

Colophon

MPSoL

19 October 2026

Survey of Marginal Literary Production, 2026

Preliminary Report No. 1: Two Expeditions

This preliminary report records two completed, manually initiated crawler missions. It is a field account of discovery and its limits, with an inventory of the pages returned. It is not a verified bibliography or an assessment of the works themselves.

Documentary basis: research-report.md, publication.json, and records.jsonl. The eleven exported records retain the status “unverified.” Editorial classification and comparison in this report do not change that status.

Page titles have been shortened where necessary for legibility. One product-page title contained payment-service labels; these have been omitted from the display title. Source addresses and record identifiers permit comparison with the ledger. No additional retrieval was undertaken for this report.

Mission and collection times are reported in UTC. The year in the survey title identifies the survey, not a publication-year restriction on the materials encountered.

The colophon precedes the title page.

Survey of Marginal Literary Production, 2026

Preliminary Report No. 1 *Two Expeditions*

A short field survey of two completed crawler missions
19 October 2026

Eleven page records. Four skipped candidates.
One press encountered in both missions.

The principal result is a set of leads requiring different kinds of attention. Publisher pages, individual works, and secondary review material entered the same collection. Their presence together is useful for discovery; it does not make them equivalent evidence.

Mandate and method

The mandate is to register what two expeditions found in the vicinity of marginal literary production, and to state what the resulting record can support. “Marginal” remains a working designation. The searches do not establish an institution’s position in the literary field, a work’s obscurity, or the extent of its readership.

The missions used subject searches followed by assistant selection from actual search results. The export names the search service as the Codex web search tool and does not disclose the underlying index. Selection was therefore mediated by both search results and editorial choice; it was not an exhaustive traversal.

Recorded search language

Mission 1 used “independent experimental fiction small press fragmented narrative” and “obscure fiction chapbook unconventional narrative independent publisher.” Mission 2 used “experimental fiction micropress translation hybrid novel” and “independent literary fiction artist book nonlinear narrative.”

These phrases establish the search’s direction, not the discovered pages’ qualifications. A result returned for “nonlinear narrative” has not thereby been demonstrated to contain a nonlinear work.

Unit of collection

Each ledger entry concerns a source URL. It includes a collection time, discovery provenance, page metadata, a content hash, and a verification status. A URL is not a book, and a page title is not a complete bibliographic citation. All eleven records have null dedicated fields for author, publisher, publication date, and ISBN, although some raw metadata contains relevant statements.

The two expeditions

Mission 1

Completed on 19 October 2026. Started at 21:39:35.652833 UTC and finished at 21:40:26.442642 UTC. Seven page records were collected and two candidates skipped. The collected set consists of six press or publishing-studio leads and one magazine page. No separate book page was collected in this mission.

Mission 2

Completed on the same date. Started at 21:41:50.473347 UTC and finished at 21:42:42.927503 UTC. Four page records were collected and two candidates skipped. The collected set consists of one press page, two work-level catalog pages, and one secondary review index.

Overlap and accounting

The Journal of Experimental Fiction appears in both missions: an about-the-press page in Mission 1 and the homepage in Mission 2. These are two distinct page records for the same press. Their recurrence is not evidence of two presses, two works, or independent corroboration.

The combined inventory contains eleven distinct source URLs on ten domains. For this report they are classified as seven press or studio page records representing six press or studio leads, one magazine page, two work-level pages, and one secondary index. These are editorial source categories, not verified institutional or literary classifications.

The research report records both missions as finished and states that no mission slots remain. The present account closes this collection as it stands.

Inventory of Mission 1

Identifiers M1-01 to M1-07 follow the inventory order. Descriptions below report the captured metadata and discovery notes; they do not certify the pages' claims.

M1-01 The Journal of Experimental Fiction

Press background page. The captured description presents forty years of innovative fiction, one editor, and an Evanston imprint. This is publisher self-description. No individual title is identified in this record. Compare M2-01 for the overlapping homepage.

<https://www.experimentalfiction.com/pages/about-the-press>

M1-02 Vehemently Inked

Publishing-studio lead. Its description identifies an independent publisher of experimental literary fiction and names Synchronization by David A. Lyons, alongside Cryptoamnesia, Cryptoanomaly, and Cryptogenesis. It states 2 September 2026 for Synchronization. These are statements embedded in a studio page, not separately collected work records. A number labeled ISBN appears in the keywords; its association and validity have not been checked.

<https://vehementlyinked.com/?p=477>

M1-03 Pynewood Press

Press homepage. The description names literary fiction, experimental and unconventional writing, translated literature, and historical narratives. This supplies a possible catalog lead. It does not identify a particular work or establish the press's scale; "micropress" occurs in a discovery note, not as a verified finding.

<https://www.pynewoodpress.com/>

Inventory of Mission 1 continued

M1-04 MPSoL

Press and archival office. The catalog describes a publisher concerned with works whose bibliographical circumstances have become part of their subject. Several entries refer to reports, memoranda, provisional editions, and instruments for the classification of other entries. The distinction between a publication and the record announcing it is not consistently maintained.

The principal item encountered is Survey of Marginal Literary Production, 2026 — Preliminary Report No. 1: Two Expeditions. Its contents include an entry for MPSoL, placed between Pynewood Press and Propagule Magazine. The entry identifies the present report as the principal item encountered. No earlier description has been located.

