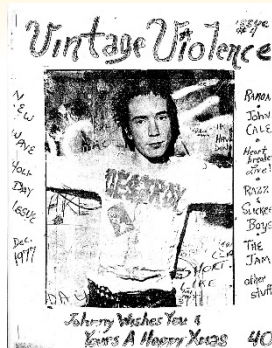


Archiving Punk at SCPA

Since 2014, Special Collections in Performing Arts (SCPA) at the University of Maryland has stewarded several collections of archival material related to the punk subculture in the Washington, D.C. area.

The D.C. Punk and Indie Fanzine collection

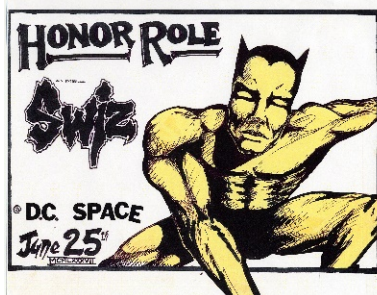
The first punk collection at SCPA, the D.C. Punk and Indie Fanzine collection centers on fanzines, which are publications made by amateur enthusiasts of a specific subject and, generally, in small runs. This collection gathers more than 400 print titles focused on D.C. punk together, along with some related digital files. This collection also includes an oral history series, capturing interviews with fanzine creators.



The Jason Farrell collection

This collection consists primarily of posters and fliers created by musician and graphic artist Jason Farrell, an active member of the D.C.-area punk community in the 1980s and 1990s. These items were created to promote concerts and recordings that Farrell was connected to and most of them were designed by Farrell himself.

The collection includes fliers, posters, ephemera, recordings, and an oral history interview with Farrell.



The John Davis collection on punk

This collection consists primarily of concert fliers, posters, and photographs that I have collected as an active participant in the D.C.-area punk music scene since the early 1990s. I took the photographs in this collection at various concerts in the mid-1990s and many of the fliers and posters in the collection relate to my musical career.



Punk?

Punk is a genre of music and a surrounding subculture that emerged in the mid-1970s from North America and Europe before swiftly spreading internationally. Typically ignored or excluded by mainstream culture due to its ostensible repudiation of prevailing values, punk musicians and fans created their own publications and promotional materials, embracing methods used by previous underground movements while subsequently establishing distinctive aesthetics and ethics.

How?

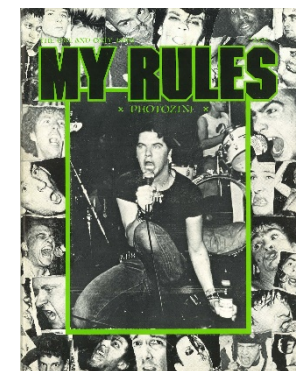
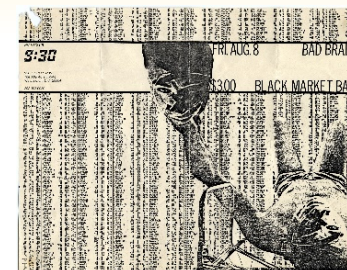
More than forty donors, so far, have contributed materials like fanzines, photographs, concert fliers & posters, digital files, and various ephemera to create and enhance these collections. Starting with my own donation of materials, I used personal contacts within the local punk scene, as well as social media, to bring in additional donors.

Who?

The punk collections are now some of the most used in SCPA's holdings. Researchers have used these materials to help create books, journal articles, documentaries, comic books, dissertations, clothing, artwork, and more. These materials are of use to researchers from multiple disciplines -- performing arts (music history, ethnomusicology), visual arts (graphic design, typography), linguistics (semiotics), cultural anthropology (feminist studies, subcultural studies), American studies (material culture) and more.

Why?

Inspired by like-minded punk collections at other institutions (NYU, Duke, the University of Iowa), SCPA has helped establish punk as a relevant subject of academic study. Working with punk collections has furthered our mission to collect, serve, and preserve performing arts materials related to practice, particularly those produced in the D.C. area.



The Sharon Cheslow Punk Flyers collection

This collection was created by musician, artist, author, educator, and onetime UMD student and WMUC DJ, Sharon Cheslow. Cheslow was an active participant in the D.C. punk scene from the late 1970s until she moved in the early 1990s. While in the D.C. area, Cheslow amassed a collection of fliers mostly pertaining to D.C. bands, including her own. The collection includes 484 punk fliers created and collected from 1979-1991.

The Skip Groff papers

Skip Groff has been a fixture in the D.C. music scene since the 1960s. Working as a DJ, record producer, record label owner and, most notably, as owner of Yesterday & Today Records in Rockville, MD, Groff had a pivotal role in the development of D.C. punk.

His papers primarily consist of recordings, photographs, publications, correspondence, and an oral history series.

The Ian MacKaye Fanzines digital collection

Ian MacKaye is a musician and record label owner who has been a central figure in D.C. punk since 1979. This collection consists of digitized versions of most of MacKaye's fanzine collection, which numbers in excess of 1700. This collection will be available later in 2018 through UMD's Digital Collections website and will allow researchers to view online hundreds of fanzines from the 1970s to the 2010s.