



Revision of the vocabulary describing Indigenous Peoples in the Répertoire de vedettes-matière : establishing a Working Group

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Presentation Outline

1. RVM Profile
2. Framework
3. Revision of the Vocabulary for Describing Indigenous Peoples Working Group (GT-RVA)
4. Scope of Work, Challenges and Impacts on Libraries

1. RVM Profile

- > National French language indexation standard in Canada since 1974
- > 5 French-English indexation products developed in Quebec
 - RVM (Subjects) : 319,257 subject headings
 - RVMGF : 2,121 genre/form descriptors
 - RVMMEM : 829 descriptors for mediums of performance for music
 - RVMGD : 1,299 descriptors for demographic groups
 - RVMFAST : 375,175 subject headings including
 - 369,761 for the subject facet
 - 3,699 for the geographic facet
 - 1,715 for the genre/form facet

1. The RVM (Subjects)

- > Main indexation tool by French language libraries in Quebec, Canada, and globally
- > Includes:
 - Translations and adaptations of
 - Library of Congress Subject Headings
 - Canadian Subject Headings
 - Medical Subject Headings
 - Art and Architecture Thesaurus (Getty Foundation)
 - RAMEAU equivalents (Bibliothèque nationale de France thesaurus)
 - Original authorities by the RVM
 - E.g. « Autosuffisance médicale »

2. Framework

- > Since 2019, a new governance model for the RVM
- > Governance Committee
- > Coordinating Committee
- > Recommendation 9 of the Review of the RVM Business Model Working Group's Final Report

2. Governance Committee

Co-Chairs:

Bureau de la Coopération Interuniversitaire – Chair, Sous-comité des bibliothèques

Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval – Éditeur intellectuel

Voting members:

Library and Archives Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

Fédération des cégeps, Regroupement des bibliothèques collégiales du Québec (REBIQ)

Institut canadien de Québec, Ville de Québec

Bureau de la Coopération Interuniversitaire (BCI)

Bibliothèques Montréal

Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec

Non-voting member:

Chair, Coordinating Committee, RVM

2. Coordinating Committee

Composition 2021-2022

Chair

Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval

Members

Chair, Expert User Committee, RVM

Chair, Technology Development Committee, RVM

École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI)

