

## Zine Union Catalog Independent Study, Fall, 2018-2019

### Project Summary

Lauren Kehoe and Jenna Freedman have been working on the Zine Union Catalog, aka ZineCat or ZUC, since their Introduction to Digital Humanities course in Spring, 2017: MALS 75500, Digital Humanities Methods and Practices. [ZineCat](#) is the home of a union catalog dedicated to zines. A union catalog is a resource where libraries and other cultural institutions that collect materials can share cataloging and holdings information from their individual collections. The most familiar union catalog is probably WorldCat<sup>1</sup> which is used to locate books, journals, CDs, DVDs, and other materials in the world's libraries. ZineCat facilitates researchers' discovery of zine holdings by searching a single catalog search interface that aggregates information from several collections, helps catalogers copy zine records that are included in ZineCat, and facilitates the lending of materials between libraries.

Zines are self--produced and self--published literature that often feature counter-cultural, political, and artistic content. Typically zines are produced in small print runs, and are often distributed directly by the author or through "distros" (i.e., specialized distributors of zines, crafts, and art prints). Zines provide a first-hand, intimate, and authoritative account of social, political, and art historical movements and provide evidence of knowledge production and dissemination within radical, queer, and other subculture communities.<sup>2</sup> They are used by scholars as primary source documents on a range of topics, and are regarded as a critical record of third wave feminism and the riot grrrl movement, punk rock and the punk aesthetic, popular culture and fandom, and local history in colleges, local scenes, and communities (small and large) around the world.

ZineCat serves educators, researchers, creators, librarians, archivists, and anyone in the general public with an interest in zines. Their ephemeral nature makes it difficult to identify where zines are collected as well as makes cataloging zine consistently across collections very difficult.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the information ecosystem grows ever complex as more information is produced both physically and online. Furthermore, because zines exist in a countercultural space, they have historically been collected and circulated first by independent collectors, then zine libraries and activist centers, followed later by research institutions. Over the last fifteen to twenty years, public libraries, special collections, and academic research libraries have begun collecting zines as scholarly resources as well as part of leisure reading collections. This hybrid environment of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldcat.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://zines.barnard.edu/zine-basics>

<sup>3</sup> Stoddart, Richard A., and Teresa Kiser. "Zines and the Library." *Library Resources & Technical Services* 48, no. 3 (2013): 191-198.

zine collections translates into dispersed and sometimes erratic mechanisms for access (not all libraries describe material in the same, standardized way). Stoddart and Kiser state, “the[ir] informal survey of various libraries and zine repositories suggests that no standard approach exists for cataloging zines...Each library has developed its own system to meet its local needs and available resources.”<sup>4</sup> Zine descriptions and metadata, thus discovery of zines, are scattered across library catalogs, archival finding aids, standalone databases, spreadsheets, and online platforms such as LibraryThing. This diversity of access points poses impediments to finding and using zines in aggregate for research, teaching, and learning. The Zine Union Catalog (ZUC) seeks to federate metadata from these disparate sources.

Jenna, the Zine Librarian at Barnard College, proposed developing this project to her classmates at the beginning of the semester in Digital Humanities: Methods & Practices, whereupon the class voted on which of the proposed projects they were interested in working on. Lauren, as a fellow librarian, was extremely interested in working on this project, thus their collaboration on this project commenced. The goal of the (short) semester was to ideate, plan, work on, and then reveal a scaled version of a prototype of the Zine Union Catalog. ZineCat had already been in the ideation phase amongst a group of zine librarians, catalogers, and zinesters for several years prior to Jenna and Lauren’s enrollment in graduate school, but the project had yet had the opportunity to fully develop into a prototype. Jenna and Lauren’s time at the CUNY Graduate Center has provided that opportunity.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a union catalog is defined as “a catalog of the combined holdings of several libraries.” According to Jenna Freedman, zines, short for fanzine or magazine, are a DIY publishing medium traditionally used by subculture communities for sharing their lives and knowledge. They provide firsthand accounts of social, political, economic, and cultural experiences and insight that, unlike in journalism and academic scholarship, are unmediated, unedited, and created with a peer/punk readership in mind. ZineCat is unique and important because although there is a growing amount of zine collections throughout the United States and abroad, they are not universally cataloged in their institution’s holdings, nor are they all discoverable via a more established union catalog, i.e. WorldCat. Furthermore, because of the unique nature of the zine format, their varied content, publishing and distribution methods, and inconsistent and irregular release schedule, it is challenging and time consuming for independent catalogers to describe (assign metadata) zines in their collection. Thus, ZineCat will provide a platform for zine collections, zine librarians, and zine catalogers to collectively catalog zines in their collections. This will also provide the benefit of making it easier for students, scholars, zinesters, and anyone else interested in discovering these rich resources to find them in one union catalog.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

