

# Final Recommendation: Redesigning FAL's Zine Collection Website

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*In response to the Fine Arts Library's need to create a better web space for its zine collection, this report brings together research on zine website features and usability to develop reasonable and actionable solutions for making a successful redesign of the FAL zine collection website. We make the case for updating the website, and then analyze comparable zine websites to gain a sense of what has already been done, present findings from a user survey to outline user needs, and finally propose solutions both in a list format and realized in wireframe mockups.*

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## **i. Introduction**

Zines – those handmade, self-published, usually Xeroxed little magazines associated with sci-fi fandom, the 1970s punk scene, and riot grrrl – are an important but confounding piece of the material culture of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century. They defy precise definition, span many genres and infinite subjects, are sometimes more ‘art’ than ‘print culture’ or vice versa, straddle the line between archival and circulating material, and are a challenge to find or discover, even as scholarly interest in them is on the rise. Despite the difficulties they present, the University of Texas Fine Arts Library began collecting zines in 2010, and to increase scholarly access, introduced a basic space for them on the Fine Arts website in 2011.

The current online zine space is two web pages: a landing page and a collection page. The landing page gives guidance on researching zines. The collection page is a list, featuring the covers, titles, and publishing information of the zines and linking to their catalog records. This is an excellent first step, but in order to maintain even its current level of usefulness, the collection page would need improvements to accommodate additions to the collection. For example, it is only navigable by scrolling, and this will become very tedious when the library’s two large, newly accessioned collections of zines are added to it. Furthermore, though all the zines on the page link to their catalog records, those records do not always provide quite enough information to indicate the nature of the zine they are describing. And since they are cataloged with the entirety of the general collection, it is almost impossible to discover a zine by subject. As for discoverability, currently the only way to find the collection page is through the landing page, where a tiny link to it is buried at the very bottom. Without providing more information and a clearer access point, the collection page is limited in how much it can help scholars locate desired materials.

In discussing the online zine space with the Fine Arts Librarian, many of these concerns were echoed. And as the curator of the collection, the librarian presented several of her own requirements for a redesigned zine website. In addition to desiring overall enhanced usability, she also asked about the possibilities of creating a genre classification scheme, incorporating provenance information into the metadata, and improving the workflow to make updating the website easier. In the end, we were able to address, to some degree, the issues of usability, genre, and provenance, but workflow proved beyond the scope of our project.

To create a new design of the zine collection website that meets the goals of:

- 1. Improved usability and access,**
- 2. Integration a of zine genre classification scheme,**
- 3. Incorporation of provenance metadata,**
- 4. Streamlined workflow.**

We broke down our work process into four steps:

- 1. Compare the features, qualities, and design choices of other zine collection websites,**
- 2. Survey users of zine collection websites,**
- 3. Compile a list of requirements,**
- 4. Develop wireframes to give an idea of how the improved website would function.**

These steps are laid out in the following document and explain how we arrive at our final recommendations for the website.

## ii. Comparing Zine Collection Websites

To gain an understanding of what kind of solutions for zine collection websites already existed, we conducted a review of all zine websites that could be located on the internet. We compiled a list of 25 sites (see appendix a), and from this list we selected examples that employed features like advanced searching, faceted browsing, and genre and subject classification. The eight selected sites range in complexity, but all present interesting approaches to the problems facing zine collections online.

Read/Write Library, Chicago: <http://readwritelibrary.org/catalog/search>  
University of California, Riverside: <http://library.ucr.edu/?l=fanzine>  
Minneapolis Community and Technical College: <http://library.minneapolis.edu/zines/zines.html>  
Sallie Bingham Center at Duke University: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingdb/zines/>  
Hampshire College: <http://sites.hampshire.edu/zines/>  
Independent Publishing Resource Center: <http://library.iprc.org/>  
Anchor Archive Zine Library: <http://www.robertsstreet.org/n/zine-library>  
Queer Zine Archive Project: <http://archive.qzap.org/index.php>

To capture these sites' pros and cons, and similarities and differences, we arranged them in a comparison matrix (see appendix b). We noted each site's 1) complexity, 2) aesthetic, 3) search elements, 4), browsing options, 5) basic search and 'view all' options and 6) unique features. This process helped highlight what kinds of questions we would need to answer before we made any decisions about the redesign.

1) For complexity, we considered how different features might generate more text, more explanation, or more pages, which would in turn generate more work and a higher potential for "getting lost" on the site. The Anchor Archive Zine Library is an example of a website whose features are so abundant that they sometimes threaten to overcrowd and overcomplicate it. Sites that fell somewhere between simple and complex, such as the Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC)'s, provided an idea of what a good balance of functionality and usability could look like.

2) By looking at aesthetics we found that one can use a varying amount of attractive, even flashy, design to achieve different results. For example, while the Sallie Bingham Center at Duke University's site uses minimal visual elements, its clear layout and smart browsing options easily make up for it. The Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP)'s website, on the other hand, is on the opposite end of the spectrum, with a fun zine-y theme and lots of graphics. QZAP's flashy feel draws in visitors and encourages browsing by taking every opportunity to display appealing, click-worthy zine images – it's good for zine beginners (although also good for the seasoned reader!). The Duke site, on the other hand, might appeal less to the more casual user.

3) By comparing search elements, we get an idea of what are typical advanced search options for zines and which ones are suited to which collections. Some sites only provide a basic search bar coupled with browsing options (or in the case of Duke, with "narrowing" options), while others offer a number of fields to type searches into. After title and creator, the other popular fields include subject, date or year, and location. Two sites (the IPRC and Anchor Archive) classify (and are searchable) by genre, though the IPRC refers to them as categories, and Anchor Archive calls them boxes, in reference to the way they are physically arranged in the zine library. UC Riverside, presumably because it has accessioned large zine collections from notable sci-fi collectors, has a provenance search field.