Université de Montréal

Library and Archives Canada (LAC), Library section

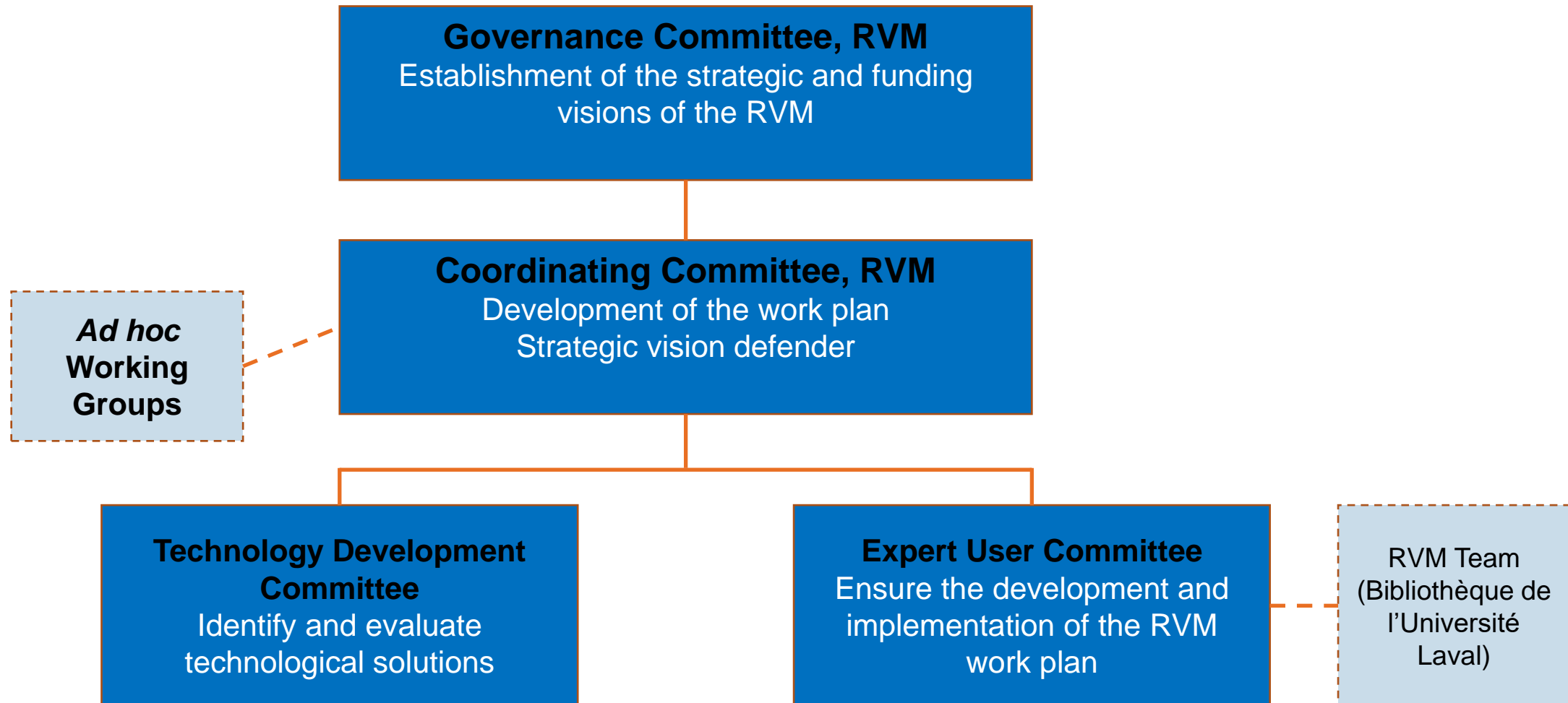
Library and Archives Canada (LAC), Archives section

Société des musées du Québec

Réseau informatisé des bibliothèques gouvernementales du Québec (RIBG)

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)

Governance chart for RVM



2. Recommendation 9

- > Final report of the Review of the RVM Business Model Working Group (September 2019)

« ...Enfin, à titre de vocabulaire reconnu comme norme nationale d'indexation en français au Canada, le RVM devra décoloniser ses thésaurus et les rendre accessibles gratuitement aux communautés autochtones. Misant sur la collaboration pour y arriver, le Comité recommande :

Recommandation 9 :

Qu'un groupe de travail soit créé en priorité et ait le mandat de planifier et réaliser la décolonisation du vocabulaire autochtone du RVM ».

(p. 26 du rapport).

[Translated]

"...Finally, as the vocabulary recognized as the national French language indexation standard in Canada, the RVM should decolonize its thesauri and make them freely accessible to Indigenous communities. Relying on collaboration to achieve this, the Committee recommends:

Recommendation 9:

That a working group be created as a priority with the mandate to plan and execute the decolonisation of the Indigenous vocabulary in the RVM".

