

## THE BLACKLIST

By Alison Black (har)

1. Why no more **fiction** in teen magazines? Fiction used to be the staple of teen magazines--the stuff you read after you had devoured all the *interesting* articles. My introduction to Margaret Atwood came from an excerpt of *Cat's Eye* in *Seventeen* magazine. How weird is that??
2. *Teen Vogue*. All of it. 'Nuff said.
3. Who can afford to buy the **make-up** and **clothing** featured in teen mags? And if you could save up 1,000 allowances for a lip-gloss, **where** could you buy it? Lots of readers come from places with no fancy department stores or funky boutiques. I know chain stores are ruining life as we know it, but why can't these mags show some clothes that we can actually **buy**?
4. They never have any advice about what to do with **straight, fine hair**.
5. They never have any advice about what to do with **curly, thick hair**.
6. "**Punk**" bands like My Chemical Romance and Fall-out Boy featured in tween magazines like *Bop*, *J-14*, and *Twist*. These bands make **Green Day** look hardcore. Don't these guys have agents?
7. The **websites** for these magazines have enough pop-ups to cause **seizures**. Too much visual noise. And there's no real information in them.
8. It's hard to find music and movie **reviews** in teen mags these days. This totally **freaks** me out--who will tell me what to think?
9. It seems like many of these magazines are owned by the same **monolithic corporations**. Is this part of some **sinister** plot?
10. Everyone looks **perfect** in these magazines. Well, more perfect than **me**.

## Selection Resources for Teen Magazines

by Robin Illsley

It's notoriously difficult to find good reviews for teen magazines. Following are some of the resources I was able to track down.

### **The Good, the Bad, and the Edgy** by Julie Bartel

*In Library Journal*, 51 (7), 2005, p. 34-36.

This article summarizes what constitutes a core young adult magazine collection. Bartel names magazines in categories like Magazines for Girls, Magazines for Guys, Ethnic, Gay and Lesbian, Religious and Inspirational, News and Entertainment, Music and Culture, and Sports and Recreation. She also mentions some other important magazines to consider when rounding out your collection. An informative article for anyone who wants to brush up on popular teen magazine titles.

### **From A to Zine** by Julie Bartel

*Chicago: American Library Association, 2004*

This book reviews zine history and culture, and then provides a guide for developing a zine collection. There are sections on using zines for programming and outreach, and sections on the display and publicity of zines. E-Zines are covered extensively. A great book for libraries wanting to begin a zine collection or re-vamp their existing one.

## [Magazine] Cheat Sheet

*Newsweek*, 141 (6), October 2, 2003, p. 74

This short article reviews the pros and cons of four popular magazines for girls: *Teen Vogue*, *ELLEgirl*, *CosmoGIRL!*, and *Teen People*. It also notes who the magazines are aimed at, from fashionista in training to celeb-savvy TRL fans. A quick refresher on these popular titles.

## Sex, Thugs, and Rock 'n' Roll by Patrick Jones

*In Young Adults and Public Libraries: A Handbook of Services and Materials*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1998, p. 98-105.

This chapter reviews the difficulties in selecting magazines for teens. It also notes the pros and cons of collecting teen magazines. Jones discusses where to find reviews. He also provides a short list of recommended magazines in specific categories, based on his experience, the popularity of the magazines with young adults, and the magazines' appearance in library collections.

## Magazines for Kids and Teens edited by Donald Stoll

*Newark, Del.: International Reading Association, 1997*

This selection resource includes over 200 listings of magazines, with descriptions and ordering information. A wide variety of interests are covered. There's an index of age levels and subjects, as well as a list of magazines that publish readers' work. A useful tool for librarian's who work with youth.

## Magazines for Young Adults: Selections for School and Public Libraries by Selma Richardson

*Chicago: American Library Association, 1984*

Although this book is hideously outdated, it provides an excellent format for teen magazine reviews. Nearly 600 titles are described and evaluated. The focus of this book is on magazines with educational uses, which are not usually the most popular with teens. There's a useful subject index at the back that gives a quick listing of magazines under specific subjects. Librarians need an updated version of this type of book (with more popular titles added)!

*Perhaps the best place to look for reviews for teen magazines today is online. Searching for "teen magazine reviews" yields a multitude of hits.*



## Don't forget about e-zines!

E-zines (online magazines) have become very popular. Here are some great examples of e-zines for girls:

### Slink

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/slink/index.shtml>

This is a teen zine from the BBC. It includes sections on fashion and beauty, love, boys, horoscopes, etc. There's lots of opportunity for girls to share their thoughts. Targeted at girls aged 13-16.

## gURL

<http://www.gurl.com>

This zine has forums for girls to discuss issues that extend beyond make-up and boys. It also has a number of great, interactive sections dealing with many of the issues teen girls face today. The site even recommends girls to turn off the TV and read a banned book or comic book, so the staff must have good intentions! It's also kept very up-to-date. Definitely a site to check out.

## MyKindaPlace

<http://www.mykindaplace.com/hi.aspx>

This British zine is a bit more commercial, but it has lots of celebrity content that some girls might be looking for. The forums appear quite active. There's a lot happening on this site, so every girl should be able to find something that interests them.

There are also **online directories** of zines. Try:

[http://dmoz.org/Kids\\_and\\_Teens/Teen\\_Life/Magazines\\_and\\_E-zines](http://dmoz.org/Kids_and_Teens/Teen_Life/Magazines_and_E-zines)

<http://www.zinebook.com>

<http://www.zinestreet.com>



## Spotlight on Ethnic Magazines

By Rebecca Ferrie

While there are more ethnic-oriented magazines than ever before, the majority are aimed at young adults in their 20's rather than teens. Ethnic magazines are important to help teens maintain their cultural identity and linguistic ties. For teen girls it is important to see themselves reflected in the magazines that they read. This can be achieved by having a more diverse range of models, beauty tips and products, as well as role models.

While searching for titles I found a number of great magazines which were short lived. One example is *Latin Girl*, which started in 1999 and was considered the first and only national magazine created to address the needs of Hispanic female teens who want to maintain their bicultural identity. Another magazine *Hue* was a feisty multicultural quarterly which went under in 1999. It is difficult for magazines who want to do something different to go against the mainstream. As librarians, if we can help support these ethnic magazines we are also supporting the patrons in community by offering a range of diverse titles.

## JVibe

<http://www.jvibe.com/>

**Publisher:** Jewish Family & Life!, Newton Upper Falls, MA

**Frequency:** Bimonthly

**Audience:** Jewish teenagers ages 13-16