The way search fields are employed also varies somewhat from website to website. Some return any results that match (e.g., typing in "go" would return results for "gold" and "ago", etc.),

some only return exact matches, and UC Riverside, which has by far the largest collection (around 75,000 zines!), lets you choose between the two. On the Anchor Archive site, several shortcuts are used. For the subject search, they use an auto-complete function that will only complete with actual terms in their subject thesaurus, so that the user can know right away if what they're typing in will return any results. For their 'box' (genre) search, Anchor Archive uses a drop-down menu to select from. IPRC also employs a selectable menu for their 'category' (genre) option.

4) Many browsing and narrowing options are similar to search options, but are usually used in place of a search field. Hampshire College, for example, only has a basic keyword search bar, but you can browse by titles, subjects, decades, and locations. Other websites with limited browsing, such as the IPRC's, use something akin to a tagging system, where much of the information in the item record is actually a link. Thus, the publication year '1996' is a link that, when clicked, will produce a results list of all zines published that year. Some sites, like QZAP, use both extensive browsing options and tags. QZAP, in fact, seems to use everything. In addition to advanced search, browsing options, and tags, it also has a 'narrowing' functionality that allows you to refine your search results. Duke, which perhaps faced more limitations in creating its website and is much more basic than QZAP, also effectively uses narrowing options in combination with a simple search. The narrowing options are responsive, so if you search for a specific zine, the options under "city of publication," (for example), will only be cities in which that zine was published.

5) The idea behind the column for basic search/'view all' options was to track whether the websites enabled users to engage with their collections more generally – can a user view all of the zines? Can she conduct a keyword search across all fields? Allowing users to browse the entire collection can provide them with a sense of what's available, alert them to items they are unfamiliar with, help jog their memory of zines whose titles they cannot recall, and lead to serendipitous discovery. It is also important to allow for users to search generally, or across all fields, so as not to limit their results unnecessarily.

6) Lastly, we kept an eye out for any unique features the websites used:

The Read/Write Library Chicago takes location data to a new level by providing coordinates and a link to Google maps. They also list zine creators' websites in the item record information.

The IPRC has a metadata element for format which very consistently lists dimensions, method of printing, and number of pages.

UC Riverside, as already mentioned, has a search field for provenance.

The Anchor Archive has a page on which they define the genres they use to classify their zines, explaining which kinds of zines fall into which category.

On their item record pages, QZAP has metadata categories for usage rights information, "related zines," and "related collections."

By compiling this information, we were able to consider why some zine website features are common, which ones seem useful, and where there might be room for improvement. Perhaps most importantly, the comparison matrix informed our next step in the redesign process: user surveys.

### iii. Surveying Users

To determine what typical users of a zine collection website might want out of our revamped site, we contacted individuals whom we knew to have an interest in zines – some use them in courses they teach, some study them, some are librarians who maintain zine collections at their respective libraries.

We developed a survey (see appendix c) that asked our respondents about their experience using zine collection websites and what sorts of features they preferred to work with. Curious about introducing newer features, we also asked them about their interest in searching by zine format, by copyright status, or through a function that displays zine location information on a map. Although the number of respondents was quite small – five, to be exact – we still managed to extract useful information from their answers.

Much of the survey confirmed what we already suspected, e.g., people like advanced search bars *and* advanced browsing options! But the respondents also provided us with a number of new ideas to consider. The findings are summarized below.

#### Advanced Search and Browsing Options

1. Both advanced searches and browsing options have a role in zine research and both should be offered on a zine collection website to yield the most use of the collection.
2. Being able to search or browse by a zine's aesthetic features – its size, material, color, binding type, etc. – was highly desirable.
3. Two respondents liked the idea of being able to search by copyright status, two people were not interested, and one didn't know.
4. One person was fairly interested in having zines presented on a map based on where they were published, while others were not very interested in this feature.

#### Respondents' Suggestions

We asked the respondents if they had any suggestions for ways to search and browse, or for other website features.

1. Two mentioned that they wanted to be able to see the zines online – one specifically wanted them fully digitized, while another suggested more generally, “Any way that the physical size and physicality of the zine could be communicated would be good.”
2. Two wanted to know the provenance of the zines – were they obtained by donation, bought at a zine fest, or acquired another way?
3. Two wished to see more contextual information. One wanted a list of links to other zine collections so that her students could browse more widely and better comprehend the significance of the medium, while the other wanted a sense of how zines were related to one

another, or to know which ones might have similar content, “in the same way,” as he puts it, “that Amazon offers ‘Other people who bought this book were also interested in...’”

4. One person wanted to be able to browse zines by LC subject heading. This came from a librarian.

## Ranking Other Zine Collection Websites

Our most demanding question requested that our respondents view five zine collection websites (QZAP, IPRC, Duke, Anchor Archive, and Hampshire College) and rank them, best to worst, most useful to least. Two respondents answered, and they generally leaned toward these three sites:

1. The Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP)
2. The Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC)
3. The Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s Studies (Duke)

One respondent explained that she liked the QZAP website best because it digitizes all of its zines. This skews the answers slightly, as whether zines are digitized or not was not a criterion we expected respondents to use, but also raises the question of whether FAL should consider digitizing its zines.

Despite skewing, though, these selections were still interesting. The QZAP and IPRC sites have user-friendly interfaces and advanced search options. The Duke site was popular despite having neither of these qualities, instead employing responsive narrowing options. All three sites provide a fairly high level of detailed information for each zine.

A third respondent opted not to rank zine websites but instead to mention one she liked, which in the respondent’s case was CLIO, the library catalog of Columbia University. She says, “The metadata for zines in CLIO is *extremely* thorough, which makes it easy to identify and follow relationships among zines, zinesters, associated educational institutions, geography, topics, etc.” Here the usefulness of detailed, thorough information is mentioned explicitly. In fact, it almost seems to indicate that good catalog entries would be just as acceptable as a dedicated zine website. However, the zines at Columbia University are cataloged by Barnard College librarian Jenna Freedman, a leading figure in the zine library community, who was lucky enough to find the time and support to personally catalog these zines. This forces us to consider how our website can provide comparable thoroughness without the dedicated zine cataloger, and how building this website could make that easier to do.