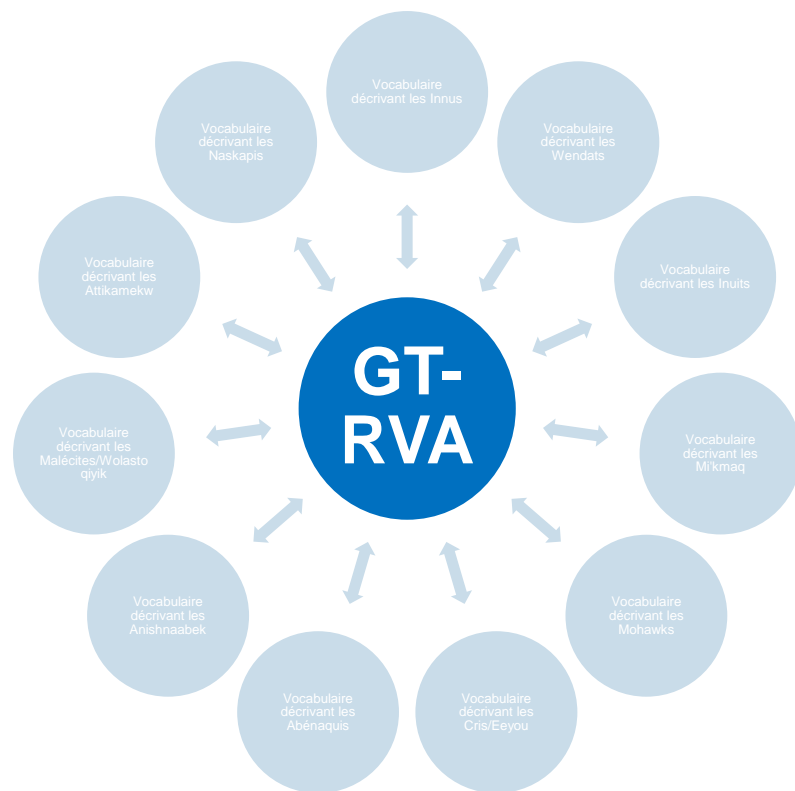
(p. 26 of the report)

3. Working Group Mandate (1)

- > The **GT-RVA**'s mandate is to assist the RVM team in making editorial decisions aimed at revising the subject headings related to Indigenous peoples and to recommend the best terminology to use in describing their realities.
- > Work will be done along two axes of intervention: the evolution of generic vocabulary and the evolution of vocabulary specific to each nation, all undertaken in a spirit of dialogue.

2 axes of intervention in parallel, in a spirit of dialogue

Generic Vocabulary



Specific Vocabulary



3. Working Group Mandate (2)

More specifically, it must:

- Following a review of the vocabulary describing Indigenous peoples in the RVM, establish a work plan for correcting the subject headings that need modification.
 - Generic vocabulary / Specific vocabulary
- Report on progress to the Coordinating Committee
- Make editorial decisions related to vocabulary choice, together with the representatives of different groups
 - Generic vocabulary / Specific vocabulary

3. Working Group Mandate (3)

More specifically, it must:

- Recommend to the RVM the best terminology to use to describe the realities of Indigenous peoples
- Ensure that the RVM site documents the process and progress of the project
- Ensure that the work of the CFLA's *Indigenous Matters and Cataloguing and Metadata Standards Committee Joint Task Group on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Subject Headings* informs the reflections of GT-RVA members.

3. Working Group Membership

> « Godmother »

- The Honourable Michèle Audette, senator (and assistant to the Vice Rector, Academic and Student Affairs, Université Laval)

> Members

- Susanne Brillant (librarian, RVM, Université Laval)
- Caroline Desbiens (professor, Université Laval)
- Marie-Ève Plante (librarian, Ville de Montréal)
- Chantal St-Louis (librarian, Université Laval)
- Annie Wolfe (librarian, LAC)
- Members of Indigenous descent, to be confirmed

3. Working Group Membership

- > Members to be confirmed
 - Individuals of Indigenous descent interested in description and resource analysis issues in library and archive centre tools
- > Steps undertaken
 - Wider network of the Governance and Coordinating Committees
 - Centre Nikanite de l'UQAC
 - First Nations Education Council of Quebec and Labrador

4. Scope of Work

- > Significant quantity of headings to modify
 - « Indiens d'Amérique »: 826 subject headings
 - « Indien* »: 13,374 mentions, incl. accepted and rejected forms
- > Regulatory complexity
 - Reserve names, Council bands
- > Review of semantic networks
 - Generic terms, specific terms
 - Example : Algonquin (Indiens)
- > Modifications must be done manually in the RVM database by the team

4. Scope of Work (2)

> Terms describing Quebec communities

• Montagnais* or Innu*	99
• Algonquin*	94
• Micmac*	47
• Malécite	15
• Naskapi*	19
• Huron* or Wendat*	116
• Abénaqui*	19
• Attikam*	12
• Mohawk*	64
• Cri or Cris or crie or cries	97
• Inuit*	559

