

Bibliographic and Web Tools for Alternative Media

Byron Anderson, October 2008

REFERENCE BOOKS/ONLINE DATABASES

Alt-Press Watch, 1970-current. Available from ProQuest,

http://www.il.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/alt_presswatch.shtml

Full-text database of more than 190 newspapers, magazines, and journals from alternative and independent presses.

Alternative press index. Baltimore, MD: Alternative Press Center, 1969-. Edited by an Editorial Collective. ISSN 0002-662X. Biannual, vol 38-. Inst.: \$425; Indiv.: \$75. <http://www.altpress.org>

A comprehensive subject index to over 300 alternative, radical and left periodicals, newspapers and magazines. Alternative Press Index, 1991- and Alternative Press Index Archive, 1969-1990 databases are available in FirstSearch from OCLC (800) 848-5878, ext. 6251. Some full-text.

Alternative publishers of books in North America, 6th ed. American Library Association. Social Responsibilities Round Table, Alternatives in Media Task Force. Edited and compiled by Byron Anderson. Duluth, MN: Library Juice Press, 2006. ISBN10: 0-9778617-2-4; ISBN13: 978-0-9778617-2-9. \$18.00. <http://libraryjuicepress.com/apbna.php>. Available from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and Powell's Books, or Library Juice Press.

Profiles of 163 independent alternative publishers of books that are politically progressive or literary and deliver alternative thought through fiction, short stories, and poetry.

The American directory of writer's guidelines, 6th ed. Clovis, CA: Quill Driver Books, 2006. ISBN 1-884956-58-0. \$29.95. http://www.quilldriverbooks.com/adwgVI/about_adwgVI.htm

Writer's guidelines on more than 1,700 magazine and book publishers, including a few alternative publishers.

Annotations: a guide to the independent critical press, 3rd ed. Edited by Marie Jones. Baltimore, MD: Alternative Press Center, 2004. 750p index. ISBN: 09653894-3-X. \$29.95+\$2.55 s&h.

<http://www.altpress.org/mod/pages/display/13/index.php>

Comprehensive profiles of 385 independent critical periodicals that met one of three criteria: indexed in the *Alternative Press Index*, awarded at least two Project Censored awards since 1999, or were active members with a social justice orientation of the Independent Press Association.

Atton, Chris and James F. Hamilton. **Alternative Journalism**. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2008. ISBN: 978141294, paper \$39.95; 9781412947022, hardcover \$89.95.

Investigates the challenges to media power presented by alternative journalism. Diverse forms of journalism cover radical media, citizen journalist blogs, and fanzine subcultures.

Bizot, Jean-François. **Free press: underground & alternative publications, 1965-1975**. New York: Universe, 2006. 255p (oversize), index. ISBN: 0789314967; 9780789314963. \$45.

Reproductions of pages from underground newspapers. Gives a brief history of the Underground Press Syndicate made up of 30 or so publications, such as *Rat*, *Tout*, *Los Angeles Free Press*, *East Village Other*, and *San Francisco Oracle*. Provides a one-page chronology of the underground years.

Contemporary Women's Issues, 1992-current. Available from OCLC FirstSearch,

<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/firstsearch/databases/dbdetails/details/CWI.htm>

Focus is on health and human rights with full-text access to global information on women in over 150 countries. Indexes books, journals, newsletters, research reports, and other.

The directory of poetry publishers, 1984/85-current. Paradise, CA: Dustbooks. Annual, \$25.95; four-year subscriptions, \$82. <http://www.dustbooks.com>

Features some 21 pieces of information on each of the more than 1800 book and magazine publishers of poetry worldwide, including university presses and e-zines. Includes editorial biases, percentage of submissions published, contest information and reporting time.

The directory of small press/magazine editors & publishers, 1969/70-current. Paradise, CA: Dustbooks. Annual, \$25.95; four-year subscriptions, \$82. <http://www.dustbooks.com>

More than 7,500 listings of editors and publishers, along with their associated publishing companies, their addresses, phones, e-mail addresses and Web pages. Includes self-publishers.

Ethnic News Watch, 1990-current; **Ethnic News Watch: A History**, 1959-1989. Available from ProQuest, http://www.il.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/ethnic_newswatch.shtml; http://www.il.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/ethnicnewswatch_hist.shtml

A full-text database of news, culture and history from 280 publications of ethnic, minority, and Native press. English and Spanish help options and screen assists are available. Nearly a quarter of the articles are in Spanish.