## iv. Solutions

To bring together the information gathered through an analysis of comparable websites and user surveys, we compiled a list of functional requirements for making the FAL zine collection website usable, helpful, and enjoyable. This list makes up the first part of the proposed solutions. Wireframe mockups make up the second part, presenting a way of weaving these requirements together into a usable interface.

## a. Functional Requirements

### Searching

Since all survey respondents agreed that they use advanced searches for their needs, it is clear that we should offer an advanced search module. *Title* and *creator* fields are conventional at this point, as should be a basic keyword search, so as to give the user the option to search all metadata for a given term. These are necessary and essential for providing users with the quickest route to specific items and should be implemented if nothing else is.

### Browsing

Browsing options greatly broaden a user's searching possibilities by arranging zines into cohesive groups. Furthermore, by employing features like drop-down menus and lists of options to select from, browsing functionality shows the reader what kind of information is available for them to choose from, rather than letting them try to guess through a traditional search bar. When it comes to browsing, we think offering as many options as users showed an interest in is a good starting point. There are seven different options that we believe the new website should employ, even though some will require more work to figure out how to implement them successfully.

#### 1. Genre

Currently, the zines in the collection are not classified by any genre scheme. In their catalog entries, the LC genre that they have been assigned is 'zines', which obviously doesn't help a user differentiate between them. In order to make this browsing option happen, a genre scheme needs to be created first. It should not be too granular, as we wish to give the user a sense of overarching themes in the collection. These can then be presented to the user in a drop-down menu to select from.

#### 2. Subject

Information on the subject of a zine is generally that which makes up its catalog description. On the Anchor Archive website, for example, the zines are described by tags that are entered by the cataloger – these tags then form a list that is searchable through the 'subject' search bar. QZAP also provides description by tagging zines with keywords. The IPRC website provides prose descriptions of its zines and allows the user to do a keyword search on them through the 'description' search bar. To apply this to the FAL website, the cataloger (or whoever ultimately enters the zines into the website) will need to describe the subjects of the zines through tags. This way, the tags can then be compiled into a searchable list. On the Anchor Archive site, their tag list has become substantial, but they deal with it easily by making their search bar display a drop-down list that matches the user's typing in real time, so the user is immediately brought to the subject she is looking for. This is an ideal solution that allows for a very granular subject list without overwhelming the user.

#### 3. Format

Since zines are such visual publications and vary so widely in layout, printing technique, binding methods, etc., it makes sense that browsing by format would be a popular search method, as our survey confirmed. Currently the information available on format in the zines' catalog entries refers to their dimensions. This is a good start, but a vocabulary will need to

be developed to describe the rest of the aesthetic elements of the zines. Beyond printing processes and bindings, other elements that might be considered include color, special covers, and unusual features. These can then be displayed in a drop-down list or pop-up box with check boxes, allowing for multiple selections if a user wishes to view, for example, both the rubber band and the staple bindings all together.

#### *4. Place*

Information on place of publication is happily already recorded, generally speaking, in zines' catalog records, which should make this one of the easier browsing options to create. Ideally, this function should allow the user to search by city or state, which can be achieved simply by offering a drop-down menu for each.

#### *5. Date*

Date of publication is also already conveniently recorded in zines' catalog records. However, to make the dates useful in a browsing context, the year of publication should be separated out, and the decade that it falls into should be noted so that the user can search by either year or decade. They can be presented in a drop-down menu or pop-up box with check boxes for making selections of multiple years.

#### *6. Copyright Status / Usage Rights*

This is probably the most experimental of all the browsing options. Because zines are often created with the intention to be distributed, redistributed, and reused freely, it could be very worthwhile to indicate in this context which ones fall into this category. It may also be of interest from a scholarly perspective to see how different creators did or did not copyright (or copyleft, or creative commons,) their works. To create this browsing option, copyright information would need to be recorded. Many zines, of course, will not specify if they are copyright, and for these a decision will have to be made on how to label them. Shall they be considered "No known copyright restrictions," a designation used on flickr for images usually digitized by cultural institutions and assumed to be in the public domain? Or should they be "Assumed Copyright," the designation used by QZAP when no copyright information can be found? These options, when decided upon, can be presented in a drop-down menu or pop-up box with check boxes allowing for multiple selections.

#### *7. Provenance*

Provenance was mentioned by both the Fine Arts Librarian and a number of survey respondents as a possible browsing option. Currently this is not recorded in the catalog records and would need to be noted somehow before it even reached the zine cataloger, since this information is obviously not included in the zine. Examples would include "Domy Books," "Austin Zine Fest," or maybe the name of a donor who gives a significant or distinct collection of zines to FAL. These can be displayed in a drop-down menu.

## **Digitization**

Several survey respondents stressed the importance of digitizing zines. QZAP has been successfully digitizing zines for years. Due to the uniqueness of much of the collection, digitization would be a very valuable way to enhance the online presence of zines and improve access to their

art and history. It seems advisable, if we really want to increase access to this collection, to digitize. And yet, there may be reasons not to. Kelly Wooten, librarian at the Sallie Bingham Center and curator of its zine collection, decided not to digitize and, in a well-circulated blog post<sup>1</sup>, she gives four reasons: 1) difficulty to secure permission; 2) copyright infringement; 3) privacy of the authors; and 4) contradiction to hand-made, print-culture values of zine community. These are reasons worth considering, and while we urge digitization, ultimately the Fine Arts Librarian must determine what is best for the collection.

## b. Wireframes

To bring the functional requirements to life, we created wireframes demonstrating how the components could be fit into a cohesive whole. In addition to all of the previous research we conducted, we also consulted two sites devoted to artists' books, which provided ideas and inspiration for some of our design concepts. We list them here to provide additional context for our wireframes and encourage readers to visit them in addition to the zine collection websites listed above.

