**ALA CORE Subject Analysis Committee**

**2023 Annual Meeting**

**Report from the ACRL RBMS** [**Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group**](https://www.ala.org/acrl/rbms/acr-rbmcveg)

Submitted by Rebecca Flore, RBMS CVEG Liaison to SAC

Background

Under the aegis of Bibliographic Standards Committee (BSC) of the ACRL Rare Books & Manuscripts Section (RBMS), the Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group (CVEG) is responsible for developing and maintaining content of and access to the Controlled Vocabularies for Rare Materials Cataloging.

Report on Activities from January-June 2023

[Controlled Vocabulary for Rare Materials Cataloging](https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/rbmscv.html) (CVRMC) officially launched at id.loc.gov in early March 2023.

* RBMS CVRMC is an ANSI/NISO Z39.19 compliant controlled vocabulary that provides terminology designed to facilitate access to special collections resources, especially rare books and manuscripts. It is hosted by the Library of Congress Linked Data Service at <https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/rbmscv.html>. The RBMS Relationship Designators have also been migrated to LC LDS and can be found at <https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/rbmsrel.html>. When using terms from RBMS CVRMC in a MARC record, the new code is $2 rbmscv.
* RBMS CVRMC combines the former RBMS Thesauri (Genre, Binding, Type, Printing and Publishing, Paper, and Provenance) into a single resource with a redesigned structure. The six former thesauri are now officially deprecated.
* In a departure from the former RBMS Thesauri, RBMS CVRMC does not allow subdivisions. We understand that several institutions make heavy use of the terms that were specifically intended for subdivision, especially Typefaces. CVEG never maintained authorized subdivisions for any of those terms, so there was no standardization or control coming from RBMS. Any control of subdivisions happening within a given institution is being done by that institution, and that work can continue going forward, using $2 local instead of an RBMS code.
* Nate Trail of the Library of Congress Linked Data Service has designed a hierarchical browse/view for RBMS CVRMC. It is located on the landing page at <https://id.loc.gov/vocabulary/rbmscv.html> under "Hierarchical scheme member view."
* We are working to create a crosswalk spreadsheet for use in bibliographic file maintenance, and we will make an announcement once it is available.
* We are also designing a new form for submitting proposed terms or edits to existing terms. Once that is ready, we will open the thesaurus for new term submissions. (The form was approved at CVEG’s May 2023 meeting, so its release is imminent.)
* Work to write scope notes for existing terms is ongoing.

The Prejudicial Materials Working Group of RBMS’s Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group presented 50 proposed new and revised terms for the RBMS Controlled Vocabulary for Rare Materials Cataloging (RBMS CVRMC) and held an open review period between April 17-May 26, 2023. Updates are forthcoming.

* RBMS CVRMC is a thesaurus of genre and form terms that are specific to the needs of the rare materials community. However, the proposed terms, used for indexing works that are prejudicial in nature or related to systems of oppression, also have wider applicability beyond rare materials. Genre and form terms are used to provide controlled description of what resources are (e.g. dictionaries, biographies, diaries, correspondence), rather than what they are about.
* The working group has reviewed extant terminology in the thesaurus to broaden terms from "literature" to "works" and revise selected existing scope notes. We have also drafted new terms for types of prejudicial works that were not previously represented in the thesaurus as well as terms related to colonialism and enslavement. The proposals within the Prejudicial works hierarchy are not meant to be exhaustive but to provide a scaffold for the future. CVEG encourages the community to propose additional narrower terms to further expand this section of the thesaurus.
* The proposed terms can be viewed as a [hierarchical list](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A7UtWUQdw0XVFyTCQQngEqLMvJbKzLiO8VlSRng6YHY/edit?usp=sharing) and as a [comparison of terms with their original forms](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CMgrZdYCu_gKFl7kq51lm_pygrJ0h1E2iPiBJWmaoHA/edit?usp=sharing). Terms are generally also viewable on id.loc.gov, but they may have outdated information that has not yet been updated to reflect the working group's most recent decisions. The documents linked above, which match what is found in the feedback survey, are the most up-to-date version.