Jenna and Lauren’s work carried through their enrollment in the Interactive Technology and Pedagogy courses academic year 2017-2018. For their [final project in ITP Core II](#), they made a proposal for the next phase of working on ZineCat. Several major goals for ZineCat were identified:

- Project timeline and roadmap with key benchmarks
  - Identifying project management software was a main goal for assisting with this
- Decision making structure
  - Formalize/Update [draft](#)
  - Identify organizational roles and stakeholders who can commit to consistent participation (outside of Jenna and Lauren’s roles)
- Grant funding (and other funding streams)
- More records added to the catalog from more institutions

During Lauren’s independent study undertaken in Fall, 2018 through Spring, 2019 progress on each of the goals outlined in ITP was achieved. What follows is a summary of the work completed and the work that, at this point of writing, needs to be continued. The work will continue through both Jenna and Lauren’s remaining semesters in the MADH program and of course, most specifically the thesis/capstone work in completion of their degree, and beyond that.

## Introduction

The Zine Union Catalog is a project that has been in development for close to ten years and has been evolving slowly during the course of Jenna Freedman and Lauren Kehoe’s graduate work in the CUNY Graduate Center’s MA Digital Humanities program. Jenna, the [Zine Librarian at Barnard Library](#), “pitched” this project to her classmates in Intro to DH (fall-spring, 2016-17). During one semester, the students were able to develop a prototype that made visible approximately thirty zines from three different sample zine collections. It was decided that the catalog would be developed using [Collective Access](#), an open source Digital Asset Manager (DAM), and be hosted on [Reclaim Hosting](#). The group presented this project at the GC’s Digital Showcase at the end of the Spring, 2017 term; read more about the work completed during that semester is available on [ZineCat’s blog](#). There’s also some additional documentation about their process in our [course blog](#). Jenna and Lauren continued their coursework in the intro to DH courses and both enrolled in the [Interactive Technology and Pedagogy](#) certificate program. In [ITP Core II](#), Jenna and Lauren continued their collaboration and work on ZineCat. This work included a macro look at how the project needs to move forward in the next few semesters, and years, to ensure its long term existence, growth, and online development for scholars, librarians, zine makers & creators, students, and anyone else interested in finding, discovering, and locating zines and zine collections throughout the world. Several goals were identified as a result. They are outlined in the following sections.

Zines are very often not represented in traditional catalogs, i.e. WorldCat, due to a variety of factors, not limited to the difficulty in describing zines in a standardized format, opinion held that they are not serious scholarly materials and do not deserve the time it takes to add them to a collection, and/or the inability to collect zines because they are not published or distributed in traditional capacities. Thus, the Zine Union Catalog addresses a gap in the discoverability of finding and using zines by creating a platform that allows researchers and scholars to discover items and collections in a standardized way. It also provides zine catalogers and zine librarians with a tool to share their resources and to alleviate some of the formidable work that is often attributed to describing zines.

## Aims & Accomplishments during Independent Study

The goals for this independent study are to identify, grow, and clarify the stakeholders involved in developing ZineCat and their roles leading to a more thorough and definitive governance and shared decision making structure; a phased timeline framework to organize the sustainability of ZineCat; establish a structure for project management and use of appropriate tools; summarize pre-identified funding opportunities and develop a list of funding priorities; and community outreach through conference attendance and presentations to various academic and professional organizations. The following section will outline how these aims and goals were accomplished and what additional support and work is needed.

