What are Zines?

Short for magazine or fanzine, a zine is a self-publication, motivated by a desire for self-expression, not for profit.

Zines are excellent primary resources that give a voice to under-represented demographics.

They are valuable research tools, and must be cited in a project just like any other resource. However, zine citations can be tricky. Follow these steps to make sure you give every author/creator proper credit.

Before you get started:

There are no official rules for citing zines.

You have to put in a little bit of extra effort and tweak the standards (for our purposes, MLA, APA, and Chicago style) just a tad.

Not all zines will have complete biographical information, but find what you can and include as much detail as possible in your citation. If you are in pinch and can't find much biographical information on a particular zine, you may be able to find some details (such as author name, year the zine was issued, etc) online at http://zineswiki.com.

Information to look for

(the obvious)
Author name
Title of zine
Issue or volume number (if applicable)

(The sometimes not very obvious)
Date issued
City of Publication

Include the word "zine" in all citation formats. For MLA and APA formats put the word zine in brackets after the title. For Chicago style, leave out the brackets.

If the zine does NOT have a volume/issue number, or a city of publication, leave these parts out of your citation. The goal is to make your citation as complete as possible.