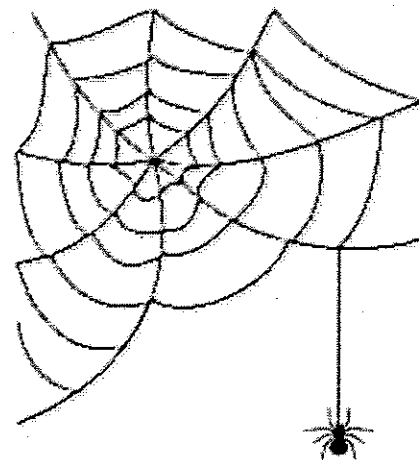


# Is your library hot...or not?

By Ann Foster



*You may think your library is appealing to teen patrons ... but is your magazine collection just gathering cobwebs?*

1. **A grandmother approaches you at the RA desk for recommendations of magazines for her 16-year-old granddaughter. You immediately suggest:**
  1. *J-14*: all those bright colours must mean teens enjoy it.
  2. *CosmoGirl*: it's your highest-circulating teen mag, so it's a safe bet.
  3. *National Geographic*: just because she's a teen, doesn't mean she shouldn't be challenged intellectually.
  
2. **When your branch manager asks you to weed your magazine collection to make room for the growing DVD collection, you respond:**
  1. "Why not get rid of all YA magazines? They never circulate anyway."
  2. "Okay, I'll consolidate the YA magazines with the juvenile magazines."
  3. "Would it be all right if I reallocate the older issues for a YA scrapbooking program I'm working on?"
  
3. **The Youth Services collections budget is under review. When asked to defend the number of teen magazine subscriptions, you say:**
  1. "Okay, let's drop subscriptions to the first ten titles on your list."
  2. "The amount spent on subscriptions is appalling. Why don't we redirect those funds to getting a cappuccino machine for the staff room?"
  3. "These items appeal to reluctant readers, encourage socialization, and attract teens to the youth services area."

4. A 14-year-old patron tells you she has to do a book report, and wants to know what book would be similar to *Teen Vogue*, her favourite magazine. You suggest:
1. *The Gossip Girl* series
  2. *The Devil Wears Prada*
  3. *Ulysses*
5. A 16-year-old patron approaches the RA desk to ask if your library carries *Bust* magazine. You reply:
1. "I'm sorry, what? What's the title again? Do you know who publishes it?"
  2. "Yes, we do. It's actually shelved up in the adult department."
  3. "Security!!!"

**Answer key:**

1. A - 2 points, B - 3 points, C - 1 point
2. A - 0 points, B - 1 point, C - 3 points
3. A - 1 point, B - 0 points, C - 5 points
4. A - 3 points, B - 2 points, C - 0 points
5. A - 1 point, B - 2 points, C - 0 points

**If you got...**

**1-5 points: You're a BLACK WIDOW LIBRARIAN!**

Clear the cobwebs off of your YA magazine collection! Maybe your circulation stats aren't great - but that's because you haven't valued YA magazines appropriately! If you're concerned about cost, talk to local teens to see what titles they're into. You may wind up saving money by subscribing only to those titles the teens are looking for!

**6-10 points: You're CHARLOTTE, FROM CHARLOTTE'S WEB!**

When someone is looking for help, you'll be there for them, spinning a web with some kind words. However, more action may be necessary to save your farm YA magazine section. Knowing a few key titles is helpful, but you're only halfway there. Browse through some of the magazines to get a feel for what they're really about... you may be surprised!

**More than 10 points: You're SPIDERMAN!**

There's no time for cobwebs to form in your library - not with your spidey-senses scoping out new magazines for your patrons! With great power comes great responsibility, and you take your responsibility to teen patrons with the utmost respect!