

Freestyle moderated discussion, Emily-Jane Dawson, Multnomah County Library
We began by making a list of potential discussion topics (which I didn't note).

Promoting zine collections / increasing awareness

Kelly -- her experience working at a science library at a big university and hosting a zine workshop; it led to a lot of academic questions/discussion. Demonstrated how zines can be a wealth of knowledge that people can tap into that they didn't know existed.

Emily-Jane / Laurel – sneaking things into other things we're doing, way to increase awareness. People want medical information but something easy to read (pamphlet, not book), zines can be good for that.

Cathy – spread the work load, find someone who is a good speaker & get them to do a presentation

Emily-Jane – successful events, find organization to partner with you with different community connections

Kelsey – started working with an all-ages club, putting on programs there (Microcosm tour – built-in audience; music – brings in more people)

Jerianne – Rock Camp for Girls book tour; tied well with local rock camp & zine collection

Selecting zines

Emily-Jane -- Sometimes you have to be brassy (be willing to speak out and say we want you to send us your zine); we tend to be more shy, not outspoken (have to get over that). Can be hard but need to be willing to say “Can you donate this to us” or “can you find a way to work with us.” People who are creating zines are not looking to make a living at this – they're doing it so people will interact with their zine, read it.

Emily-Jane – We have interesting situation here, two local events every year (Portland Zine Symp, Stumptown). Buying from zines at events is far more easier than dealing with a distro. Also buy from stores. (Gives a chance to examine the zine before buying.) Always ask people who work there for recommendations. Make a zine at your library and be willing to trade with others.

Cathy – Buying at events is more successful (actually get what you expect). Buying from distros was more spotty. Having a selection policy is good for when you reject something. Even if you just say “we reserve the right to decide what's in the collection,” etc. (avoid bad blood)

Kelsey – What's helpful is identifying a list of subjects we thought would be most popular/relevant to our community. ... If we don't take a (donated) zine, we have other places we (recommend it goes to). (Delays in cataloging donated zines, sometimes people get impatient, want to know why it's not in your catalog yet.)

Emily-Jane – We don't add anything we can't get multiple copies of. Costs the library lots of money to do the work of cataloging and processing. It's more efficient (better use of resources), more people will get to use and read it.

Cathy – Intellectual freedom, in public libraries, we feel strongly we should reflect a lot of different viewpoints. That's where having a collection policy can help. Sometimes weird situation: I'm against violence against women; on other hand I support (freedom of expression). ... Yahoo group – opportunity for librarians who have zines and want to donate to another library.

Cathy – Accepting donations of older zines? Can help with historical perspective of collection; archival places want; can be important to community, local history.

Kelly – Having a policy can be useful when you have a rotating door. Volunteers come and go, if there's something stable, even if it's open-ended. When someone else comes in, they have something to work with.

Emily-Jane – institutional memory ... archive especially in the beginning can forget to archive about itself.

Cathy – The same problems come up again and again.

Kelsey – My library doesn't want me to encourage, solicit donations. ... Thinks part of it is she didn't want the collection to seem less legitimate.

Emily-Jane – could be concern about having flood of unsolicited donations you'd have to look at; creates cataloging backlog , etc.

Jerianne – maybe if you say “we accept donated zines made in Washington” or “zines on these subjects,” maybe narrowing focus down