A little publication in your hands: engaging students with zines

WILU 2012, Kelly McElroy

Tips to build a teaching collection of zines for fifty bucks or less

1. Make friends with zinesters
   Zines are often sold on consignment at independent bookshops, comic stores, or cafes. Reach out to zinesters whose zines you like – let them know how you’re using their work! A distro distributes lots of zines – that way you don’t have to track down each author individually.

2. Go to zine fairs (then make friends with zinesters)
   Canzine (both Vancouver and Toronto)
   Expozine (Montreal)
   Halifax Pop Explosion Zine Fair (Halifax)
   Ravenswing (Ottawa)
   Winnipeg Zine Fest (Winnipeg)
   Zine Dream (Toronto)

3. Go online!
   We Make Zines (http://wemakezines.ning.com/) is a social networking site all for zines. There are groups for Canadian Zinesters, for Zine Librarians, Teaching Zines, and beyond.

4. Join the zine librarians listserv:
   http://groups.yahoo.com/group/zinelibrarians/
   Occasionally someone will post about some duplicates they’re trying to get rid of. Keep your eyes peeled!

5. Make your own
   Or connect with students and community members to make them. Host a zine-making workshop and request a copy of what everyone makes.
Plus a few other helpful resources:
Mendeley group collecting research about or using zines:
http://www.mendeley.com/groups/1765341/zines/

Zine Wiki, the most comprehensive and ever-expanding encyclopedia about zines: http://zinewiki.com/

Zine World, a long-running and well-respected review zine:
http://www.undergroundpress.org/

The Zine Libraries Interest Group, an informal group of library workers and volunteers dedicated to zines: http://zinelibraries.info/

**Upcoming zine-librarian shindigs:**

- June 21-26, Zine Pavilion and Preconference at the American Library Association Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA
- July 21, Zine Library Day, everywhere!
- July 27-28, Zine Librarian (un)Conference, Pittsburgh, PA