



## Magazines: The School Library's Loss Leader

**Frank Loreto**

*"Sir, do we have any soccer magazines?" asked the grade 9 student.*

*"We used to get Soccer Digest, but that magazine isn't published anymore. Do you know a good soccer magazine we should get?" I asked.*

**A**nd so it begins—the winning over of another library user. If she brings me the soccer magazine as I asked, I will probably order it for the school library—cost permitting, of course.

I love magazines and one look at our collection will show this is true. Over the years, our magazine subscriptions have hovered around the 180-title mark. They range from the truly ridiculous (*Mad*) to the sophisticated (*The New Yorker*) and cover everything in between.

As much as we teacher-librarians love books, this love is not shared by all students. The same students who would rather cuddle snakes than books will flock to the magazine rack to see what is available. When a class comes to the library to get novels for recreational reading, invariably some students will ask if it is okay to read magazines instead.

We try to please as many students as possible and aim to provide what they like. For this rea-