Printed Matter, a website for an artists' books store: [Printedmatter.org](http://Printedmatter.org)

Artists' Books in the Reed College Digital Collections: [cdm.reed.edu/cdm4/artbooks/](http://cdm.reed.edu/cdm4/artbooks/)

Below are the wireframes, followed by explanations of our choices. We aimed to 'dream big,' and show the potential for the growth of the website with the understanding that these ideas can be scaled down to fit the constraints that will arise in rebuilding the site.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/digital-collections/2009/09/21/why-were-not-digitizing-zines/>

## First Wireframe: Landing Page

Before:

Home > Research Tools > Research by Subject > Zines at the Fine Arts Library

### Zines at the Fine Arts Library

FAL  
Fine Arts Library

#### Looking for zines in library collections

Try searching in our [library catalog](#), in other library catalogs, or in [WorldCat](#), using the following keywords:

- Alternative Press
- Artist's books
- Fan Magazines
- Fanzines
- Little Magazines
- Self-Publishing
- Underground Press
- Zines

#### Zines in the News

[Zine Celebrates 2 years of supporting feminism](#) - Duluth Tribune / February 27, 2014

[East Bay 'Zine Scene'](#) - East Bay Express / February 25, 2014

[Explainer: Zines](#) - The Conversation / February 24, 2014

[Come Witness the Unlikely Union of Architecture and Zines](#) - Curbed / February 19, 2014

[Zines were the scene](#) - Harvard's recent acquisition of 20,000 zines and related material became the highlight of a student summer project / September 4, 2013

#### Notable Zine Collections

Collections here in Texas:

- [Sherwood Forest Zine Library](#) - Austin
- [Austin Fanzine Project](#) - Austin
- [Texas A&M University](#) - College Station
- [Texas State University](#) - San Marcos

Collections around the U.S.:

- [Barnard College Library](#) - New York
- [Duke University Bingham Center Zine Collections](#) - Durham, NC
- [New York Public Library](#) - New York
- [Temple University Libraries](#) - Philadelphia, PA
- [Virginia Commonwealth University](#) - Richmond, VA
- [University of Iowa Zine and Amateur Press Collections](#) - Iowa City, IA

Also worth checking out is Barnard College's state by state [guide](#) of zine collections.

#### Zine Websites

- [The Broken Pencil](#)
- [Factsheet 5](#)
- [The Queer Zine Archive Project](#)
- [Stolen Sharpie Revolution](#)
- [We Make Zines](#)
- [Zine Archive and Publishing Project](#)
- [Zinebook](#)
- [ZineWiki](#)

#### Books about Zines

[Notes from underground : zines and the politics of alternative culture / Stephen Duncombe](#)

Much history and theory about the world of zines is uncovered in this first comprehensive study of zine publishing. From their origins in early 20th century science fiction cults, to their more proximate roots in 60s counter-culture, and their rapid proliferation in the wake of punk rock. Paying full due to the political importance of zines as a vital network of popular culture, Stephen Duncombe acknowledges the shortcomings of zines' utopian and escapist outlook in achieving fundamental social change. Packed with extracts and illustrations, *Notes From Underground* provides a useful overview of the contemporary underground in all its splendor and miserv. (Amazon)


#### What is a Zine?

##### What is a Zine?

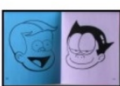

Zines can be difficult to define. The word "zine" is a shortened form of the term fanzine, according to the Oxford English Dictionary. Fanzines emerged as early as the 1930s among fans of science fiction. Zines also have roots in the informal, underground publications that focused on social and political activism in the '60s. By the '70s, zines were popular on the punk rock circuit. In the '90s, the feminist punk scene including Kathleen Hanna produced *riot grrrr!* out of Olympia, Washington propelled the medium. A zine is most commonly a small circulation publication of original or appropriated texts and images. More broadly, the term encompasses any self-published unique work of minority interest usually reproduced via photocopier. A popular definition includes that circulation must be 5,000 or less, although in practice the significant majority are produced in editions of less than 1,000, and profit is not the primary intent of publication. There are so many types of zines: art and photography zines, literary zines, social and political zines, music zines, perzines (personal zines), travel zines, health zines, food zines, and the list goes on and on.

#### Exploring the Zine Collection

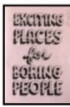
Here are some highlights from the zine collection at the Fine Arts Library:



[American comics](#). Bubenik, Cody. [Austin, TX, 2012]



[Comixed up](#). Rugg, Jim. [2010]



[Exciting places for boring people](#). Rementer, Andy. [Nieves, 2010]

To view the collection in its entirety click [here](#).

This is a great landing page, with a wealth of information to help get a zine researcher started. However, it's slightly less ideal for helping someone find the Fine Arts Library's zine collection. Specifically, the placement of the link to the zine collection is problematic. It is not immediately visible and is quite small. The link to the zine collection is its advertisement – the more central and noticeable it is on the page, the more likely we are to attract users to the actual collection. Consequently, when designing the new mockups, we decided not only to feature the link more prominently on this page, but to put the entire jumping-off point for searching the collection front and center.

After:

Home > Research Tools > Research by Subject > Zines at the Fine Arts Library

## Zines at the Fine Arts Library

FAL  
Fine Arts Library

### Explore the Zine Collection

Art Comics Skateboarding Narrative

Browse by: Genre Subject Format Place Date Copyright Provenance

### Search

Title:  Or [View Entire Collection](#)

Creator:

Keyword:  [Go!](#)

#### Looking for zines in library collections

Try searching in our [library catalog](#), in other library catalogs, or in [WorldCat](#), using the following keywords:

- Alternative Press
- Artist's books
- Fan Magazines
- Fanzines
- Little Magazines
- Self-Publishing
- Underground Press
- Zines

#### What is a Zine?

**What is a Zine?**

Zines can be difficult to define. The word "zine" is a shortened form of the term fanzine, according to the Oxford English Dictionary. Fanzines emerged as early as the 1930s among fans of science fiction. Zines also have roots in the informal, underground publications that focused on social and political activism in the '60s. By the '70s, zines were popular on the punk rock circuit. In the '90s, the feminist punk scene including Kathleen Hanna produced *riot grrrr!* out of

We wanted nice, big images of zines to be the first thing the user sees, so we borrowed this layout idea from Reed College's digitized artists book collection. Each zine image represents a genre, like comics or skateboarding, and clicking on the image or its label will take you to a results page for all zines in that genre. Beneath that are all of the browsing options, and below those are the search bars. Initially we thought that many of the browsing options would be presented as search bars, but eventually realized that the more chances we gave the user to enter information herself, the higher the likelihood of typos and of returning no matches. Much more efficient, it seems, is simply showing the user all available options and letting her pick from there.