### Stakeholders

There are many individuals committed to the work that Zine Union Catalog requires and will carry out, and a major milestone for future work on ZineCat would be to establish a comprehensive understanding of the roles and levels of commitment each member of the ZineCat community can provide. Below is a list of currently identified roles and individuals that have agreed to participate, though a more definite structure for the following need to be defined: specific roles and responsibilities of each role, length of tenure for the role, and the time commitment required for each commitment. Additionally, a group of stakeholders put together a draft of a governance structure for ZineCat in August, 2016 which is outlined below<sup>5</sup>. It is important to note that although Jenna and Lauren have been working on this project consistently over the past several years at the Graduate Center, many years of work were undertaken prior to this and the project will go on after enrollment at the GC.

- Identify stakeholders already involved in ZineCat
  - Lauren Kehoe, MADH student & Librarian at NYU
  - Jenna Freedman, MADH student & Zine Librarian at Barnard

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<sup>5</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QnkiGVGH5-jGpJ21EB8OL4XXuaeIn\\_04F3zcEe64Ng/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QnkiGVGH5-jGpJ21EB8OL4XXuaeIn_04F3zcEe64Ng/edit?usp=sharing)

- Milo Miller, co-founder The Queer Zine Archive<sup>6</sup>
- Additional stakeholders
  - ABC No Rio - “a collectively run art and activism center” located in NYC that maintains a large zine collection.<sup>7</sup>
- Advisory Board:
  - Scholar: Kate Eichhorn, Media Studies, New School<sup>8</sup>
  - Scholar: Adela Licona, University of Arizona - author of Zines in Third Space<sup>9</sup>
  - Zinester: Elvis B., presenter of Zine workshop at Grad Center<sup>10</sup>
  - Zinester: LaMesha Staples<sup>11</sup>
  - Librarian: Joan Singh, Sociology Masters Thesis on Heavy Metal<sup>12</sup>
  - Librarian: Adam Paradis
  - Technologist: Clarke Cooper
  - Zine librarian: Milo Miller
  - Zine librarian: Ziba Zehdar, Long Beach Public Library<sup>13</sup>
  - Technologist: Eric Goldhagen<sup>14</sup>
  - Designer: Suze Myers (design grad student)<sup>15</sup>
  - Digital Humanist: Jojo Karlin<sup>16</sup>

#### Decision making structure

ZineCat governance will be comprised of an entirely volunteer group from the Zine Union Catalog community and the zine community at large. There will be six main rungs of participation:

1. Project Manager(s)
2. The Strategic Core - aka “Caticorn Herders”
3. Standing Committees - aka “Caticorn Glarings”
4. Ad-Hoc Committees - aka “Fast Horses”
5. Members of Zine Union Catalog
6. Advisory Board

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.qzap.org/v9/index.php/about>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.abcnorio.org/about/about.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.newschool.edu/lang/faculty/Kate-Eichhorn/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://english.arizona.edu/users/adela-c-licona>

<sup>10</sup> <https://commons.gc.cuny.edu/members/elvisb/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://fakefrenchgirl.com/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://ontheshelves.wordpress.com/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://zination.org/2016/07/06/an-interview-with-long-beach-zine-librarian-ziba-zehdar/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.openflows.com/about-openflows/staff/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.suzemyers.com/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://commons.gc.cuny.edu/members/jojokarlin/>

**Nominations and elections** will be held annually. A call for nominations will be open one month prior to a scheduled election and closed two weeks prior to the election. Self nomination is permitted and candidates should provide brief statements detailing their reasons for running and provide a summary of their qualifications for inclusion in the election ballot. Each ZineCat member institution may submit one vote.

**Project Manager(s)** (PM) will provide strategy, leadership, and organizational cohesion to the stakeholders, contributors, and zine union catalog community. They will keep the zine union catalog development moving forward. Currently, Jenna and Lauren have been positioned in this role and it is likely that they will continue in this role for several years to come. However, as ZineCat continues to develop, it is imperative to work out how long the tenure of the PM should last and how does the standing PM pass off the project to the next PM. Within three years, Jenna and Lauren will need to determine the project manager configuration, so that the PM roles can be transitioned to other stakeholders. The configuration could be that each project manager serves a two year term, with the terms staggered so that there is a continuity between the more seasoned project manager and the newly elected PM. Furthermore, a more detailed description of the role and expectations of a PM for ZineCat should be created, but the following attempts to layout the initial framework and expectations.

