



CDSS Members

CDSS: Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee

Charlie Amiot, Chair

Angela Bonnell, Illinois State University

Cynthia Etkin, DFO, Office of the Superintendent of Documents

Kate Irwin, Wake Forest University School of Law

Jen Lindley, Metadata & Collection Services, LSCM

Ariella Mason, Fresno County Public Library

Melanie Sims, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center

Andrea Stelljes, Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central



Zine-Making 101: Zip, Zap, Zine

- Charlie Amiot, Government Information Librarian, Collection & Discovery Services Subgroup Chair
 - Selena Lee, Librarian, Ninth Circuit, Anchorage Branch
- Ariella Mason, Special Collections Coordinator, Fresno County Public Library



Zip! with Charlie: So, What *Is* a Zine?

A **zine** (rhymes with "seen") is a small, self-published work, often reproduced by photocopier, covering any topic its creator cares about.

Think: independently made magazines, pamphlets, chapbooks, print newsletters, and handmade booklets.



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VIRTUAL MEETING

MARCH 4 & 5, 2026 • #DLCVIRTUAL26

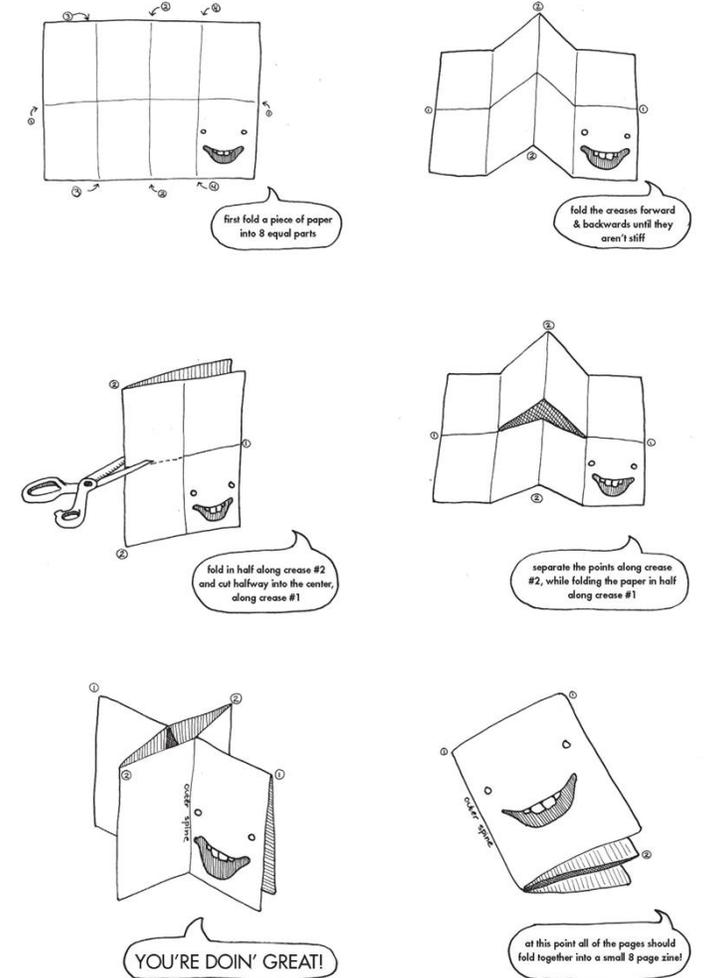
A History Over 100 Years in the Making

- “Little magazines” & *Fire!!* — Harlem Renaissance (1920s)
- Science fiction fanzines & fan fiction (1930s–70s)
- Punk and counterculture movements (1970s–80s)
- Riot Grrrl and DIY publishing (1990s)
- E-zines, home printers, computer-aided design (1990s–2000s)
- 2020s: Zine Renaissance?



Why Zines? The Core Appeal

- Simple to make
- Requires little infrastructure
- Anyone can publish. Including you.
- Affordable to produce
- Easy to distribute





Why Should We Care? Zines as a Library Tool

Zines as a tool for library & government information outreach:

- Encourages engagement with journalism, writing, research, publishing, art, and even business.
- Teaching is a learning opportunity
- Use gov docs *as sources* (images, data, text)
- Make zines *about* gov docs to highlight resources
- Info literacy instruction
- DIY notetaking and research tools

The collage features several government information resources:

