Media, Doing Feminism
Embodiment as a Concept

- Author as embodied identity
- Queering of identity in the body
- “Feeling power” embodies values
- Reflection, hope
- Space for discomfort
- Toward a continuum of access to authorship:
  - Amateur
  - Professional
- Zines as one format among many, that are available to an author
Zines as Reading Praxis

S. R. Ranganathan, 1931

5 Laws of Library Science

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his / her book.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. The library is a growing organism.

Roland Barthes, 1973

The Pleasure of the Text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Readable</th>
<th>Text Writable</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Reader as a subject</td>
<td>Reader sees self beyond subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasure</td>
<td>Jouissance, Bliss</td>
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</table>
Collecting Zines: Practical Concerns

**Cataloging Workflow**

1. Ideally, give the authors an opportunity to submit their own metadata (summaries, keywords)
2. Use alternative thesauri, or create your own.
3. Take great care in recording names - only what’s on the piece, or given by the author explicitly for that purpose, not what can be dug up online.

**Guiding Values**

1. Freedom to submit, or not submit (we ask instructors not to require this as part of a zine assignment)
2. Create catalog records that reflect the language of the author (using their summary, or local / alternative controlled vocabulary in addition to LCSH.)
Zines in the Classroom:
Read + Make
Make + Read

- Two sessions, or, two in one
- Making deepens reading of zines as artifacts
- Reading inspires making: creativity and expression
- How are zines made? Deconstructing / constructing
Millennials, “Digital Divide,” & Tech

- Zine technologies are a level playing field
  - Generation & Experience
- Appeal of a format that provides smaller, more intimate audience than social media, blogs, etc.
  - We have the right to privacy and offline life
- Reset button on close reading, great retention of the text, & engagement: it’s hard to skim a zine.
Zines as a Site of Campus Discourse

- Zine Library / Zine Club provide supplies and support
- Student club + special event zines
- 24 hour zine project
- Spontaneous zines in reaction to events on campus and in the news
- Bypasses traditional scholarship production models - sometimes a relief!
- College campus environment as an ideal place for zines!
Self Care Quilt

From Take Back the Night and The New Paltz Zine Library
take some time
Having feelings about the election results?
Excerpts from zine page reactions to the election results... didn't make a page yet? 12-2 @ farmer's market tomorrow

#npzines #npsocial #nplibrary
24 Hour Zine Challenge
Come Zine around the clock with us!

Create a complete zine in 24 hours!

Sign up at bit.ly/24hourzine

Friday, February 17th,
Sojourner Truth Library Lobby
SUNY New Paltz

5–6 pm Zine-Making Workshop
6–9 pm Open Studio
(we'll have supplies, feel free to bring yours too!)

Saturday, February 18th,
Sojourner Truth Library Lobby
SUNY New Paltz

3–5 pm Final Zine Drop-off and Hands-on Help Session

Sunday, February 19th,
Lagusta's Luscious Commissary
11 Church St, New Paltz

7 pm Zine Reading and Show featuring Birdwing and Adult Mom - come pick up 20 complimentary copies of your zine - and trade or read your final zines!

More info at bit.ly/zinechallenge Contact: zines@newpaltz.edu
Workshop

Copying

Distribution
It's not about fashion
It's about i-D
Black Existentialism

"I, the man of color, am writing only this: That the tool of the oppressor never possess the man. That the enslavement of man by another man cease forever. That is, of one by another. That it be possible for me to discover and to love man, wherever he may be."
Although slavery has long been a part of human history, American chattel slavery represents a case of human trauma incomparable in scope, duration and consequence to any other incidence of human enslavement.

Man is nothing else but that which he makes of himself.
Zines in Library Instruction

Do Your Own Literature Review!

The Main Topic of My Research is:

Related Evidence-Based Practice #1
Related Evidence-Based Practice #2
Related Evidence-Based Practice #3

Library Resources

Topics in the Library Catalog
- AIDS
- Adolescent Pregnancy
- Addictions
- Alcoholism
- Children's Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Drug Use: Substance Abuse
- Family Violence
- AIDS
- HIV/AIDS
- Children's Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Drug Use: Substance Abuse
- Family Violence

Databases

SocINDEX with Full Text


Google Scholar

Scopus

EOP Section 5 Career Project
http://newpaltz.libguides.com/int175

INT 175

This research guide includes links to the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

There’s info on finding books, magazines, trade publications and scholarly journal articles about your career or profession.

There’s a guide to help you build MLA citations and walk you through part of your assignment on Identifying Sources.

Scholarly Journals, Popular Magazines, & Trade Publications

Journal of Food Science and Technology

BibAppetit

FoodNet
Zine-Related Course Assignments

● Create a zine that integrates several drawings around a theme (Studio Art)

● Remix your final research paper into a zine (English Composition I & II)

● Build a page around a theme covered in class for a course compilation zine. It can include art, writing, or research (Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies course, ‘Queer Women’)

● Perform a “liberating action” through a final project related to course themes (Introduction to Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies)

● Culture jamming activity for Environment & Culture course (Geography)
As a student at SUNY New Paltz taking the class, Women Images and Realities, I was required to complete a liberating action project for our final assignment, which included carrying out a feminist act that I would not have been able to do before taking this class.

