The mission of the Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP) is to establish a “living history” archive of past and present queer zines and to encourage current and emerging zine publishers to continue to create. In curating such a unique aspect of culture, we value a collectivist approach that respects the diversity of experiences that have led to and/or are part of queer identity. QZAP is committed to making queer zines more accessible to diverse communities and to reach wider audiences. As part of the mission of QZAP, we provide educational workshops in your libraries and classes and community spaces. QZAP up to your peeps, bring us to speak or present or lead workshops in your libraries and classes and community spaces. When we get in touch.

Financial Donations: Like pretty much every other labor of love / mad scheme we need operating funds. Most of our expenditures are in a given year will be for storage and printing costs for our own research publications. Zine Donations: Old zines, new zines, pink zines, blue zines. We’ll take them in ones and twos, or by the cartonful. Technical Help: It’s such a hard thing to ask for, but we need a person with some pretty tight web dev skills to work with us for a few months on the programming side of things. It’s a time commitment that we can’t afford to pay for, even though it should be compensated. Thus the hard ask. So, if you’re reading this and know someone who might be interested, please have them get in touch.

Share the queer love: Help spread our propaganda around, talk QZAP up to your peeps, bring us to speak or present or lead workshops in your libraries and classes and community spaces.

QZAP was co-founded by Christopher Wilde and Milo Miller after they met as organizers of Queeruption 3 in 2001. As questions of identity, political and social actions and radical queer history came up, they would ask each other “didn’t So-and-so write about this in that zine?” and the idea of putting queer zines on-line was born.

Fast forward a bit and their dreams of a queer zine digital archive found a love child have come to fruition (and is now entering its angsty teen years!) Along the way we’ve had a TON of help from friends, volunteers, interns, and collective members. As an entity, we’re not, really. QZAP operates as a loose collective with members spread around the U.S. Day-to-day Chris fields a lot of research questions and helps keep the interns on track. Milo handles a lot of the web infrastructure, digital archive, and tech-related things. EVERYONE contributes by scanning and cataloging, reading and making queer zines, and joining in the making, eating, and dish-washing of our collective dinners.

As mentioned, QZAP offers for-credit and not-for-credit internships that focus on cataloging, research and zine-making. We also are hosting the third summer of Zinester-in-Residencies, where we invite zinemakers, scholars, and librarians to spend a week or two to live in the archive and utilize its resources. Finally, but most importantly, QZAP wouldn’t exist without the work of all the amazing zinesters who keep making zines and mini-comics and documenting our queer lives.

QZAP, the Queer Zine Archive Project, is a community archive of LGBTQ+ zines. A zine (pronounced “zeen,” rhymes with “bean”, no apostrophe) is a self-published, small circulation, non-commercial booklet or magazine. Zines are publications done for the love of doing them, not to make a profit or a living. Most zines are photocopied, but their production can range from handwritten or handmade booklets to offset-printed thousand instead of hundreds.

For our purposes, if the content of the zine is queer then the zine is queer. Additionally, if the creator identifies as queer, then the zine is queer. Queer is all about people’s expression of gender and sexuality. Someone who identifies as queer may use descriptors like: queer, kweer, gay, lesbian, bi, bisexual, fag, faggot, dyke, trans, tranny, queen, king, princess, Nancy boy, Brucey Boy, nelly, femme, butch, bulldagger, bulldyke, pansexual, omnisexual, asexual, homo, Saphist, faerie, and of course Friend of Dorothy. Queer content can be literally anything created by folks who identify as above. That said, the most common content you’ll find on QZAP is music, popular culture, activism, politics, racism, classism, fat phobia, ageism, travel, anti-assimilationism, DIY (do-it-yourself), comics/comix, erotica/porn, manifestos, poetry, Safer sex, same-gender love, same-gender sex, desire, gender, trans, transgender issues, bisexuality, QTPOC lives, sexual health.

The current collection is somewhere between 1500-2000 zines, The earliest zine in the collection is from 1973. The zines are housed in filing cabinets, alpha-by-title and thus the idea of putting queer zines on-line was born.

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