- MedlinePlus:** Trusted Health Information for You. Includes Medical Encyclopedia, Drugs & Supplements, Medical Tests, Genetics, and Healthy Recipes.
- Occupational Outlook Handbook:** The most accurate and up-to-date facts on all major jobs! Information on labor market trends, plus the following details on each job: Earnings, Training and education needed, Projected growth, Skills required, Advancement opportunities, Work environment, Related jobs, Sources of additional information, including websites.
- FDLP (Federal Depository Library Program):** Smart Tools for a Stronger You. Includes Ready.gov, MedlinePlus, Occupational Outlook Handbook, and FEMA.
- MyPlate.gov:** Build healthy eating habits one goal at a time! Discover budget-friendly food ideas, Find easy, low-cost recipes, From my plate to your plate, every plate tells a story. People all over the country are finding simple, practical ways to eat healthier.
- Ready.gov:** Plan ahead for disasters. Be prepared for an emergency. Make an emergency plan with your family today. Includes Emergency Alerts, Build an emergency kit, and Local Emergency Information.
- FEMA:** Get Ready for Disasters, Sign Up for Trainings, Know Your Flood Risk, Buy Flood Insurance, Check Your Disaster Application, Learn How FEMA Works.
- BLS Bureau of Labor Statistics:** Occupational Outlook Handbook. Includes QR codes for bls.gov/oooh/ and Get the App.

Zine/Brochure provided by Amy J. Fitch, Senior Library Assistant, afitch@apachejunctionaz.gov | Apache Junction Public Library, AZ



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What Do They Look Like?

No fixed format. No fixed purpose.

- **Production:** Hand-lettered and photocopied all the way up to being digitally designed (e.g., using in Canva, Inkscape, InDesign, or Procreate)
- **Format:** Quarter-page, half-page, full-page, accordion fold, one-sheet fold, etc.
- **Materials:** Paper, cardstock, recycled materials, fabric
- **Purpose:** Informational, artistic, activist, personal, instructional



Where to Find Zines

- Virtual archives and digitized collections (see handout)
- Online marketplaces (e.g., Etsy, Gumroad, Itch.io, Patreon)
- In person: Free Little Libraries, local businesses, markets, zine fests



Up Next

- A real-world use case: zines in a federal judiciary law library
- Then: making a zine

Questions? We'll save time at the end.



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Zap! with Selena

Case Use Example, Alaska Federal Courts

Objective - How to capture attention of high school students

Tutorial: How to Format Your Zine Content on Google Slides by
Bruna Lee

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKznMHrcPNU>

Most images were AI Generated using Canva or Adobe Express

Front

<p>Who assembles the jury for trial?</p> 	<p>2026 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest</p> 	<p>Library of Congress</p> <p>https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/</p>	<p>Did you meet this person?</p> 
<p>Speedy trial by impartial jury Trial by jury</p> 	<p>2026 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest</p> 	<p>Library of Congress</p> <p>https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/</p>	<p>Which Amendment, What Rights?</p> 

Inside fold

Inside fold

<p>How does a defendant get out of jail?</p> 	<p>Did you meet a law enforcement officer?</p> 	<p>Who keeps the court records? Who creates the record of what happens in court?</p> 	<p>Did you meet a judge?</p> 
<p>Government must pay for any property it takes for public use</p> 	<p>Guarantee of Life, Liberty, & Pursuit of Happiness</p> 	<p>Freedom of Speech</p> 	<p>Freedom of Association</p> 



Final Version





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Making a Zine! The do's, the don'ts, the tips and tricks to making a Zine!

First a top-secret secret of the highest level of security...

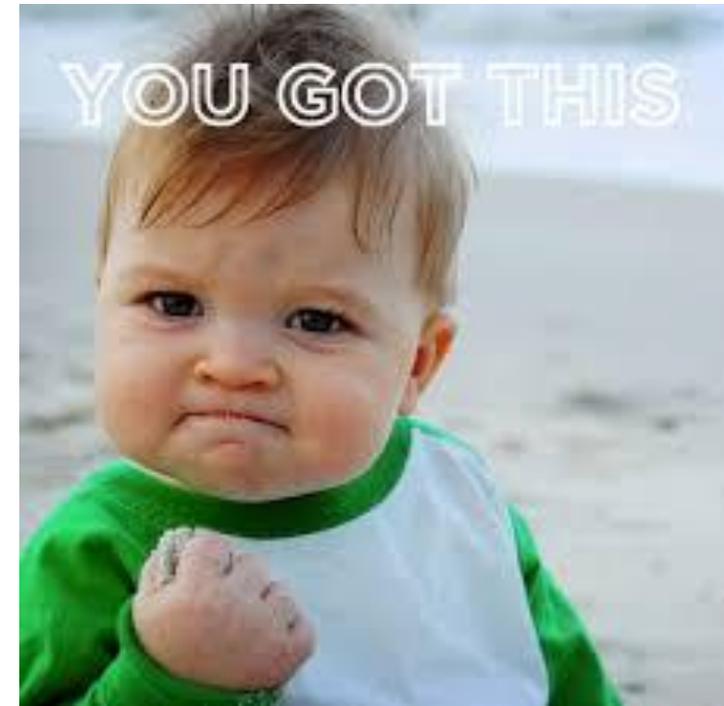


You CAN do it!

