commonalities. The computer world, like the zine world, has typically been male-dominated. However, many girls and women are learning how to navigate the web. Girls are also learning how to build web pages and use e-mail. The interesting thing about the cyberspace is that it is virtually unrestricted and available to everybody who has access to a computer and modem (Hamilton). In comparison to print zines, online zines are more likely to be more successful in terms of creating a community and encouraging dialogue because e-zines can be accessed by more people on a wider scale (people all over the world surf the "net") (Dixon). It is important to note that while e-zines appear to have limitless possibilities, they too, have limitations. E-zines are not accessible to persons who do not have access to computers, and even though girls are attempting to promote communication about feminist issues, "this expansion of discursive space does not necessarily, nor easily, translate into shifts in dominant public discourse" (Hamilton 183).

However, cyberspace does have many possibilities for girls seeking to express themselves and reach a wider community of young women. Dixon writes that "the significance of e-zines for feminist resistance lies mainly, but not exclusively, in the possibility for networking, connection, and community" (131).

Although it is clear that both print zines and e-zines have limitations, these problems do not outweigh the positive aspects of girls' zines. Zines continue to be important in the lives of young women because they act as a form of resistance to dominant messages about how a girl is supposed to define herself. Zines serve not only as a forum for self-expression, but also as a way of creating a community and promoting communication amongst young women.

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References