According to the Digital Project Manager<sup>17</sup> website, the key responsibilities of a PM are:

1. Log Requirements: Create requirements for the project so that they not just fulfill project scope, but fulfill the actual need of the project.
2. Keep the Project Organized by setting a schedule, creating deadlines, gently reminding team members of expectations and due dates, propose tools and strategies for the development of ZineCat, and work out frameworks and guidelines for participating in and working on ZineCat
3. Create a Timeline
4. Track Budgets
5. Motivate the Team

For ZineCat, the Project Manager(s) should also participate heavily in the shared decision making process and soliciting feedback from all members of the ZineCat community. This means that PMs are invited to attend all meetings of the other stakeholders, or the PMs receive reporting from the various groups working on ZineCat.

The **strategic core** group will be approximately seven elected members of the community that represent a diversity of institutions contributing to ZineCat, have varying life experience,

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<sup>17</sup> <https://thedigitalprojectmanager.com/5-project-manager-responsibilities/>

communication styles, learning styles, and subject/technical expertise. They will be elected for a one or two year long term, and can be re-elected or re-affirmed during the re-election period. If a member of the strategic core cannot complete their term, the remaining members will appoint an alternate member to complete the term until the next scheduled election. Their duties include:

- Deciding and acting on all strategic decisions regarding priorities, organization, governance, financing, and technology adoption. They rely heavily on the standing committees and ad hoc committees for research, recommendations, and feedback.
- Serving as the nominating and elections committee, brainstorming and soliciting candidates, and organizing and running the annual election.
- Maintaining and organizing appropriate records and platforms.
- Revisiting decisions and workflows, and revise documentation annually or as needed.

The strategic core will meet at least six times per year (virtually or in person) and members are required to attend all regularly scheduled meetings. Of the six annual meetings (provisionally set for the year ahead at the post-election meeting), two meetings will be call-in meetings where the strategic core group updates the Board and also the public--the meeting will be open to all community members. One meeting will be devoted to updating, revising, adjusting decisions and workflows and amending documentation. Another meeting will be dedicated to drafting the election ballot and planning for re-elections. The other two meetings can have their agendas set as needed. At the meetings, there will be rotating responsibility amongst the strategic core group as to who will fill the following roles:

1. Meeting Facilitator - calls meeting, drafts and circulates agenda, and presides over meeting
2. Backup Facilitator - presides at meetings in the absence of the Facilitator.
3. Notetaker - Draft notes during the meeting, then circulate for input and circulate final version.

**Standing committees** will serve in a research and development capacity, helping the strategic core to manage specialized facets of the larger ZineCat project that require specific expertise. Each standing committee will work the governance details out amongst the committee, but must remain in regular and consistent contact with the other standing committees and the strategic core through documentation, meetings, conference calls, reports, or other means necessary. The standing committees will join the strategic core's meetings as needed. Some standing committees identified are:

- Funding & Sustainability - responsible for securing resources needed to sustain ZineCat
- Technology - responsible for platform and tool selection and training.

- User Experience & Design - responsible for interface and process design, user testing, and iterative improvement
- Equity and Justice, which includes accessibility
- Outreach, Inreach, Membership enrichment

**Ad-hoc committees** will be performed as needed and assigned responsibilities as needed. They can be understood to be the “radical queerleading squad!”

The **Advisory Board** will help the strategic core prioritize projects and provide user feedback. The Board will be comprised of several members selected by the strategic core and nominations will be accepted from the ZineCat community and the broader zine community each year.

The decision making structure of ZineCat is a rough suggestion of what should take place after Jenna and Lauren have completed their work on ZineCat during their coursework at the CUNY Graduate Center. The ZineCat community must decide, collectively, what is best for the project. However, during the development phase that Jenna and Lauren are completing, they have asked the Advisory Board and ZUC email list to provide some oversight. Updates regarding the Zine Union Catalog are posted on ZineCat’s blog, and are distributed via email, in addition to convening occasional conference calls and attendance at the Zine Librarians unConference to keep the community involved in scholarly activities. Any and all feedback from the community is encouraged and desired in this time.

### Timeline

Establishing a timeline and differentiated phases for ZineCat’s development is necessary to ensure that the project continues to thrive. As has already been stated, work on this project began close to a decade ago and has accelerated during Jenna and Lauren’s tenure in graduate school, but to continue this growth, a structured timeline needs to be established. Therefore, the following goals are set for various date markers, however it is not a complete list of goals for each point in the timeline. A complete list will need to be cooperatively discussed and decided on.