Of course, we didn't wish to eliminate all search bars – our survey respondents liked them, after all. A keyword search that will look for matches across all information fields has obvious value. And when a user wishes to find a known item quickly, the piece of information they usually know is either the title or the creator, which would mean that search bars for these fields would probably be handier than a list or menu. Lastly, we provided a link to a list/results page of the entire collection to give users the ability to browse freely or just jump in if they're not sure where to start.

Second Wireframe: Collection Page and Catalog Record

Before:



FAL
Fine Arts Library

Home > Research Tools > Research by Subject > The Zine Collection


### The Zine Collection

The Zine Collection

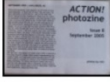
[100 actions for Chicago Torture Justice](#). Pierre, Lucky. [Chicago, Ill: Temporary Services, 2012]


[7 days of crafts](#). Vaught, Anna Rose. [Austin, TX, 2011]




[847. do you have your radio off?](#) Daniel, William Ozell. [S.I. :Hamburger Eyes, 2011]



[Action! Photazine, issue 8](#). Photos by icki. [Ann Arbor, MI: unknown, 2005]



[Aesthetic Legislation & Zoning Variances](#). [Cambridge, MA: Cantab Publishing, n.d.]

 Manuscript

**Author** [Vaught, Anna Rose](#).

**Title** [7 days of crafts / \[Anna Vaught\]](#).


**Added title** Seven days of crafts  
Days of crafts

**Publication Information** [2011]

Location	Call No.	Current Status
Fine Arts Library	N 7433.4 V38 A15 2011	AVAILABLE

[+ Send via Text Message](#)

[View via GoogleBooks](#)

 [Permanent Link](#)

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**Description** 1 sheet ([8] p.) : chiefly ill. ; 43 x 28 cm. folded to 14 x 11 cm.

**Note** Cover title.  
Verso of sheet is a poster.  
Created for University of Texas at Austin course number ART 304K, 2D Foundations, Fall Semester 2011.

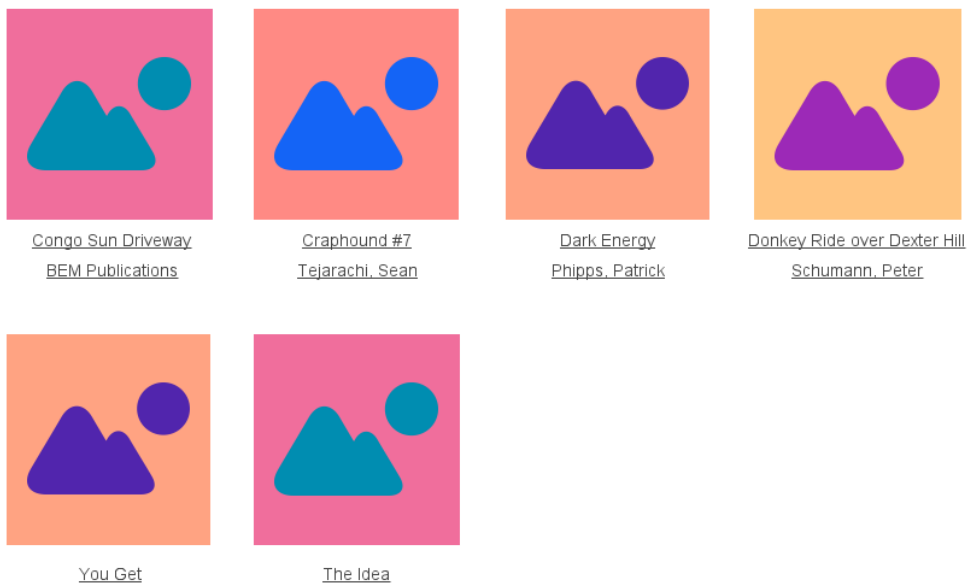
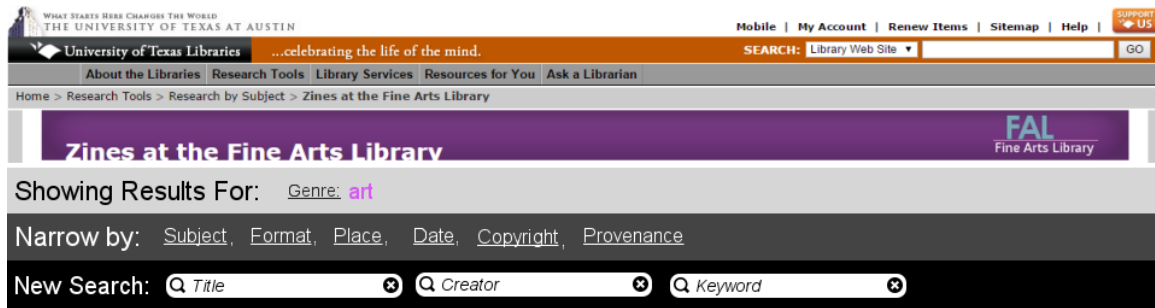
**Subject** [Artists' books](#).

**GENRE** [Zines](#).

**OCLC number** 795132231

Here you can see the collection page and then the catalog record for an individual zine. This page is already quite impressive compared to most other online representations of zine collections – it offers images of the covers and each zine has its own viewable record. However, since searchability is a main goal for improving the website, a collection page will be mostly replaced by results pages, which will also display a list of zines, but will additionally incorporate browsing and search options, as you can see in the mockup below.

