

Workshop Thirteen – How to Publish Your Own Fanzine

1 Discussion – Community Media Reporting

- Why do community newspapers, and community news matter?
- Read through the articles below and identify what they say about the importance of community news?
- What lessons can you take from these articles that you can use to inform the community newspaper that you will be producing?
- Do you have any examples of a community newspaper, a magazine or a zine that you can use as a template to base your newspaper on?
- What are the stories that you will be covering?
- What is your model of community?
- Who are the people that form your identified community?

1.1 What makes a good community newspaper?

What we have been finding out over the last few months in our town - Stafford - is that monitoring services depends ultimately on handfuls of people performing a civic function. Attending meetings, reading digesting and thinking about reports, asking difficult questions, and asking them again if they don't get satisfactory answers. It is clear that in many ways we have not been doing this well. Groups get hijacked by people with a particular point of view, groups are badly managed. There are not enough good people coming forward to perform these essential, but hugely unexciting tasks, and there could well be less people willing to do them if people get pilloried for doing them badly.

<http://pressreform.blogspot.co.uk/2011/01/what-makes-good-community-newspaper.html>

1.2 The power of #NewWest: Why community newspapers will always matter

This is why community newspapers matter - and why, in a business climate that's fast becoming precarious for all forms of traditional media, we need to remember what value we're bringing to the communities we serve. By "value" I'm not talking about the kind that's visible on ledgers and balance sheets, or the kind that pays executives' bonuses and shareholders' dividends. I'm talking about the value that led most of us - including me - into this business in the first place: the value of helping to build community. <http://www.newwestrecord.ca/opinion/the-power-of-newwest-why-community-newspapers-will-always-matter-1.2179839>

1.3 Why community newspapers matter

Everybody understands the power of, say, The New York Times or The Washington Post, but probably less recognized and appreciated is the power of the Deer Creek Pilot and the thousands of other small, community newspapers just like it all across the land. In survey after survey, it is these little community-minded newspapers that are continuing to thrive. And there are some very tangible, observable reasons for that, not the least of which might be the notion I share that the smaller the community, the more important its newspaper. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/community/eastern-wake-news/ewn-opinion/article37347336.html>

2 Activity - Launching & Running a Community Newspaper

- Search through the following links and examples and identify any approaches to producing a community newspaper that you can adapt and use in your newspaper?

2.1 Community News Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to provide a basic, holistic understanding of how to establish and successfully run a sustainable community newspaper http://editorial.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ZENZELE_Foundation-workshop_Jan2009.pdf
<https://imagine.microsoft.com/en-US/Home>

2.2 DIY: FANZINE

Ever heard of Zines? Find out what they are, and how easy they are to make
https://youtu.be/zMU_l176zv4

2.3 Zine and done it

The 'fanzine' still has a place in modern culture argues April Welsh, who traces the history of a self-publishing phenomenon <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/features/zine-and-done-it-8300830.html>

2.4 How the fanzine refused to die

Blogs are the cheapest, fastest and easiest way to get your music writing out there – but that hasn't stopped a new generation of writers picking up the stapler and putting out a fanzine
<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2009/feb/02/fanzine-simon-reynolds-blog>

2.5 Fanzines - The scene that smells of zine spirit

It should have died out with flexi discs and VHS, but now a new generation is embracing the DIY world of the fanzine. Jessica Bateman celebrates a timely resurgence
<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/features/fanzines-the-scene-that-smells-of-zine-spirit-1792675.html>

2.6 Just start a fanzine

A lot of people don't start their own fanzine, just cause they think it's too much work. Although is pretty time-consuming, when you just do it bit by bit you'll have something finished in the end. Most problems you'll face are easily solved and it's so satisfying to have the final result in your hands! Don't think too much about it, just do it! <http://www.swnk.org/specials/do-it-yourself-do-a-zine/>

3 Making Your Own Magazine

What is a zine? Wikipedia defines it as "a small circulation self-published work of original or appropriated texts and images usually reproduced via photocopier" - although the term is often used to describe any magazine aimed at a niche audience. Generally, there's some kind of hand-crafted element to its production, while the content normally draws on ideas and values not covered regularly by the mainstream media. <http://www.creativeblog.com/print-design/make-your-own-zines-11410390>

3.1 How to Make a Zine

Zines are self-published, small-circulation, often nonprofit books, papers, or websites. They usually deal with topics too controversial or niche for mainstream media, presented in an unpolished layout and unusual design. Everyone, from a major NGO to a teenager like you, can be an author (and also an editor, art director, and publisher) of a zine, and that's part of what makes them so awesome.
<http://www.rookiemag.com/2012/05/how-to-make-a-zine/>

3.2 Write something people actually want to read

Many zines thrive on obscurity; like collages that depict what the maker ate for breakfast one week or a hand-drawn depiction of all six seasons of Glee. While you mustn't lose what makes your zine unique, try to make something that people can relate to so someone other than your best friend

ends up reading the thing. <https://www.timeout.com/melbourne/things-to-do/tips-for-publishing-your-own-zine>

3.3 How To Make Your Own Fanzine

Before the rise of the internet, people got their fannish content from fanzines—amateur, small magazines printed in small batches and distributed by post or in person, often at fan conventions (and sometimes, secretly!) You can check out the Fanlore entry for fanzines if you're curious about the history of the practice, but in short, fanzines are the direct modern precursor to the forums, tumblr accounts, and fanfic archives of today. <https://fanslashfic.com/2015/12/17/how-to-make-your-own-fanzine/>

3.4 Guide To Zine Making

Zines are self-published materials with short print runs. Zines can be about anything from your favorite band to what you did on your summer vacation. The world of Zine making is a largely underground. Zines are a perfect way to express ideas or feelings that are not fit for the main stream due to their personal content or unpopular ideas. Zines are the fastest way for writers and artists to produce self published works. <http://www.instructables.com/id/Guide-To-Zine-Making/>

3.5 Why I Launched My Magazine

I've been running my website Kasterborous.com since 2005, reporting on the latest news, providing reviews, interviews, and feature articles on the popular British TV show Doctor Who. We've also got a "podKast", released a book of reviews (Ultimate Regeneration, the basis for my recent MakeUseOf guide Your Guide to Self-Publishing: From Print to Kindle and Beyond), feature prominently in a popular iOS app, and even run a trio of original comic strips based on the show. <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-i-self-published-my-magazine-online-and-in-print/>

4 Activity - Blogging

- Start a new blog post that can be shared on DIY-DMU.
- Based on the evaluation and discussion that you have undertaken in this session, can you identify the skills, knowledge and experience that you would like to develop in order to enhance your community media newspaper production skills?
- Can you list the things that you are good at, and what evidence you have for this?
- Can you suggest areas of improvement and how you might develop your skills in this area?
- Is it useful to share and discuss your development goals with other people?

5 References