



Data Zines: A Hands-On Approach to Community Curiosities



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A bit about me...






Civic Information Services at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

When: 2017

Where: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main Branch

Who: Civic Information Services Department (interns and Data Manager)

Why:

- Use data to help patrons feel connected to their community and enact change
 - Create spaces where people can explore, question, and challenge data
 - Build awareness of the data people create and how to protect it
 - Engage patrons of all ages in data conversations
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Civic Data Zine Workshop



Setting: Labs Summer Intensives

Audience: Teens

Timeframe: One week

Partner: PublicSource

Origin: MLIS project





Woah woah woah...what's a zine?






So...why zines?



Curriculum



Big Goals:

- ...identify data as it impacts our everyday lives;
 - ...think critically about data;
 - ...practice storytelling using data;
 - ...examine a personal, civic, or national issue through the lens of data
 - ...create a Data Zine that documents not only our findings, but our process.
- 

Curriculum



Smaller Goals:

I LEARNED

- ...a new skill, dataset, or resource
- ...more about my community

I MADE

- ...a Data Zine
- ...discoveries in data


I HELPED

- ...my community through civic data
- 

Requirements



In order to be a Data Zine, each zine must include:

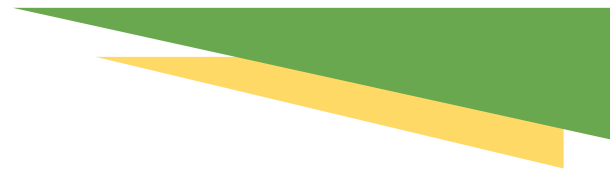
- A graph, chart, or some other form of data visualization
 - A survey, interview, or some other form of qualitative data
 - A map of some kind
 - Our finding process
 - Any sources we used
- 



Exploring Data Resources



Creating Data Stories





Presenting the Data



CIVIC DATA FIELD GUIDE



ASK A QUESTION!

- what's something you've always been curious about?
- is there anything you want to investigate?
- think about a change you'd like to see, or something that confuses you.

Does my state allow early voting?

Who takes care of my city's parks?

Why do stoplights not placed where they do?

I want to know more about my city's animal control!

How-to

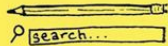


DO SOME DIGGING!

YOU MIGHT START BY:



- searching local database repositories...
- calling your representatives...
- asking a librarian...
- clicking around your city's website...



COMPILE YOUR FINDINGS!

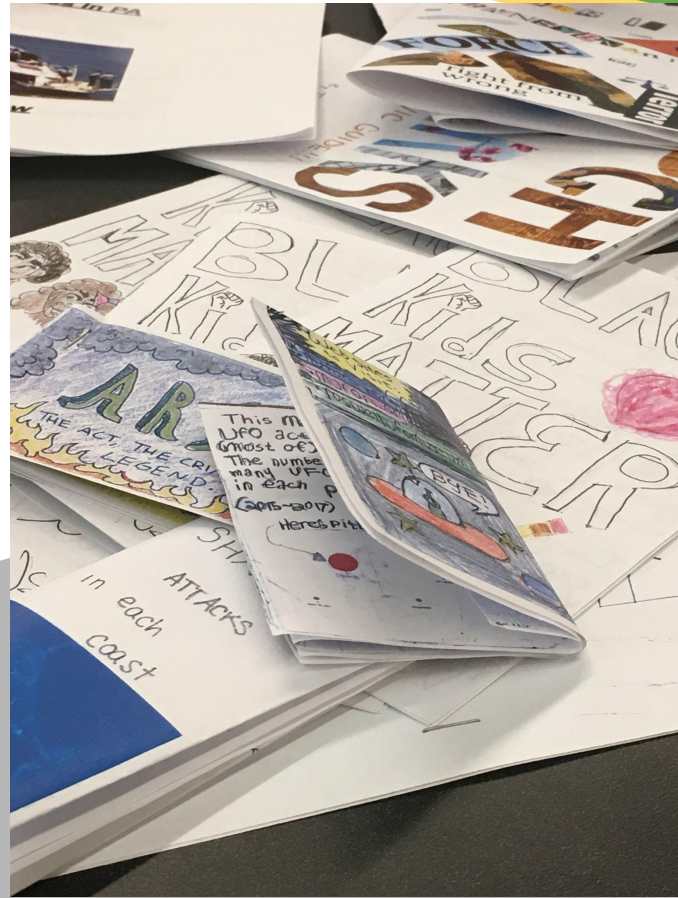
YOUR FINAL PRODUCT SHOULD:

- detail your search and what you found out...
 - ↳ did you get an answer? did the question change?
- reflect you, your process, or your community...
 - ↳ make this zine your own! go wild! be creative!
- serve as a resource for other curious citizens...
 - ↳ what advice can you give to people who have questions?
 - ↳ is your data presented in an effective way?



SHARE IT!

- tell your family, friends, and teachers about your project!
- does your community have a zine library? see if you can donate yours
- go to a zine swap!



Open Data Sources



US Census

NYC Open Data

Google Trends



Week-long Workshop



DAY 1 - DATA RESOURCES

DAY 2 - DATA COLLECTION

DAY 3 - DATA STORIES

DAY 4 - WORKING WITH DATA

DAY 5 - PRESENTING DATA



Short Workshop



FIRST STEP


Get your zine ready
Determine your topic

NEXT STEP

Dig into the data
Compile your findings

LAST STEP

What was interesting? What questions do you have?
Copy your zine and share





Let's take a look!





More information...

<https://tinyurl.com/9kymb7ty>






More resources...

Biel, Joe. *Make a Zine*. Portland: Microcosm Publishing, 2008.

Fontichiaro, Kristin, Jo Angela Oehrli, and Amy Lennex. *Creating Data Literate Students*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2017.

McCandless, David. *Information Is Beautiful*. New York: Collins, 2009.

Posavec, Stefanie and Giorgia Lupi. *Dear Data*. London: Penguin Press, 2016.





Thanks!

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