What are the phases of ZineCat over the next...

#### Six Months:

Lauren and Jenna will continue to develop their skills in Collective Access and ingest more records into ZineCat. This will be supported through working with a developer and other consultants to assess zinecat.org. They will also identify project management tools to coordinate ZineCat’s development. This will be communicated to the greater Zine Union Catalog community and stakeholders through regular updates to the ZineCat Blog and through in-person and virtual meetings.



#### One Year:

Within a year of finishing the MADH work, a Decision Making structure will be finalized. This will happen at the Zine Librarians unConference, 2020, or shortly after. This will ensure that stakeholders are committed to ZineCat's development. Lauren and Jenna will continue to facilitate the ingest of zine records from collections not currently represented in the prototype and document the cataloging workflows. Identifying collections for ingest will take place through outreach and presentations at ZLuC<sup>18</sup>, ZineFests<sup>19</sup>, ZineWiki<sup>20</sup>, and zinelibraries.info<sup>21</sup>. Funding will also continue to be a priority through grant applications.

#### Two Years:

Within two years, there should be another round of stakeholders assuming leadership and responsibility. A plan for project manager transition should begin to develop. A review and update of the funding and sustainability plans should be undertaken by the stakeholders. Outreach should be ongoing and targeted to reach collections and stakeholders not already involved in the ZineCat. Collections and zine records should continue to be added and metadata should be reviewed for quality. Cataloging and governance workflows should be refined and updated to meet the growing collection and representation. Maintenance of the database should be performed for any system performance needs.

#### Three Years:

In the third year, the plan for project manager stakeholder transition should be finalized and go into effect. The steady growth of collections and contributions of zine records to ZineCat should be predicted based on the planning over the last few years. The collections that are contributing to ZineCat should be using it to catalog their local records and implementing xZINECOREx metadata standards. Outreach will continue through various channels such as the blog, listservs, conference presentations, social media, etc. Funding streams will continue to be identified, applied for, and used to further the project's development. Additionally, the governance team should have determined if there is a preferred funding stream from membership dues. As in all other phases, ongoing maintenance of the database will be necessary.

#### Five Years:

At five years, ZineCat should be substantially grown to be a greatly recognized resources for zine libraries. Membership and stakeholder commitment should be strong and wide across collection types and throughout the world. As with in other phases, assessment, reflection, funding, outreach, communication, and database maintenance will be important priorities.

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<sup>18</sup> <http://zinelibraries.info/events/zine-librarian-unconferences/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://brokenpencil.com/zine-festivals-and-small-press-fairs/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.zinewiki.com/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://zinelibraries.info/>

Beyond:

To be determined through ongoing collaboration with ZineCat community members and stakeholders

### Project Management Software

As many projects before, ZineCat has struggled to identify a particular application that works best to manage the project's development and growth. Initially, content was created on Etherpad<sup>22</sup> and Google Docs. This continued as the project grew under Jenna and Lauren's oversight at the Graduate Center (a Slack<sup>23</sup> channel was added during the DH courses), but it is not sufficient to continue in this way. A more robust application is needed to harness the intellectual output of this project. Several options were considered during Independent Study.

The first tool tried was [Redmine](#) upon the suggestion of a developer that has been involved in ZineCat's development. Jenna and Lauren decided on trying this software out at the end of Spring, 2018 semester, but to be honest, it was a disappointing interface because it is a tool used by developers and neither Jenna nor Lauren are developers, so this tool is not entirely appropriate for overall project management to manage ZineCat's development.

Next, after having conversations with Maura and a colleague of Lauren's at NYU, the Open Science Framework (OSF) seemed like a good tool to try for project management. Thus, ZineCat established an [OSF](#) template. Due to a shift in priorities of independent study at the time this tool was identified, Lauren did not build out as much as was planned, but it is an ongoing goal for this project to determine which software is ideal for project management. Some benefits to OSF are that it integrates with Google Drive where Jenna and Lauren have stored much of their documentation; however, discussion of who owns these documents need to be had since OSF was created using Lauren's NYU Institutional ID and not her personal account where all ZineCat documents are shared. Since Jenna currently owns the documents, they cannot show up in OSF without her adding them. In order to enable access to Google Drive content, OSF needs to connect to the account that has created the Google Drive. Since this instance of OSF was created through Lauren's institutional access at NYU, linking to her personal account, or the documents shared with her, is not possible. Currently, the only option for adding Google Drive is to "Import Account from Profile" and the profile must be added by the owner of the Google content. This will need to be initiated by Jenna. Further benefits of this system are its collaboration infrastructure that allows many contributors from across institutions to work within it, integration with other apps like GitHub, and the platform can be shared at different levels for public viewing or editing.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/zineunioncatalog>

