

Glossary of Terms

Zine: a small, self-published magazine that is often written by one person and distributed independently through a network of individuals and organizations within the alternative publishing community.

Alternative press: small press, underground and independent publishers who specialize in publications that fall outside of the mainstream publishing industry.

Zinester: someone who makes and publishes zines.

DIY (Do-It-Yourself): a philosophy often associated with or used to describe and define zine culture and the self-publishing industry.

Distro: an independent distributor of zines and other forms of alternative press, which is run by individuals or collectives of people.

Trading: a form of currency within the zine and DIY community. With trading, essentially no money exchanges hands, but rather zines are traded for other zines and self-made products.

Zine fair: similar to a book fair, but zine creators, distro owners, and other members of the zine community gather to sell and promote zines, and sometimes offer zine-making workshops.

Fanzines: a shortened version of 'fan magazines,' fanzines are zines devoted to a particular individual, musical group, or other aspect of pop culture.

Riot Grrrl: a feminist movement that arose in the early 1990s through the underground music scene. Zines were pivotal in the riot grrrl movement as a tool for communication and expression of women's politics and experiences.