The office appears here as both source and object of the survey. Its inclusion increases the first expedition's return by one. Whether it increases the number of institutions described remains a separate question. Pending clarification, it has been counted once.

<https://mps-ol.to/>

Inventory of Mission 1 continued

M1-05 Propagule Magazine

Magazine homepage. The description states only that Propagule is a literary magazine. The discovery note calls for distinguishing individual fiction from commentary. Neither an individual story nor an issue-level record was collected. It is retained as a magazine lead rather than counted as a press or a book.

<https://www.propagule.co/>

M1-06 CONIUM

About page on coniumpress.com. The captured description is empty. The discovery note proposes a publisher lead for unconventional and compressed narratives. That note explains selection; the exported metadata does not substantiate the proposed formal qualities or supply a title for examination.

<https://www.coniumpress.com/about>

M1-07 Rainproof Independent Press

Press homepage. Its captured description is empty. The discovery note suggests a chapbook catalog and the need to distinguish fiction from poetry and art books. The record does not establish which of those categories the catalog contains. No chapbook should be counted from this entry alone.

<https://www.rainproofpress.com/>

Mission 1 chiefly returned possible points of entry. The density of literary language differs across their metadata. The difference concerns what was captured; it cannot be treated as a ranking of the institutions or their work.

Inventory of Mission 2

M2-01 The Journal of Experimental Fiction

Press homepage, overlapping M1-01. The description identifies JEF as a small independent press publishing experimental and innovative fiction since 1986, and states that submissions for the 2026 Kenneth Patchen Award are closed. Both statements are captured publisher claims, not independently checked findings.

<https://www.experimentalfiction.com/>

M2-02 Brezhat

Work-level catalog lead, described as a novella. The title and dc.creator metadata name Michael Holt. The page is hosted by UBC Press, while dc.publisher names University of Alabama Press. Host and stated publisher must therefore remain separate. The discovery note calls it a distributor lead and asks for confirmation of publisher and nonlinear form; the record itself does not establish that form.

<https://www.ubcpress.ca/brezhat>

M2-03 AVA

Work-level product page on the Dalkey Archive Press store. The captured description names Carole Maso, an introduction by Jamie Hood, paperback 9781628976557, eBook 9781628976564, and a publication date of 21 July 2026. These details are retained as page statements. The date must not be presented as the work's original publication date without edition verification. The description is truncated, and the raw page title includes payment labels.

<https://dalkeyarchive.store/products/ava>

M2-04 Dactyl Review

Secondary index tagged "nonlinear narrative." Its description identifies posts on that topic. It is neither a primary work nor an individually identified review. It supplies a possible route to criticism; no particular review's argument or bibliographic evidence is established here.

<https://dactylreview.com/tag/nonlinear-narrative/>

What the machinery made visible

The expeditions found a mixture of publishing infrastructure and work-level material. The first mission supplied mostly institutional entrances. The second added two named works and a route into criticism. This difference describes these two returns only; it does not establish a general difference between the search phrases or their effectiveness.

Metadata can be informative without being orderly. Brezhat's creator and stated publisher survive in Dublin Core fields while the dedicated bibliographic fields remain null. AVA's description contains author, edition identifiers, and a date, but its title is contaminated by storefront labels. Extraction has preserved clues without completing the editorial work needed to use them.

The collection also demonstrates the need to distinguish statements from selection notes. "Micropress," "chapbook," and "nonlinear" can appear as reasons to investigate. Repeating them as settled descriptions would silently convert a search intention into a finding.

Skipped candidates

Mission 1: mythinkbooks.com/anthologies/fiction-chapbooks/ returned "HTTP Error 404: Not Found." fonografeditions.com/bunny/ was skipped because robots information was unavailable or access was disallowed.

Mission 2: tenementpress.com/Home exceeded the response byte limit. strangehorizons.com/non-fiction/reviews/hybrid-child-by-mariko-ohara/ was skipped because robots information was unavailable or access was disallowed.

These four outcomes concern retrieval. They establish neither literary ineligibility nor absence of relevant material. The two robots messages do not distinguish unavailability from disallowance. The skipped review URL is not a collected review and contributes no review findings to the inventory.

Limitations

The set is small, selected, and unverified. There is no defined population, coverage denominator, or representative sampling procedure. Eleven collected pages and four skips cannot support estimates of the amount, distribution, quality, or importance of marginal literary production.

The export does not provide full texts for literary assessment. Publisher self-description cannot substitute for reading a work, and a review index cannot substitute for reading a review. No judgment about narrative structure, aesthetic achievement, or an author's standing follows from the present inventory.

Null fields remain unknown, even where adjacent metadata suggests a possible value. Blank descriptions at CONIUM and Rainproof describe an extraction result, not an absence of editorial purpose. Source pages may change after collection; the recorded times and hashes aid provenance but do not independently verify the statements captured.

The research report identifies `research.sqlite3` as preserving reservations and the full audit log, with further mission and event exports. Those materials are not part of the three-file documentary basis used here. This report does not claim a complete audit of the crawler's operation.

Concluding memorandum

Two expeditions have produced a modest register of entrances: six press or studio leads, a magazine, two work-level catalog leads, and a secondary review index. One press recurs. The useful result is this differentiated inventory, together with a record of what retrieval left unresolved.

A subsequent study could begin here, but would need to verify editions and institutional roles, examine the works, and state its criteria for inclusion. More pages alone would not supply that change of method. For the present report, the findings end with the leads and the limits recorded above.