<sup>23</sup> [zinecatalog.slack.com](https://zinecatalog.slack.com)

[BaseCamp](#) was another tool under consideration. Lauren and Jenna were exposed to this tool during the Fall, 2018 semester during group work for another course at the Graduate Center. It was not clear that the GC had an institutional subscription until after experimentation with the OSF and Redmine. A major limitation of this tool is that it is subscription based and would be exclusionary to some in the ZineCat community.

Finally, [GitHub](#) has been used throughout the duration of the project. Milo Miller from the Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP) has used GitHub to share materials with ZineCat in regards to building the catalog. It is known that GitHub can also be used to manage projects. This will most likely be the best option to share with the widest community and to ensure the most open participation.

In summary, it was not possible to determine one perfect tool for project management, which is not unique just to ZineCat's position. It will always be the case that a variety of tools will need to be used in order to keep the project organized and tools will be implemented or discontinued as things develop. As of this writing, though, ZineCat will use GitHub as its core project management software and as a means to communicate with current, and potential, ZineCat community members: <https://github.com/zinecat/zinecat.org>

#### Grants/Funding

Funding for ZineCat is not tremendous, but over the last two years, Lauren and Jenna have needed to seek funds for hosted server space (Reclaim Hosting) and promotional materials (i.e. stickers). They have been fortunate to secure two small grants from the ITP program. Further identification and application for appropriate funds is needed to grow the project. At the advice of Maura Smale, the advisor of this Independent Study, Lauren put together a working [list of grant opportunities](#). Ongoing development and maintenance of the website is essential, in addition to additional cost for the server hosting. Lauren and Jenna also need to consider how to convene stakeholders for regular meetings and/or hackathons (space rental, guest speaker fees, food, travel, lodging, etc.), it would be great to hire a developer full time (or part time) to build out zinecat.org, and we could hire interns to identify zine collections throughout the world (and to do outreach), to name a few funding needs.

On December 5, 2018 Matt Gold announced the [MA/MS Digital Projects and Training Grant](#) opportunity for Spring, 2019 CUNY Graduate Center students. Jenna and Lauren [submitted an application](#) for both opportunities to fund ZineCat development and are hopeful that the Graduate Center will continue to provide ongoing support of this project. They asked for funds to support a two day training session and meeting with key ZineCat stakeholders (and other interested members of the NYC community) on Collective Access where the team at Whirl-i-gig would lead a training curated for ZineCat. This grant gave stakeholders an opportunity to meet in person and virtually to have a meeting dedicated to ZineCat's development.

In mid spring, 2019 ZineCat found out that the GC would award the project a \$1,000 grant which was used in fall, 2019 to convene ZineCat community members to participate in a hack/doc session as outlined earlier in this paper. The funds were applied to a one day hack/doc session for consultants from [Openflows](#) to lead community members through their assessment of the ZineCat prototype and their suggestions for moving it out of prototype and into production of the fully functioning ZineCat. It was also an opportunity for community members to work together around a table (with computers) to update the various documentation that supports ZineCat. It was held on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at NYU.

Ongoing funding will be needed to continue ZineCat's development and to sustain its viability. It is possible that stakeholders will need to work out a sliding scale subscription model for participation in ZineCat to support the cost of operating ZineCat. Both grant and subscription models will be considered.

#### Outreach and Presentations

The ITP Certificate Independent Study offers four options for completion. One of which reads: "...has the capacity to offer a vital service to students at The Graduate Center, and to secondary and postsecondary educators across the city. To fulfill this I.S. requirement the ITP student develops and delivers, with active guidance of the Certificate Coordinator or a designee, a full-day workshop or series of workshops on IT and pedagogy designed for local educators. These workshops could be part of larger GC and/or CUNY outreach efforts to expand IT solutions and opportunities in K-12, undergraduate and/or graduate teaching environments. Such pedagogy workshops are particularly amenable to collaborative work by two or more ITP students." To fulfill this option in the IS, Lauren co-presented three workshops -- two in July, 2018 at the Zine Library unConference and one at the NYC Open Con in October, 2018 -- on the progress and function of ZineCat. Furthermore, Lauren continued to present on the Zine Union Catalog through Spring, 2019. These presentations are outlined and referenced below.