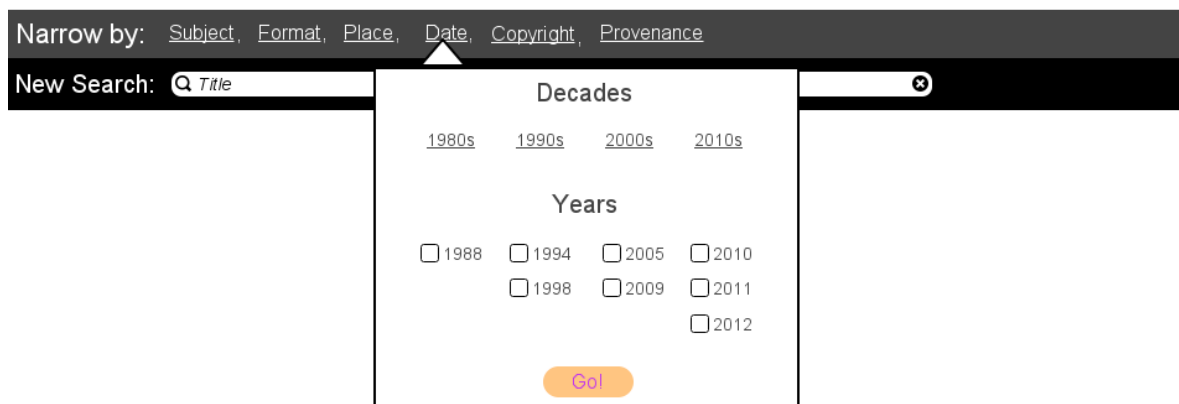
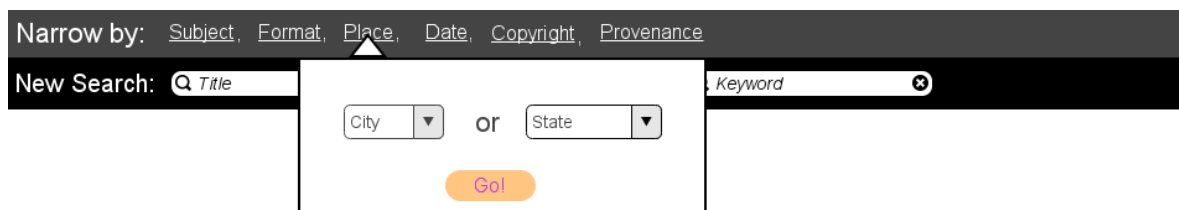
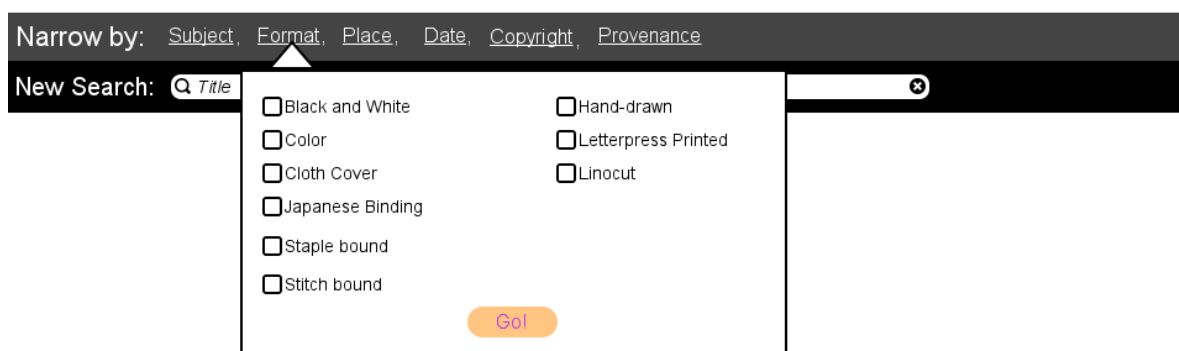
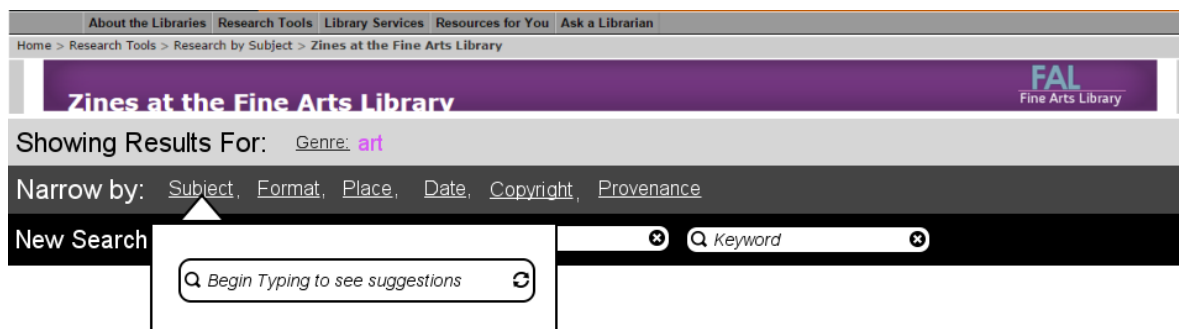
## After:

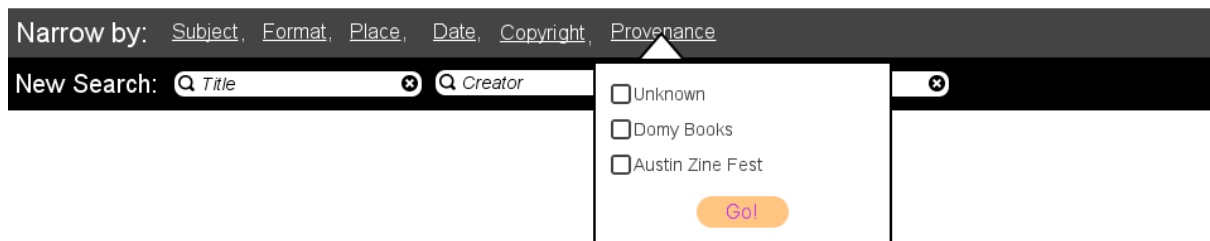
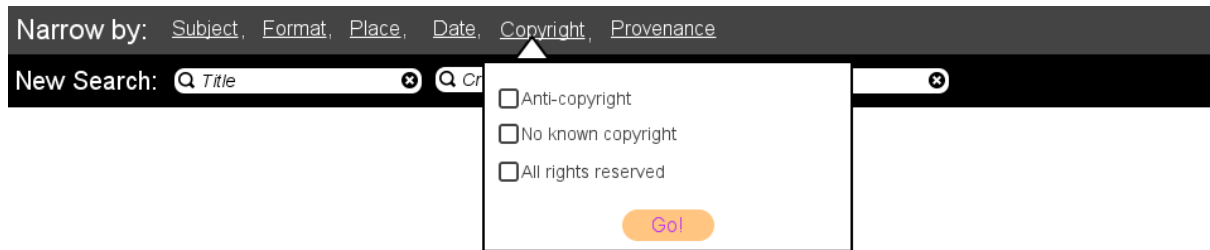