No matter the skill level, no matter the budget!

You can use free options, just pay to print!

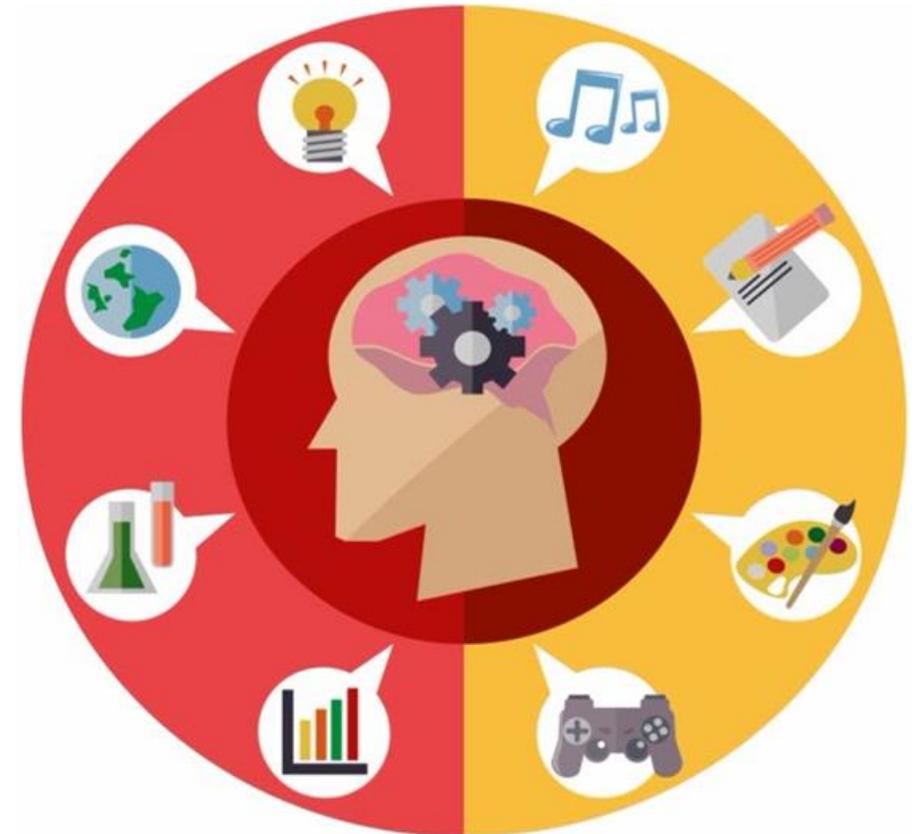
If you can copy/paste items, you can do it!





Getting Started - What Do I Want?

- **Topic**
 - One?
 - Many?
- **Frequency**
 - Magazine/Newspaper schedule?
 - One time?
- **Tying into library services**



Defining a Topic

- YOUR definition of the topic.
 - Example: January is Mental Wellness Month
- Don't be afraid to add visuals
- Otherwise, the sky is the limit!





Finding a Topic

- Holidays and Observances
- Recent Events
- Recent Publications
- Other Programs and Services of Library





Making the Zine - My Preferences

- **My Preference**

- Canva or Google Drawing for page design
 - Canvas the size of your page.
 - I can then zoom in to see properly!
 - Easier to layer and move different types of objects.
 - Save whole thing as one image!
- Publisher for booklet compilation
 - Template for a book built into Publisher (4 pages at
 - Special long stapler for \$15 helps!





Making the Zine - Other Options

- **Other Options**
 - **Physically Create One!**
 - Decoupage for the win!
 - **Have Patrons Submit Pages**
 - Ask other staff to rep their interests!
 - **Create directly in a template**
 - (I'm horrible at this one!)
 - I do recommend saving/building a skeleton template for future use!





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Do's and Don'ts

DO

- Have fun!
- Build in your interests
- Tie into your library
- Let others contribute

Don't

- Print all copies of your finished zine at once!
 - **TEST PAGE PLEASE!!!**
 - Test again each time you have to switch computers.





Questions & Comments

- Charlie Amiot, profamiot@gmail.com
- Selena Lee, satlee96@gmail.com
- Ariella Mason, ariella.mason@fresnolibrary.org

Make sure to grab our digital handout for curated resources.

Questions for GPO staff? Contact us using [askGPO](#).