Gender Studies Database, 1972 (and earlier)-current. Available from National Information Services Corporation's Biblioline, <http://www.nisc.com/factsheets/qgsd.asp> and EBSCO Publishing's EBSCOhost, <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=72>

Combines Women's Studies databases and bibliographies from various sources and one Men's Studies database. Gendered engaged scholarship.

Gender Watch, 1970-current. Available from Proquest, http://www.il.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/genderwatch.shtml

Historical and current perspectives on the evolution of gender roles as they affect both men and women. More than 230 academic, gray and popular literature titles. Wide-ranging topics such as sexuality, religion, societal roles.

The international directory of little magazines & small presses, 1964/65-current. Edited by Len Fulton. Paradise, CA: Dustbooks. Annual. \$37.95 paper, \$55.00 cloth; four-year subscriptions, \$120-\$145. <http://www.dustbooks.com>

Considered "the bible of the business," the directory contains more than 4,000 short profiles of book and magazine publishers of literary, avante garde, cutting-edge contemporary, left wing, right wing, and radical chic fiction, and mainstream areas such as photography and travel.

The Left index, 1979 (and earlier)-current. National Information Services Corporation's Biblioline, <http://www.nisc.com/factsheets/qli.asp> and EBSCO Publishing's EBSCOhost, <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=178>

A guide to the diverse literature of the left from around the world. An author/subject index composed from 774 unique sources, including 270 core journals.

LGBT Life and **LGBT Life with Full Text**, 1953-current. Available from EBSCO Publishing's EBSCOhost, <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=76> and <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=77>.

Abstracts and indexes more than 180 journals, 310 books and reference works, and data from

over 6500 select titles. The full text database has more than 100 full-text journals and 100 full-text books. Databases provide global coverage on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

Publisher's international ISBN directory. Munchen, Germany: K.G. Saur; New York: Bowker. Annual. Useful in verifying a publisher's ISBN prefix(es) and country of origin. Contains 880,000 prefixes from over 200 countries. Also available on CD-ROM.

Women's Studies International, 1972-current. Available from National Information Services Corporation's Biblioline, <http://www.nisc.com/factsheets/QWRI.asp> and EBSCO Publishing's EBSCOhost, <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=320>
Draws from over 2000 periodicals and another 800 sources, including newspapers, book chapters, proceedings, dissertations, and other. Combines six women's studies databases and bibliographies.

WEB SOURCES

AA Independent Press Guide, http://homepage.ntlworld.com/su_bainbridge/aaipg.html
Guide to more than 2000 lit mags and publishers in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and other areas of the world. Extensive list of Internet magazines and journals.

Alternative Comics, <http://www.indyworld.com>
Comic books, zines, graphic novels, and anthologies. Jeff Mason, publisher.

EPC List of Poetry Presses, <http://wings.buffalo.edu/epc/presses>
Links to independent poetry presses from the Electronic Poetry Center at the State University of New York at Buffalo .

INK, <http://www.ink.uk.com>
From the Independent News Collective, a trade association of UK radical and alternative presses.

LitLine Links, <http://www.litline.org/links/presses.html>.
A website for the independent literary community providing links to presses, organizations, journals, online journals, and other.

NewPages.com, <http://www.newpages.com>
NewPages provides news, information and comprehensive guides to independent publishers and bookstores, alternative periodicals and newsweeklies, literary periodicals, independent record labels, review sources, and more

PubList, <http://www.publist.com>
A database of over 150,000 domestic and international print and electronic publications, including magazines, journals, ejournals, newsletters and other periodicals, searchable by title, subject and publisher. Provides detailed publication information.

Street Librarian: Independent & Non-corporate Media,
<http://www.geocities.com/soho/cafe/7423/altpress.html>
Divided into categories of organizations, directories, review sources, notable presses, magazines and newsletters, zines on the web, special collections, distributors, and multimedia.

Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000. Available from Alexander Street Press, <http://asp6new.alexanderstreet.com/wass>

An online resource from the Center for the Historical Study of Women and Gender at SUNY Binghamton, including 79 document projects, a dictionary of social movements and organizations, a chronology of U.S. women's history, teaching tools, and a journal with reviews, archival news, and full-text documents. Subscription based.