My project included me starting to see a therapist to better understand the negative feelings I was feeling and learn how to deal with them in healthy ways. I placed value in myself for the first time, and realized that I didn’t have to feel the way that I constantly felt.

In addition, I created a zine to explain to others, who have never experienced anxiety and depression, the way these things affect some people in such heavy, all-consuming ways on a daily basis.

-Danielle

**Generalized anxiety disorder**

is characterized by excessive, exaggerated anxiety and worry about everyday life events with no obvious reasons for worry.

Often, the anxiety dominates the person's thinking so much that it interferes with daily functioning, including work, school, social activities, and relationships.

Sometimes just the thought of getting through the day produces anxiety.

The worries are unlikely to simply go away on their own, and they may actually get worse over time.

There may be times when the worries don't completely consume the person, but they still feel anxious even when there's no apparent reason.

GAD has symptoms that are similar to panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and other types of anxiety, but they're all different conditions.

GAD affects 6.8 million adults, in any given year.
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<tr>
<th>Library Holdings</th>
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<td>Danielle.</td>
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<td>Title</td>
<td>Understand anxiety and depression: ...even if you have never experienced it yourself / by Danielle.</td>
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<td>20 pages: color illustrations; 22 cm.</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Created in the spring of 2016 for the course Women, Images, and Realities; SUNY New Paltz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Provides background information about anxiety and depression as well as first-hand accounts of living with anxiety. Includes tools and affirmations for those living with anxiety, as well as advice for interacting in a positive and supportive way with people who are experiencing anxiety or depression.</td>
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<td>Self-acceptance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>&quot;I was asked to do something that liberated me for Women Images and Realities final project. I wanted to make a zine that spoke to my feelings about identity and growing up as a queer woman. I collected art from friends to use along with my poetry and used my own art as well. Putting it in the zine library pushes me out of my comfort zone.&quot; -- the author</td>
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<td>State University of New York at New Paltz -- Students.</td>
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<td>Body politics.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School zines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hudson Valley zines.</td>
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</table>
Kalypso’s Seduction of Odysseus:
Yet Another Instance of a Powerful Woman and a Weak Odysseus

On Odysseus’ journey home, he was held captive by a goddess named Kalypso, who kept Odysseus for the purpose of sex. She did love and care for him, and even offered him the chance at immortality. But she stole the “alleged” Odysseus extremely weak, as he cried night after night. He was later released by Kalypso. But did Odysseus really enjoy Kalypso’s company in the absence of his wife? We seem to think so.

Are his actions really fair in this case? Did Odysseus have a choice? His wife was still back in Ithaca mourning her husband... But what about Kalypso’s feelings? She was demanded by Zeus through Hermes to allow Odysseus to leave her island. Why is it that the gods were able to have sexual relations with mortal women while Kalypso was not allowed to have relations with a mortal man?

Athena’s Role
Would Odysseus Have Gotten Home Without Her?

After Athena’s father, Zeus, sent Hermes to Kalypso’s island to tell her that she must release Odysseus, Odysseus began his journey home on a raft. He was now locked in a massive storm Odysseus’ way, in hopes of delaying his journey further.

But Athena calmly waited and guided Odysseus to land. She would have found another home.

Athena continued to guide Odysseus, as he faced tribulation on his journey home, and eventually helped him to get back to his wife and son on the island of Ithaca.

But that’s not all she did!

When Odysseus returned home and found that Penelope’s suitors had disrespected his home and killed him, she decided to kill them all in a massacre. During the battle, Athena disguised herself as Minerva, and ended off the suitors that were going to kill Odysseus. What would have happened without her? He would have been dead by now!
WEAR WHAT WHY

QUESTIONS ABOUT ADORNMENT
contemporary ideas in poetry and music, 1984

NATURE CAN ADORN
Zines as a tool to connect library staff with each other.
Impact of Community Archives in Response to Symbolic Annihilation

Activity: Start Planning Zine Programming on Your Campus

- **Brainstorm:** What are some current on-campus dialogues or conversations that might lend themselves to zine projects?
- **Find your allies:** Specific academic departments? Student clubs?
- **Budget and backing:** Who will sign off on funding for materials? Are there materials you already have access to / could get for free?
- **Time and support:** Can zine programming fit within your existing duties? Will you need more time, or a student assistant to help out?
Share out
Future Direction, Considerations/Concerns

- Neoliberal takeover of higher education in times of austerity
- Campus context of increased class size in General Education curriculum, minimal teacher labor to assess knowledge production
- Zines: medium of feeling power vs. classroom assessment tool
Questions?

Reflections?