**Review of *A Short Exhibition About Music Zines* July 2017**

[**https://suburbanqueen.wixsite.com/bastilleday/reviews**](https://suburbanqueen.wixsite.com/bastilleday/reviews)

**Catherine Laz - Open Up and Bleed fanzine**

**A SHORT STORY ABOUT MUSIC ZINES**

**The collection:**

**The LCC Zine Collection was started in 2009 by Leila Kassir, former LCC librarian, and has grown from a handful of titles to a substantial learning, teaching and research collection.**

**Active collecting and small to large-scale donations have seen the collection grow to over 4000 titles.**

**The collection contains music fanzines but also zines about feminism, films, football, politics, etc.**

**The collection can be accessed by contacting**

**Find them on Facebook: [LCCLibraryCollection](https://www.facebook.com/LCCLibraryZineCollection/" \t "_blank)**

**What I thought:**

**As opposed to Punk fanzines that sought to create a community amongst fans of a growing movement, the new breed of zines are more personal and introvert, more like diaries rather than manifestoes. They reflect the writer's lives and interests as an individual rather than trying to gather crowds around a movement.**

**I still find fascinating that people want to create their own mouthpiece using traditional methods of publishing as opposed to blogs on the internet. Because you can keep them, pass them around and you have the freedom of format and design the web doesn't really allow.**

**On the other hand, they show how atomised our lives have become, with little chance of interviewing people who are well-known outside their own scene. The complete lack of passion for music as we used to live it, the closing down of small live venues and music outlets, the uniformization of youth and the take-over of the internet have made it very difficult to create and sell fanzines in the traditional way. It used to be a means to meet people but if physical contact is superseded by the digital because people just can't afford to meet anymore, that's putting pressure on small publications. So well done to those who are trying.**

**Personally, I can't be arsed anymore, but after years of Facebook non-sense where the dialogue has been reduced to banter and emojis, it is time to give it another go. I was reluctant at first because I like fanzines as physical objects, but I always loved writing so here I am again ... and this time it's free!**