

RIT Libraries Circulating Zine Collection Statement

Scope of Policy

This policy applies exclusively to the RIT Libraries circulating zine collection. All other material is governed by the RIT Libraries [General Collection Development Policy](#).

What is a zine?

A zine can be defined as a self-published, small-circulation, mini-magazine. They can cover a variety of formats and topics, from basic booklets to more elaborate bindings, from print to digital publications. For the purposes of this collection, RIT Libraries will only be accepting physical copies of zines.

Collection Development Policy

1. Purpose

This policy statement governs the acquisition, use, and deselection of circulating zines at RIT Libraries. It may be considered a collection-oriented supplement to the [General Collection Development Policy](#) and is best understood in tandem with the [RIT Libraries RIT-made Circulating Zine Donation Policy](#).

2. Scope of Collection

The RIT Libraries circulating zine collection consists of two sub-collections of zines: a living collection of RIT-made work and a more permanent collection of non-RIT work. Both types of zines are intended to serve as creative inspiration and instructional material for all patrons. All zines will reflect the diverse tastes, interests, and talents of the RIT community. RIT Libraries collects zines of all types, but is especially interested in zines of local/community interest.

RIT Libraries prefers to purchase zines in physical format. On occasion, digital files designed for printing may be purchased, printed, assembled, and added to the collection. Digital zines that are either not optimized or not available for printing will not be considered for purchase.

3. Selection Criteria

RIT-made zines are acquired by donation only. Donation acceptance is subject to the criteria outlined in the [RIT Libraries RIT-made Circulating Zine Donation Policy](#).

Non-RIT-made zines will be selected and deselected based on how well they support the continuing information and creative needs of the RIT community. Factors considered include any individual zine's (and/or its creator's):

- Support of academic programs
- Relevance to student creative interests
- Unique content matter
- Contribution to inclusion of a diversity of perspectives within the circulating zine collection
- Standing or reputation within the zine community
- Usage or projected usage
- Artistic merit
- Condition
- Cost

The RIT Libraries staff members who oversee the zine collection are responsible for selection and deselection. Other RIT Libraries staff members may make selection recommendations in consultation with this group, which includes the Print Serials Specialist, the College of Art and Design Liaison/Librarian, the College of Liberal Arts Liaison Librarian, and the Scholarly Communications Librarian.

4. Acquisitions

Materials are acquired for the circulating zine collection via purchase and donations.

RIT-made zines

RIT-made zines are only acquired via donation per the [RIT Libraries RIT-made Circulating Zine Donation Policy](#).

Exception: Zines made by RIT affiliates may be purchased incidentally as part of collection development initiatives at local bookstores, zine fairs, conferences, or other in-person environments. These purchases are subject to the policies for non-RIT-made zines outlined in this Statement.

Non-RIT-made zines

Non-RIT-made zines may be purchased or donated. Purchases will be made using non-grant-based special funds.

Purchases

Purchases of non-RIT-made zines are made in-person at zine fairs and book fairs/shops as well as online via zine distributors, individual zinesters' online storefronts and any other sources

deemed appropriate by RIT Libraries staff who oversee the RIT-made circulating zine collection.

Donations

Donations of non-RIT-made zines are governed by the RIT Libraries [General Collection Donation Policy](#). We consider donations of self-made zines from creators not affiliated with RIT, as well as donations of zine collections from any source. If you would like to donate please contact Claire Payne, College of Art and Design Liaison/Librarian, at ccpwml@rit.edu.

5. Preservation and Maintenance

Please see the [RIT Libraries RIT-made Circulating Zine Donation Policy](#) for information on the preservation and maintenance of RIT-made zines.

Preservation and maintenance of non-RIT-made zines in the collection is governed by the principles outlined under “Collection Maintenance” in the RIT Libraries [General Collection Development Policy](#).

6. Access and Circulation

Materials in the circulating zine collection are available to browse on the first floor of Wallace Library and have the same loan periods and policies as other individual journal issues. Current loan period and policy information is available on the [Borrow, Renew, and Return](#) page on the RIT Libraries website.

7. Revision of Policy

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated as necessary.

Last updated September 2025.