Furthermore, another option in the independent study completion is: "involves the adaptation/modification of an existing IT tool or piece of software that can be used for pedagogical and/or research purposes (e.g. adapting a mobile application for use in improving academic or health outcomes). The idea here is for the ITP student to think critically about the ways in which new digital approaches to software and hardware design and development can be used to enhance their academic scholarship and teaching and then adapt and/or deploy a specific tool or tools that make that enhancement operable." This work has been approached through ongoing growth of The Zine Union Catalog during the Independent Study, and is outlined below.

Lauren and Jenna participated in several presentations on the Zine Union Catalog over the summer and fall, 2018 & spring, 2019. After ITP Core II, [ZLuC, 2018](#) in Minneapolis, MN was

the first presentations given. Jenna and Lauren facilitated three workshops. Additionally, they connected with many members of the zine librarian community and attended many other workshops and participated in important conversations that re-confirmed the importance of the Zine Union Catalog project. Jenna and Lauren discussed capturing formal feedback from the community, but have yet to design the instrument and solicit feedback. As the shared decision making governance structure is set up, there will be a committee tasked with soliciting community feedback.

The three workshops included an [Overview](#), a session designed to be a broad overview of the Zine Union Catalog for attendees at ZLuC. Notes from this session can be [read here](#). The presented on ZUC [Priorities](#), session designed to hear feedback from ZLuC attendees about the project's priorities. Jenna and Lauren provided some structure, but it was more of a conversation (and it was live streamed and recorded!). [It can be viewed and notes can be read here](#). Finally, they coordinated a [Hack](#) that was designed to be an interactive “hack” session where groups of attendees could work together on different aspects of ZineCat such as identifying ways to improve accessibility, look into options for securing grant funding to support ZineCat's development, or adding more records to ZineCat's prototype. The results of the hack session and its notes can be [viewed here](#).

Jenna and Lauren presented at [NYC OpenCon](#) on Friday, October 26, 2018 held at Adelphi University, Manhattan campus. Their presentation can be viewed here [NYC OpenCon](#) and Jenna's blog post here: <http://blog.zinecat.org/conference-presentations/nyc-opencon/>. And yay, there was some shoutouts on [Twitter](#) too. Lauren led a presentation that introduced the attendees to ZineCat and how its development is intentionally open: using open source software, collaborating and encouraging participation openly from the community, using open metadata, etc. Jenna then led a zine making workshop, with googly eyes and all.

[CUNY's 17th Annual IT Conference](#) was not exclusively part of the Independent Study, but Lauren, along with two other classmates (not working on ZineCat) presented on the [ITP Certificate Program](#) at the CUNY ITS conference and each student shared their project details. Thus, [Lauren shared about how the Independent Study has been influenced by ITP](#).

Lauren presented to her colleagues at NYU during a Digital Humanities showcase in the Spring, 2019. The Social Sciences and Humanities (SocHum) department in Bobst Library facilitated a group of workshops led by the Digital Humanities Librarian, Ashley Maynor, on doing DH in the library. As a follow up, faculty librarians were encouraged to participate in a Show-N-Tell of their own DH work where each participant was given 8 minutes or less to share their work. [Lauren's presentation can be viewed here](#).

Finally, Jenna invited Lauren to present on the Zine Union Catalog at [NYC Feminist Zine Fest](#) on March 31, 2019. Lauren provided a 15 minute soapbox talk on what ZineCat is and fielded questions from the group about how to get involved.

These presentations allowed for further engagement with the community to keep them apprised of the project's development and to introduce the project to people that may not have already been familiar with ZineCat.

