

Discussion!

Jerianne: (report back from PZS session she and Kelsey did)

- issues with digitizing zines
- appropriateness of getting a zine from a third party when the creator doesn't want it in the library
- people v. interested in a zine librarian code of ethics, in terms of collections, cataloging, etc.

EJ: finding and selecting; working within an institution/bureaucracy, professional development, working with volunteers, outreach efforts

Lindsae: adding zines to a collection (selection), criteria

KM: money! How organizations that do have it can work with those that don't

Jerianne: Promoting in community if you don't live in Portland, out where people don't necessarily know what zines are

Kelsey: volunteers (processes, how to select people, what tasks are/aren't)

Laural: Funnelling donations (e.g. From MCL to other libraries)

Kelsey: how we can all support each other - how can libraries like IPRC, ZAPP, Bird's Nest can work with libraries

Promoting awareness!

EJ: has come up, seems to be central to the mission of Bird's Nest. This can also be lessons we can apply other places. Even in PDX, lots of people don't know what zines are.

KM: workshop at a science library

Laural: Was a medical librarian - people want a pamphlet, something digestible

EJ: We're talking about how zines can get sneaked into what we're already doing. A lot of people want something easy to read. With medical zines, there are a lot of personal stories (e.g. My experience with Crohn's Disease)

Jerianne: Tried to make connections for people who miiiiight be interested. But as programming has cut back, circulation has, too. How do you make it a ongoing, self-sustaining thing?

CC: One thing to do is connect with the hardchargers - spread it out so it's not just you, then they can carry the torch. (e.g. A zinester who cranks 'em out.) As Arab-American, interested in zines by people of color - connected with someone here in Portland who does workshops about that. Concerns by people of color - if you do a zine does it have to be about being Arab, Black, etc? Or can you just make a zine about whatever?

EJ: best ways to do programming (according to public libraries) - connect with other community organizations. Does that work? Are there stories?

Kelsey: just started working with the all-ages club in Oly (Northern), doing programs. First was Microcosm Tour, which she had at the club instead of at the library. Second was 24-hour zine thing program. Did it there because it couldn't be 24 hours at the Library - could, at Northern, because they're not bound by the same rules as the library.

Nicki: also at that event, had local music - people came for the band, stayed for the event

Kelsey: get stats up!

EJ: that's valid! The overlap can be really valuable.

Jerianne: partnership with the rock and roll camp for girls had an event at the library, showing a film, etc. Hardly had to do any work about it!

Lindsae: opening extravaganza, with bird-themed food

Selection and criteria

Jerianne: Identifying sources. Makes a difference if you've got funding for buying zines, vs. If you're seeking donations. If you've got money, institutional processes invoices, etc.

Libraries with those bureaucratic rules, the easy way out is to buy from distros. You're not getting the direct connection with zinesters! And then, you're gonna miss out on some zines. But, distros can help you find specific kinds of zines. Also, there are review tools (zines and websites) even if they aren't Library Journal standards. Also, donations: if you've got a website, make sure that you state you want donations for your library. Be involved in online communities (e.g. We Make Zines) some people will say they want to donate to libraries, so get on top of it! Make sure you're on Zine World! You can also put a free classified in Zine World saying that you're looking for donations.

EJ: important to remember, either way you've got to be brassy, tell people about your library and say that you want to make it work. People who work in libraries can be shy...but you've got to be ready to ask for donations, or ask people to go through the hoops of bureaucracy. People creating zines are not in it to be on NYT bestseller's list or to make big bucks. People want people to interact with their zines. If you say "I want this in my library!" they want it in their library, too. At MCL, lots of zines in PDX. Both PZS and Stumptown Comics fest these are easy ways for them to buy from, and they buy from stores in PDX that sell zines. This allows chance to make connections with local businesses, ask staff for their recommendations, etc.

CC: Buying from PZS, SC, stores, collection is tighter, circ is higher. May want to have a collection policy, just to justify why you haven't accepted something. Some people just want to challenge libraries, so if you have a policy from the start, you have something to fall back on.

EJ: helps avoid community drama. MCL has a collection policy specifically for zines, but a bit loosey goosey.

Kelsey: TRL also does, and did before even launching the collection. Started with a list of subjects we thought would be relevant to the community. This helps in case donations don't fit. Also have a caveat in collection development policy, that if we don't accept it, think about donating to these other libraries. Other thing with donations, people are so eager, they want to know when it is in the catalog! It may take 3 or 4 months before you get it in the catalog...so tell 'em.

EJ: MCL will look at donation and won't tell ya if they'll take it. They only take things they have multiple copies of. Mostly, haven't had trouble with explaining process.

CC: Something else to think about is intellectual freedom. Public libraries are dedicated to reflecting multiple perspectives, but selection policy can help you determine if there are subjects you don't want to include (e.g. Something about gun culture)

Kelsey: has been trying to find more conservative zines, e.g. The Match

EJ/CC: American Gun Culture Report (looks more like a magazine)

Christopher: wouldn't say it's terribly conservative it's about being fairly progressive, but

still supporting gun rights, in a way that mainstream gun magazines do

Jerianne: sign up on the Yahoo list!!! libraries will say if they have zines to donate/swap

CC: question about donations older zines, are they worth donating?

Jerianne: Definitely for an archival space, but even from public library, older zines can show the history of zines. There can be a place for it.

Kathryn: ZAPP wants it!

EJ: IPRC also has old stuff. Collection policy can be really open. May be special interest in particular topics or regional.

Kelly: Collection policy can help in volunteer-run organizations

Kathryn: Institutional memory is key at community archives. Keep your old agendas!

EJ: archives even forget to keep their own archives

Kathryn: same problems come up again and again!

Kelsey: made changes in original document, have lots those changes.

Kelsey: Our library doesn't want us to solicit donations. I can take donations, but they don't want me to tell people about it. I struggle with it. I got someone in a position of power on board, but she's head of collections, and didn't want to diminish collection by it being donation-based.

CC: why do they say that?

Kelsey: they want the library to look reputable

Laural: they don't want vanity press, print-on-demand

EJ: also, don't want a flood of unsolicited donations, can create a backlog for selection, catalog, etc.

CC: as much as you can, find out the real reasons...and see if you can get them a statement that will make 'em less fearful.

EJ: sounds like it's fear-based, so reaction may reflect that

Jerianne: be specific about the kinds of zines you're looking for. Narrowing the focus down.

CC: statistics of attendance, comments from people bolster what the community is saying, to pitch to

Kathryn: coming from an archive that collects everything important to do that, but circulating library can't do that!

Kelsey: they may not understand the culture, that giving away stuff and trading is part of zine cultures

EJ: we have gone to managers with comments from individuals; also, talk about the culture with managers who oversee what you do. So, meeting with tech services, they brought a bunch of zines for people to look at and get excited about. It made them more comfortable with working

CC: pay people to speak, buy stuff from local folks. So, they've asked for statements about how it sustains them, putting money into the community.

EJ: had to show that 75 bucks could sustain someone.