> Identify interlocutors for each community

4. Challenges

- > Recruiting members of Indigenous descent
- > Reconciling older subject headings with current realities
- > Unconscious biases
 - Ex : Autochtones—Crises VS Autochtones – mouvements de résistance
- > Blind spots
 - E.g.: Berdache
 - E.g.: Crise d'Oka, Québec, 1990

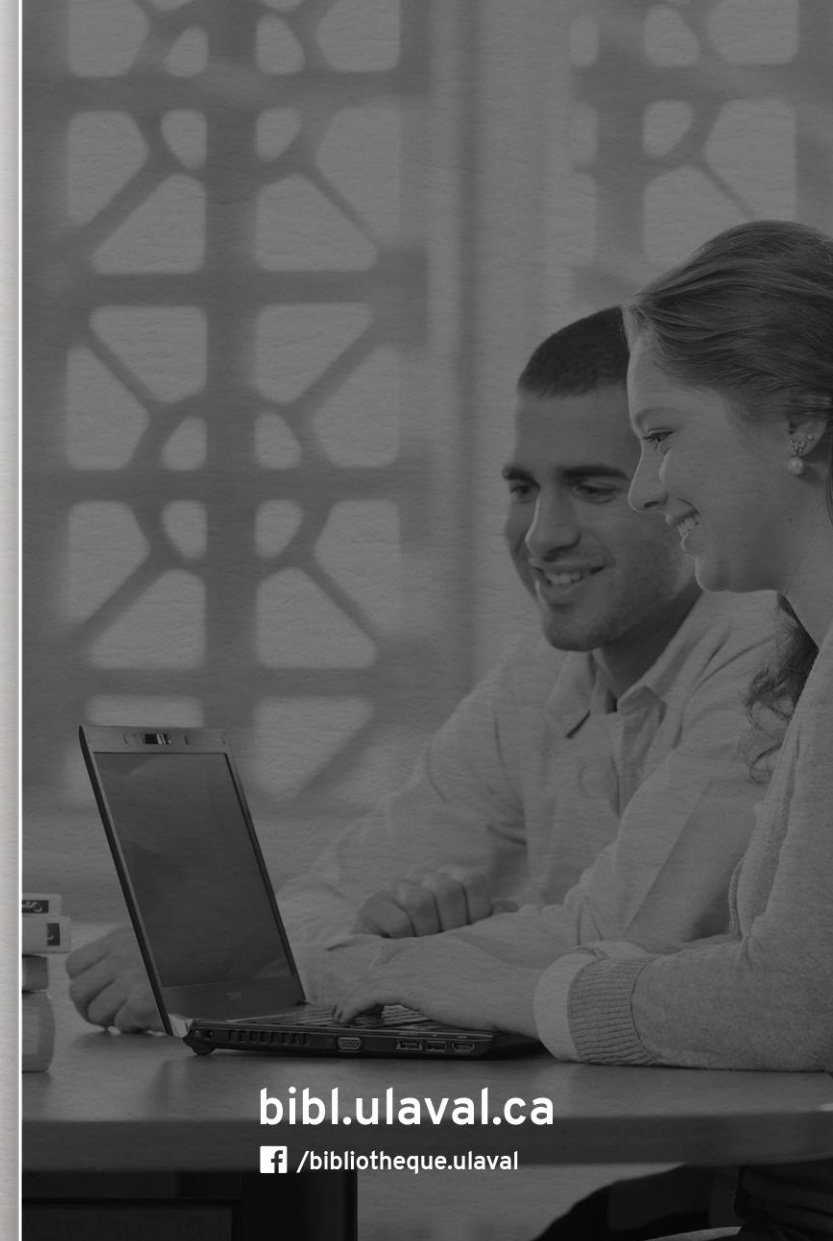
4. Impact on Libraries

- > Transparent and smooth implementation
 - Ongoing updates, provided as supplements to RVM
 - No final deadline
 - Ongoing willingness to keep updated
 - Documented process on the RVM website. Follow us!
<http://rvmweb.bibl.ulaval.ca>

Thank you!

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