

HDK Zine Archive

The HDK Zine Archive is a piece of furniture, a collection and display space for publications, an archive, a collaboration with Gotenburg University Library and perhaps also a situation.

The idea of the archive stems from the notion that so many interesting publications in various sizes, material and editions are made at HDK by students and staff in courses, research and other situations, that are just put in boxes after exhibitions or presentations. I think it could be real nice to be able to look at them also later, both for content and form as well as the archival point of being able to do new readings over time.

The archive is a box made from birch plywood, with tre compartments, one drawer and a lid that also works as a display space. The design is mine, and the archive is drawn and built by Johan Campanello.

In the version 1.0 of the archive it is open for anyone connected to HDK to donate one or more publications. There is a form to fill out with info of author, pages, edition, size etc to make sure it gets filed correctly in the Library system and thereby make the publication searchable and possible to borrow for anyone with a GU library card.

There was a premiere launch of the archive on September 7th 2016 where I presented the archive and how the process of donating is to be done and there was a couple of hours of hang-out, eating cookies and talking about self-publication and zines. Around 10 publications were donated at the opening by students and staff.

My plan for the archive was to set it up in the fall of 2016 and then let it settle for some time and collect questions and thoughts, both from myself and from students, librarians, staff and researchers, on how to continue the work during 2017.

Short interview with myself:

-Lets start with the HDK Zine Archive. Why this?

-I believe that there could be an interest for people to both present their own work and take part of others. To make it accessible as communication of the searching as well as the interest of seeing how others do it, how they work, what decisions they make. The archive would be a part of an oscillating motion between showing (sharing) and be shown (take part of).

if we assume that self-publication and work with various forms of publishing in small editions is a part of the work at HDK / KFN, both for students and staff, then a place to collect, display and save them could fill a function.

I also like the idea that one could look at changes in material, formats, trends, content etc over time and that things like hardware at the faculty will leave traces (for ex laser cutter, paper screen printing as well as the loss of the old xerox copier).

-So, whats with this GUNDA catalog thing?

-Yes, the idea is that all donated publications are registered and put in the official on-line catalog of the University Library. They now have a category that is "Fanzine" and all publications are searchable and possible to borrow. This is of course also a bit tricky since a lot of the publications are fragile, but at the same time the chance to keep the work for a while and look at it at home or by the desk opens for a closer reading. I guess there is a little bit of the "death of the zine" in the project as well haha, when what was once dirty xerox copied punk culture with mosh-pit photos and interviews with the underground is now being library catalogued and kept in alphabetic order.

-Ok, so the archive is up and running, with quite little action around it. How do you see it evolve?

-Heh, well, yes...I guess only one or two publications have been added since the launch in September. I am not really sure why it is so slow, it could be for a number of reasons like lack of information, no interest, shyness, the format, the sender etc. I am thinking that fewer people know about it than I thought since I sent emails to everyone and also had a thing in the newsletter :) , but also maybe the interest for the whole thing is lesser than I thought (hoped for). Maybe one of the important part are the questions of sender and intention since these are both a bit unclear.

I know from talking to students that the archive lacks "critical mass" ai more publications. If there was more it would be easier to add another.

One way to cater for that would be to reach out to the rest of the faculty, and in general work more with information. Another would be to also add publications from outside of HDK / KFN thru donations or purchase like any other library.

So, for the continuing of the project I believe the issues of *Intention, who is the archive for, who can add work, what kind of work would be interesting to keep, how can the archive be used and how to work with information* are in focus for the coming year.