#### Unanticipated Accomplishments

Another activity undertaken during the course of Lauren's IS was participation in a [Focused Inquiry Group](#) regarding Reclaim Hosting at The Graduate Center. Not an intended consequence or goal of the Independent Study, but sometimes timing works out. Jenna and Lauren were contacted during their ITP Core I course in Spring, 2018 about use of Reclaim Hosting at the Graduate Center and it turns out that some of the TLC and Digital Fellows were putting together a focus group regarding the use of Reclaim Hosting, so they were invited to join a focused inquiry group (FIG) that met several times in the Fall, 2018. More information about this [FIG and the work of the group can be seen here](#) in addition to [Lauren's notes](#), but essentially, Jenna and Lauren were given the opportunity to play around with Reclaim which is the web hosting platform used to power zinecat.org

Not entirely unrelated, Jenna and Lauren both enrolled in a course called Doing Things with Novels. For the final project of this course, Jenna and Lauren proposed a collaborative final project that would entail using zinecat to research and analyze how metadata of zines can be like annotations (a major theme in the course) and how catalogers are authors of metadata. This project gave us the opportunity to work within Collective Access to create catalog records that provided the end product of our final project. This was not exclusively for the Independent Study, but the final work this course is outlined in [this blogpost](#) which allowed us to spend substantial time playing with and creating records within ZineCat.

Finally, at Jenna's suggestion, Lauren enrolled in [Mozilla Open Leaders](#), Cohort 7 (OL7) in spring, 2019. The fourteen-week training provided mentorship and guidance in creating an open project to support the health of the Internet. Through the process, Lauren was able to initiate a [GitHub project repository](#) to provide a centralized location to manage the project and to direct anyone interested in the project to so that they could get involved and collaborate on the open project. The program also provided an opportunity to work on communicating the project's value, impact, and importance through weekly meetings that alternated between check-ins with an assigned mentor and with a larger cohort of participants building open projects.

A lot of work was accomplished in the time that Lauren had been working on the IS. Each accomplishment has grown ZineCat a bit more through community engagement, outreach, or technical work.

## Conclusion

ZineCat continues to evolve through Lauren and Jenna's work in their MADH program at the CUNY Graduate Center. It is a rewarding exercise to outline all the work that has been accomplished, but also quite overwhelming to consider how much additional work needs to be completed, especially in regards to the technical aspects of building the union catalog (although full technical build out was outside the scope of this particular aspect of the larger ZineCat project). For the duration of the Independent Study, Lauren continued to collaborate with Jenna on the many "non-technical" aspects of ZineCat and although they did not work side by side on independent study, their work is supported by each other.

A major goal for the Independent Study was to establish a timeline and the shared decision making structure for ZineCat's development. As many timelines go, they often shift and change due to influencing factors. While it does not seem that the project is far off from its timeline, it is hard to truly assess because much of the work and contributions are tied directly to the progress of Jenna and Lauren in graduate school. Since Lauren and Jenna still have commitments within their program, it feels like deadlines are being met and progress is being made, but it also feels like the project is moving very slowly, again, especially considering the technical implications and getting substantial commitments from the community at large to contribute to the project's development.

It is certain that this will change once their work is completed and the development of the project shifts from an academic exercise into a fully formed digital project with community commitment and investment. Another goal of this IS was to outline the shared decision making structure. This has been more fully outlined in this project, but it has yet to be operationalized with commitments from the larger ZUC community. Again, it is anticipated that as this project transitions from work in a graduate program to a more community based project, shared decision making will be established amongst stakeholders and community members. However, Jenna and Lauren will continue to serve as project managers throughout that transition, so they will be able to work with stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition and to build the project management infrastructure.

As Lauren and Jenna move into their final phase of their graduate work, they are well situated to undertake the capstone. A major goal of the capstone will be to theoretically summarize their work and the project's development through a white paper, but they will also focus more on the technical aspects of the prototype and to organize the project's documentation so that the

transition to working on this beyond graduate school will be easy. The framework for completing this work is supported through the accomplishments of this Independent Study.

This Independent Study has been one component of a much larger project. ZineCat began before Lauren and Jenna started working together and contributions from others not involved in the MADH program have been ongoing throughout. Furthermore, the project's development must continue past Jenna and Lauren's time in the Graduate Center. The independent study has moved ZineCat's development forward, but it is only one part of ongoing work needed to continue the development. This independent study succeeded at engaging with community and laying the foundation for project management, but it has not entirely situated the project to be handed off to other stakeholders yet, nor has it entirely outlined every nuance of what needs to be accomplished. This work will need to be added to during capstone and then iterated as more stakeholders get involved.



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