This is a possible design for what the results page would look like if a user selected the genre 'art' (this is indicated at the top where it says 'Showing Results For: Genre: Art'), but represents what all results pages would generally look like. The tiled format is easier to use than a straight list format, which requires much more scrolling. The browsing options are repeated here, but they become 'Narrow by' options to facilitate 'zeroing in' by allowing the user to browse within search results. The search bars are also provided to allow the user to navigate out of this page by starting a new search. The title and creator links that appear below the cover images can either link to the catalog record or to item records created specifically for this site. The final mockup in this section presents a design for item record pages made specifically for this site.

There are some imperfections in this mockup – when discussing it with the TIS crew, we decided that moving the 'Narrow by' bar to the left, and making it a sidebar instead, would help declutter the top of the screen as well as echo the placement of faceted browsing options on many library websites. Furthermore, the three search bars could be combined into one in which the user chooses whether they are searching title, creator, or keyword, which would make the page a little cleaner to look at.

### Third Wireframe: Drop-down Menus





In designing the browsing menus, we discovered that different browsing options call for different styles of menu.

*Subject* – Because we anticipate that subjects will be like tags, encompassing any description that can be applied to a zine and its content, the list of subjects will be lengthy – too lengthy to comfortably scroll through. The Anchor Archive website offered a handy solution to this problem that we borrowed here: an auto-complete search bar that starts suggesting actual subjects in the collection to match what the user is typing.

*Format* – For format we can use a basic menu that displays all possible options, and by allowing the user to check more than one box, it becomes more customizable to the user’s specific search.

*Place* – Ideally the website would offer the option to search by city or state. Both options are drop-down lists of the cities and states in which zines were published.

*Date* – This browsing menu incorporates two selection techniques: Mutually exclusive selection of decades on the one hand, and then the option of selecting multiple years at a time on the other (e.g., a user can check the checkboxes for 2010 *and* 2011 if they want that a slightly less granular selection, or they can check both 1988 and 2012 if they want to see the oldest and the most recent zines side by side).

*Copyright* – In the TIS meeting we decided that ‘Copyright’ might be an inaccurate label, and something like ‘Usage Rights’ might be more appropriate. The style used for this menu can be straightforward check boxes.

*Provenance* – Since there shouldn’t be anything tricky about this option, Provenance can use a straightforward check boxes style.

## Fourth Wireframe: View Item / Item Record Page

University of Texas Libraries ...celebrating the life of the mind. SEARCH: Library Web Site GO

About the Libraries | Research Tools | Library Services | Resources for You | Ask a Librarian

Home > Research Tools > Research by Subject > Zines at the Fine Arts Library

Zines at the Fine Arts Library FAL Fine Arts Library

False Flag | James Ferraro

Pages 1, 2

Date: [2010](#) [View Catalog Record](#)

Place: [Seattle, Wa](#)

Provenance: [Domy Books](#)

Copyright: [All rights reserved](#)

Format: [Linocut](#) [Half-Legal size](#) [Cloth cover](#)

Genre: [Art](#)

Subject: [Family](#) [Communication](#) [Office life](#) [Emotions](#) [Language](#)

This page was designed with either a fully or partially digitized zine in mind. It was inspired by the Reed College Artists' Books and Printed Matter websites. The top box of the page contains the title and creator (which could be links to other volumes under the same title or other publications by the same creator) and then digitized images of the zine itself. The arrows on either side allow the user to virtually flip through the zine, while the thumbnails below allow them to select a particular page. In the lower box, all the zine metadata is organized by the browsing category in which it is found. The metadata is hyperlinked and when, for example, the user clicks on the date (2010), she will be brought to a results page of all zines published in the same year (we could also include the decade in this section.) Lastly, there is the ever-important link to the zine's record in the library catalog.

## **v. Further Considerations**

In this report, we have endeavored to highlight what is needed and what would be desirable in a new, redesigned website for the Fine Arts Library's zine collection. We took note of the librarian's needs, the needs of users, and then observed solutions presented in other zine and artists' books websites. We then offered a series of suggestions that we hope will inform and help guide the decision-making process when the redesign gets under way.

Even though we have tried to be as thorough as possible, there are certain considerations that still need pondering. Some have to do with specific aspects of the redesign, for example, what will be the zine genre classification scheme and who will be responsible for making it? Others permeate the project more as a whole, such as, what is a reasonable amount of detailed information to provide users and who can be responsible for providing it? And then there are considerations about the future of the zine website, and what, ultimately, we hope all of this redesign work will achieve.

Once changes have been made to the website and its usability is improved, there will be some interesting questions to pursue. For example, several times in the surveys, respondents referred to a desire for more connected information. One wanted links to other zine websites (which, it should be noted, already appear on the landing page), one wanted an Amazon-like recommender system, and one joyously recounted how a certain library catalog helped her "identify and follow relationships among zines, zinesters, associated educational institutions, geography, topics, etc." Of course, making these kinds of connections for users, by creating a recommender system, for example, is extremely challenging. It is certainly beyond the scope of what this report has recommended. But it is motivating and worthwhile to consider how these kinds of connections can be made eventually.

