

# Nevada County Library Zine Collection Policy

## What is a Zine?

A "zine" is a unique and self-published form of artistic expression, typically crafted with passion and creativity by individuals or small collectives. Rooted in a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) ethos, zines serve as intimate, tangible showcases of various themes, ideas, and viewpoints that might not find a mainstream platform.

Zines often embrace unconventional formats, combining visual art, illustrations, photography, handwritten or typed text, collages, and any other medium that adds to their distinct character. As eclectic as the creators themselves, zines cover an array of topics ranging from personal anecdotes, social commentary, niche hobbies, counter-cultural movements, and thought-provoking narratives.

These handcrafted booklets not only offer a glimpse into the creative psyche of the authors but also foster a sense of community, connecting like-minded individuals who share similar interests. Rooted in the history of social-justice movements, zines have been instrumental in amplifying marginalized voices, challenging societal norms, and providing a safe space for creative experimentation.

By embracing imperfection, zines defy the polished nature of traditional publications. Zines celebrate authenticity and invite readers to engage on a more intimate level. Even through the rise of digital media, zines remain steadfast in their tangible charm, symbolizing the enduring power of human connection through art, ink, and paper in an ever-evolving world of pixels and screens.

## Collection Development Policy

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Zine Collection at Nevada County Library is to provide our community with a diverse and inclusive selection of zines that reflect various voices, perspectives, and artistic expressions. The collection aims to support local artists, foster creativity, encourage critical thinking, and promote an appreciation for the DIY culture and alternative media.

### 2. Scope

The Zine Collection encompasses a wide range of zines, including but not limited to personal narratives, art zines, social and political commentary, cultural representations, poetry, graphic novels, fanzines, and experimental works. We seek to include zines from both established and emerging creators, with a focus on local artists and creators from underrepresented communities.

### 3. Selection Criteria

The following criteria will guide the selection of zines for the collection:

- a) **Content:** Zines that exhibit creativity, originality, and diversity of topics and perspectives. The library reserves the right to remove zines that are an infringement of copyright, contain pornographic images, or include hate speech.

- b) **Quality:** Zines that demonstrate thoughtful and skillful execution in their artistic presentation and content.
- c) **Relevance:** Zines that address current or enduring social, cultural, and political issues.
- d) **Local Representation:** A priority will be given to zines created by local artists and those that highlight issues and events specific to the local community.
- e) **Inclusivity:** Zines that promote inclusivity, equity, and representation of diverse voices, cultures, and experiences.
- f) **Demand and Popularity:** Zines that are requested or popular within the community or align with emerging trends.
- g) **Physical Condition:** Zines that are in good physical condition and suitable for circulation.

#### 4. Acquisitions

The Zine Collection will be built through a combination of the following acquisition methods:

- a) **Purchases:** The library will allocate a specific budget for the purchase of zines from established distributors, independent publishers, and local zine creators.
- b) **Donations:** The library welcomes donations of zines from individuals, artists, and zine creators. Donated zines will be evaluated based on the selection criteria before inclusion in the collection. Donations to the zine collection can be taken at any library and will be sent to the Adult Services department at Madelyn Helling Library for evaluation.
- c) **Exchanges:** The library will actively participate in zine exchanges with other libraries or zine collections to diversify the collection.
- d) **Local Partnerships:** Collaborations with local zine fests, zine libraries, and creative organizations will be pursued to enrich the collection.

#### 5. Preservation and Maintenance

The library will take appropriate measures to preserve and protect zines from damage or loss. Digitization of selected zines may be considered to increase access while safeguarding original copies. Damaged zines will be evaluated for potential repair or replacement.

#### 6. Access and Circulation

Nevada County Library holds that the popularity and recognition of zines are increased when shared directly from reader to reader. Existing library circulation policies do not allow for items to be shared from individual to individual before being returned to the library. For the Zine Collection, patrons are free to share library zines with other community members and return zines on their own timeline. The Zine Collection will support communal ownership of collection items by distributing Zines through an honor system with a social incentive for eventual return. Patrons will be allowed to borrow 3 zines at a time with no time restriction or ILS tracking of the checkout. Patrons who use the Zine Collection will be issued a "Zine Passport" which will reward patrons for returning zines with prizes, potential increased access to new zines, or other rewards as will be determined in the future.

#### 7. Weeding

Regular weeding of the Zine Collection will be conducted to maintain its relevancy and ensure that it reflects the current interests and needs of the community. Because Zine Collection items are not

cataloged and will lack circulation data, weeding can be done informally and should be conducted by a member of staff who is familiar with zine culture and community feedback. Zines should be weeded for physical condition before any other consideration.

#### **8. Outreach and Programming**

The library will organize events, workshops, and exhibitions related to zines to engage the community and encourage creative expression. These initiatives will promote the Zine Collection and support local artists and zine creators.

#### **9. Evaluation**

The effectiveness and relevance of the Zine Collection will be periodically evaluated based on usage statistics, community feedback, and alignment with the library's mission and goals. Usage statistics will be taken through participation in zine programming, usage of the "Zine Passport," and through voluntary surveying available at the library.

#### **10. Revision of Policy**

This Collection Development Policy for the Zine Collection will be reviewed regularly and updated as needed to align with the evolving needs and interests of the community.