

From the Ground: Using Zines for Emerging Stories, Lindsae Sindaul & Allynn Carpenter, Bird's Nest Zine Library

Lindsae talked about how the library started – they found a space, organizers combined their personal collections to start. A lot of the collection is politically focused, personal narratives. Library is run by a small group of volunteers, no budget. Anyone can get a library card, can check out 3 zines for 1 week. Mission statement: Knowledge is power. Self-knowledge & understanding of one's community is really important, trying to promote & share.

Allynn said she has been making zines as long as she can remember. Zines gave her an outlet to talk about being a single parent, an anarchist, her views of the world. In Portland zines are everywhere, but in Spokane no one knew what a zine was. They wanted to increase awareness of zines.

Lindsae said a zine can be your story, too. Storywalk (or Story Walk?) is a zine they made: took participants on a walking tour of downtown Spokane to share their stories. One participant wrote a blog about the zine library. Realization they're trying to foster: anyone can tell a story. The idea of not being good enough to speak has permeated Spokane culture; they're not able to verbalize themselves. Zine workshop – people were inspired and didn't know where to start. They're committed to not charging fees or requiring paperwork. The challenge is increasing awareness of the library and its function within the community. Sometimes it's a culture clash. They're trying to promote the idea of shared storytelling. They want to make a zine-making station in the library. Kim liked the idea of getting people to relate to the process of documenting and relating their own story; anyone can do this, regardless of their background. Cathy's ideas: family history, genealogy. Said that Laurel got her family to submit recipes and made a zine for a holiday present. Kim said a zine can be for anybody, not exclusionary. Ex: zines that came out after Katria with stories that you never heard about in the mainstream media.