DISTRIBUTORS

AK Press, <http://www.akpress.org>

AK Press is a worker-run book publisher and distributor organized around anarchist principles. The press makes available by mail radical books and other materials from independent presses. Website can be searched by titles, keyword, author, or publisher.

Consortium Book Sales & Distribution--Distributed Publishers, <http://www.cbsd.com>

Distributor of more than 90 independent presses, many alternative, in the areas such as poetry, lesbian and gay studies, theater, art, Latin American studies, multicultural literature, and women's studies. Presses are annotated and linked.

Small Press Distribution, <http://www.spdbooks.org>

SPD is the only wholesaler in the country dedicated exclusively to broadly distributing independently published literature. As a non-profit literary arts organization, SPD's mission is to nurture a cultural context in which the literary arts are valued and sustained. The publishers distributed by SPD are listed under the "Publishers" link.

Women, Ink, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, <http://womenink.org>. A project of the International Women's Tribune Centre.

Women's Ink is "empowering women worldwide with knowledge to transform communities." It markets and distributes books on women and development with a focus on the perspectives of women from the Global South. Publications are from international organizations and small presses in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

ORGANIZATIONS

Alternative Press Center, <http://www.altpress.org>

Founded in 1969, the Center is one of the oldest self-sustaining alternative media institutions in the U.S. Run as a non-profit collective, the Center is dedicated to providing access to and increasing public awareness of the alternative press. Publishes *Alternative Press Index* and *Annotations* (see entries under "Reference Books/Online Databases" above).

Alternatives in Media Task Force, <http://www.libr.org/AIP>

Alternatives in Media, formerly called Alternatives in Publication, is a task force of the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table made up of librarians who work to promote the acquisitions and use of alternative media in libraries, challenge media consolidation, and provide critical analysis of communication policies and practices.

Independent Media Center, <http://www.indymedia.org>

Indymedia is a collective of independent media organizations and hundreds of journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate coverage. Indymedia is a democratic media outlet for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate tellings of the truth. The center acts as a clearinghouse of

information for people who work for a better world, despite corporate media's distortions and unwillingness to cover the efforts to free humanity.

Media Alliance, <http://www.media-alliance.org>

Media Alliance is a 30 year-old media resource and advocacy center for media workers, non-profit organizations, and social justice activists. The mission is one of excellence, ethics, diversity, and accountability in all aspects of the media in the interests of peace, justice, and social responsibility.

The New York Center for Independent Publishing, <http://www.nycip.org>.

An educational program of The General Society of the Mechanics and Tradesmen. Formerly the Small Press Center, the center sponsors the National Small Press Month (March) and a nationwide promotion highlighting the work produced by independent publishers. Serves the nation's most innovative publishers and actively strives to cultivate freedom of the press.

SMALL PRESS NEWS, REVIEWS, AWARDS, AND REPRINTS

Alternative press review, A.A.L. Press, P.O. Box 6245, Arlington, VA 22206. 1993-. Quarterly. ISSN: 1072-7299. \$16/year; \$30/2 years. <http://www.altpr.org>

Reprints articles from the radical press, news notes, essays, and reviews of alternative media, mostly zines, but also journals, books, CDs and videos. Refers to itself as "your guide beyond the mainstream."

Black issues book review. 501 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10017. Bi-monthly, ISSN: 1522-0524, \$19.95/year. <http://www.bibookreview.com/index.html>.

Reviews and news for African American book buyers. Covers mostly mainstream titles, but with occasional alternative press titles. The only national magazine devoted exclusively to covering books by black authors and the interests of African American readers.

Books to Watch Out For, <http://www.bookstowatchoutfor.com>. The monthly e-letters are subscription based at \$30 per year or \$42 by post for each of the newsletters: More Books for Women, The Lesbian Edition, and The Gay Men's Edition. Combination packages are available.

Short reviews of new lesbian, gay and women's books and publishing news. From Carol Seajay, former editor of *Feminist Bookstore News*.

Broken pencil: the magazine of zine culture and the independent arts, 1995-. \$25 (\$30 US) for 8 issues, single copy, \$5.95, <http://www.brokenpencil.com>

This Canadian publication reviews approximately 200 zines, books, websites, videos, and art works per issue. Also, reprints from alternative publications, interviews, and cartoons. Three issues per year.