One idea is to seek the wisdom of the crowd. Several art museums have set up spaces on their websites for users to gather works of art, write commentary on them, and organize them into galleries. Likewise, the Printed Matter website lets you create online "table displays" of artists' books. Is there a way that collections like FAL's could harness user input to illustrate relationships between zines? Perhaps faculty could assign students to curate their own online table displays of zines. Perhaps students of art history or American studies could select and add commentary to zines that demonstrate certain historical trends. Surely ideas for this kind of thing are endless, and represent just one new direction in which the zine website could be taken if, first, some time and attention can be dedicated to enacting the suggestions laid out in this report.

## vi. Appendices

### Appendix A. Zine Collection Website Spreadsheet

library	link	notes
Independent Publishing Resource Center (Portland, OR)	<a href="http://library.iprc.org/">http://library.iprc.org/</a>	Uses Koha - <a href="http://www.koha.org">http://www.koha.org</a> . One page site - simple, yet comprehensive search interface
Anchor Archive Zine Library	<a href="http://www.robertsstreet.org/n/zine-library">http://www.robertsstreet.org/n/zine-library</a>	Searchable and moderately browsable, lots of information but also a lot of pages
Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP)	<a href="http://archive.qzap.org/index.php">http://archive.qzap.org/index.php</a>	Searchable and browsable with an attractive interface and fully digitized zines
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	<a href="http://www.librarything.com/catalog/clpzines">http://www.librarything.com/catalog/clpzines</a>	librarything
New York Public Library	<a href="http://www.nypl.org/locations/tid/36/node/73065">http://www.nypl.org/locations/tid/36/node/73065</a>	A list of selected titles
Barnard	<a href="http://zines.barnard.edu/about-barnard-zines/access#search">http://zines.barnard.edu/about-barnard-zines/access#search</a>	Zines can be found in the college's library catalog but not anywhere on the website
University of Iowa	<a href="http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/sc/resources/zinere-sources/">http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/sc/resources/zinere-sources/</a>	collection level finding aids

De Paul	<a href="http://libguides.depaul.edu/zines">http://libguides.depaul.edu/zines</a>	Finding aids plus a libguide
UCLA	<a href="http://guides.library.ucla.edu/communitycollections/zinecollection">http://guides.library.ucla.edu/communitycollections/zinecollection</a>	This is an introductory page to their collection, it seems zines can be found in the university library catalog.
Minneapolis CTC	<a href="http://library.minneapolis.edu/zines/zines.html">http://library.minneapolis.edu/zines/zines.html</a>	Several search options, bare bones yet effective
Denver Zine Library	<a href="http://denverzinelibrary.org/catalog/">http://denverzinelibrary.org/catalog/</a>	List
Duke University	<a href="http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingdatabases/">http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingdatabases/</a>	Basic search with extensive narrowing options on the results page
Bowling Green State University	1. <a href="http://libguides.bgsu.edu/c.php?g=227193&amp;p=1505929">http://libguides.bgsu.edu/c.php?g=227193&amp;p=1505929</a> 2. <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pj_SRGs3GmBo0q1JWD6Dz7Vlov6fh7ucU-0sFsKifnY/edit?hl=en#gid=1">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pj_SRGs3GmBo0q1JWD6Dz7Vlov6fh7ucU-0sFsKifnY/edit?hl=en#gid=1</a>	link 1 is to their libguide on zines, link 2 is to their extensive spreadsheets that are their preliminary step in cataloging them - oriented to music research
Temple	1. <a href="http://library.temple.edu/scrc/science-fiction-fanzine?bhcp=1">http://library.temple.edu/scrc/science-fiction-fanzine?bhcp=1</a> 2. <a href="http://guides.temple.edu/c.php?g=78196&amp;p=505601">http://guides.temple.edu/c.php?g=78196&amp;p=505601</a>	finding aids - link 1 is finding aid, link 2 is guide to zines
Texas A&M	<a href="http://archon.library.tamu.edu/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&amp;id=1139">http://archon.library.tamu.edu/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&amp;id=1139</a>	finding aids
UC Riverside	<a href="http://library.ucr.edu/?l=fanzine">http://library.ucr.edu/?l=fanzine</a>	They have 75,000 sci-fi fanzines! consequently, info provided on individual zines is minimal, but at least they are still searchable! in several categories!

San Diego State Univeristy	<a href="http://scua2.sdsu.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&amp;id=339&amp;q=">http://scua2.sdsu.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&amp;id=339&amp;q=</a>	finding aids
Colorado College	<a href="http://www2.coloradocollege.edu/library/specialcollections/zines/">http://www2.coloradocollege.edu/library/specialcollections/zines/</a>	just a list, very basic.
Read/Write Library, Chicago	<a href="http://readwritelibrary.org/catalog/search">http://readwritelibrary.org/catalog/search</a>	basic search bar with list of zines (in what order?), description includes coordinates and link to a google map, linked keywords
Tulane (Newcomb College Institute)	<a href="http://tulane.edu/newcomb/zine-catalog.cfm">http://tulane.edu/newcomb/zine-catalog.cfm</a>	just a list
Hampshire College	<a href="http://sites.hampshire.edu/zines/">http://sites.hampshire.edu/zines/</a>	Nice! Not too complicated, but offers variety of browsing options, listed in the header bar
Michigan State University	<a href="http://www.lib.msu.edu/spc/collections/zines/">http://www.lib.msu.edu/spc/collections/zines/</a>	They don't have zine search, but they do have an intro to zines in their special collections page, and then they link to a search for zines in the catalog (which might be nicer than writing a list of steps to go through in order to search for them)
Las Vegas Zine Library	<a href="http://lvzinelibrary.wix.com/online#!_catalog/fanzines">http://lvzinelibrary.wix.com/online#!_catalog/fanzines</a>	fancy graphics
Soap Box: Philadelphia's Independent Publishing Center	<a href="http://www.phillysoapbox.org/library/">http://www.phillysoapbox.org/library/</a>	librarything
La Fanzinotheque de Poitiers	<a href="http://fanzinotheque.centredoc.fr/opac/">http://fanzinotheque.centredoc.fr/opac/</a>	Very interesting, looks a bit different from other zine websites, but has basic and advanced search as well as the option to browse by tag (there are thousands of tags)