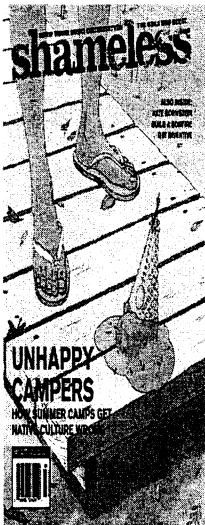


# The Importance of Canadian YA Non Fiction

A diverse YA non fiction section is crucial to the success of your YA collection. In order to achieve a necessary breadth and scope in their collections YA librarians must ask themselves the following questions: "What are the recreational, intellectual and practical information needs of young adults?" and "How do I provide for these needs constructively and cultivate further exploration in a non intrusive manner?" and finally "how do I provide YAs with titles and information that is relevant to the Canadian context." The answer to the first question is relatively straight forward, yet challenging. Their needs are endless and contingent on the characteristics of the individual based on gender, age, interests, reading level and culture. YA librarians must continually learn from YAs. The question of accessing information that may be deemed sensitive is also important. YAs are experiencing many things for the first time. They are exploring their sexuality, having sex, as well as using drugs and alcohol sometimes without a fully formed notion of the possible repercussions. By providing easily accessible information about sexuality, sex, stds, pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse through websites and collections the library is providing an invaluable resource to a group who may be somewhat reluctant to seek this information directly. Finally YA librarians must balance the above while understanding and integrating them with subtleties of the Canadian cultural context. Thankfully there exists a multitude of Canadian YA non fiction sources and sourcing aids to explore as illustrated by the few and fantastic recommended below!

## Recommendations

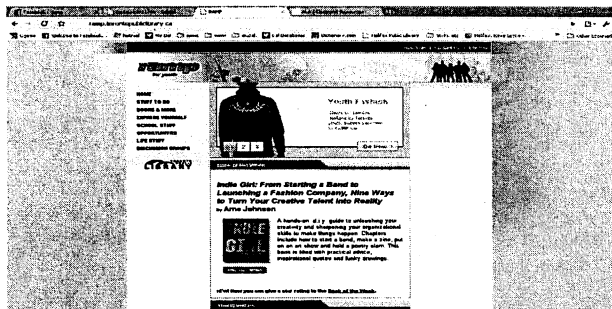
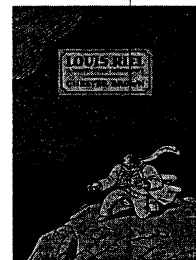


Shameless is Canada's self-described print and online "independent voice for smart, strong, sassy young women. It's a fresh alternative to typical teen magazines, for girls who know there's more to life than makeup and diet tips." This independent volunteer staffed magazine approaches issues of sexuality, technology and DIY to name a few all from a decidedly non-commercial stance.

"Marching to Armageddon" is an illustrated history of the Canadian war experience in Europe and at home during the First World War. A popular history aimed at a younger audience this history was produced



Chester Brown's graphic novel biography of Louis Riel is an exceptionally accessible introduction to a very significant actor in Canadian history.



The Toronto Public Library's "Ramp for Youth" website is a one stop shopping portal for young adults. There is extensive information ranging from recreation, budgeting for teens, free entertainment, homework assistance, university preparation, volunteering, job opportunities as well as an invaluable resources relating to sexuality, teenage pregnancy, general health and life on the street. On top of all that it also provides reading recommendations and discussion groups.