Counterpoise. Gainesville, FL: CRISES Press, 1997-2007; Counterpoise Collective, 2008-. Quarterly, Individ.: \$50, Inst.: \$80, low-income, \$30, <http://www.counterpoise.info>

Described as "for social responsibilities, liberty and dissent," the magazine reviews alternative books, magazines, pamphlets, and videos. Also contains articles, essays, and bibliographies. A prominent voice for alternative media.

New Pages Reviews. <http://www.newpages.com/>

NewPages is a comprehensive site made up of news, information and guides to independent bookstores, independent publishers, literary periodicals, alternative periodicals, independent

record labels, alternative newsweeklies and more. There are links for available for literary magazine reviews and book reviews.

QBR: The Black Book Review, 1992-. <http://www.qbr.com/default.asp>

QBR is the first national book review dedicated to reviewing books about the African experience. The company also produces the Harlem Book Fair.

Rain taxi review of books, P.O. Box 3840, Minneapolis, MN 55403. 1995-. Quarterly. \$15/year; 2 years, \$27; \$5/issue. <http://www.raintaxi.com> Available online and in print.

Rain Taxi is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to spreading the work about the best in contemporary literature—literary fiction, poetry, and nonfiction with an emphasis on works that push the boundaries of language, narrative, and genre. Press profiles, interviews, and in-depth reviews. An UTNE Independent Press Award winner.

Small press review. Paradise, CA: Dustbooks 1966-. Bi-monthly. \$35/year; 2 years, \$49.

<http://www.dustbooks.com>

A newsprint magazine with reviews of magazines and books, guest editorials, information on small press activities, and getting published.

Utne reader. Bi-monthly, \$19.97; free weekly newsletter, <http://www.utne.com>

Reprints articles from "the best of alternative media" covering over 1500 sources presenting the best writing from diverse publications on the latest ideas and trends emerging in our culture, a digest of independent ideas and alternative culture. The Utne Independent Press Awards annually recognizes excellence in independent magazine publishing.

Women's review of books, 1983-. Old City Publishing, 628 N. Second St., Philadelphia, PA 19123. Bi-monthly, ISSN: 0738-1433, institutional \$69/year, individual, \$37/year,

<http://www.wcwonline.org/content/view/373/38>. From the Wellesley Centers for Women.

Fills the gap in reviews of women's writings left by mainstream media. Promotes women's writing and encourages thoughtful discussion. Provides a forum for serious discussion of new writing by and about women. Mostly mainstream titles with some titles from the alternative press.

Xerography debt, Davida Gypsy, P.O.Box 11064, Baltimore, MD 21212. Back issues are \$3 each and current from #24 on are \$2 each. Also online in PDF <http://www.leekinginc.com/xeroxdebt/index.htm>

Formerly zine reviews, but now columns, letters, open discussions, independent press news and views, and more. Zine reviews are in blog form at <http://xerographydebt.blogspot.com>.

Zine world: a reader's guide to the underground press, P.O. Box 330156, Murfreesboro, TN 37133. \$10 for 3 issues; sample copy \$4. <http://www.undergroundpress.org>

News and reviews of zines, underground papers, comix, books, other DIY stuff., and upcoming zine and counterculture events. Editors believe that zines are one of the staples of the underground press.

Zine review sites, <http://www.zinebook.com/directory/zine-reviews.html>

A webpage from Chip Rowe's **The Book of Zines: readings from the fringe** website ("the zine and e-zine resource guide"). Approximately 12 links to sites that review zines.

RELATED

Alternative Media Global Project, <http://www.ourmedianetwork.org/wiki>

A bibliography, chronology, world map, and history of alternative media. A global collaborative wiki, devoted to centralizing alternative media resources, and make them available to a community of researchers, activists and others involved with alternative media.

Indies Under Fire: the battle for the American bookstore, <http://www.indiesunderfire.com>

The DVD is available for purchase at the website.

A 56-minute documentary film by Jacob Bricca about independent bookstores and their battle to survive. It is the first documentary to look in depth at the issues surrounding the growth of “super-chain” bookstores. Independent bookstores are a major outlet for independent thought and publishers.

Radical cataloging: essays at the front. Edited by K. R. Roberto. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2008. 321p. Notes, bibliographies, index. ISBN: 978-0-7864-3543-2. \$45.

Essays critique current cataloging practices, including what materials get cataloged and by whom. Introduces ideas to make cataloging more inclusive.