

RBMS Controlled Vocabularies Survey Report

March 25, 2018

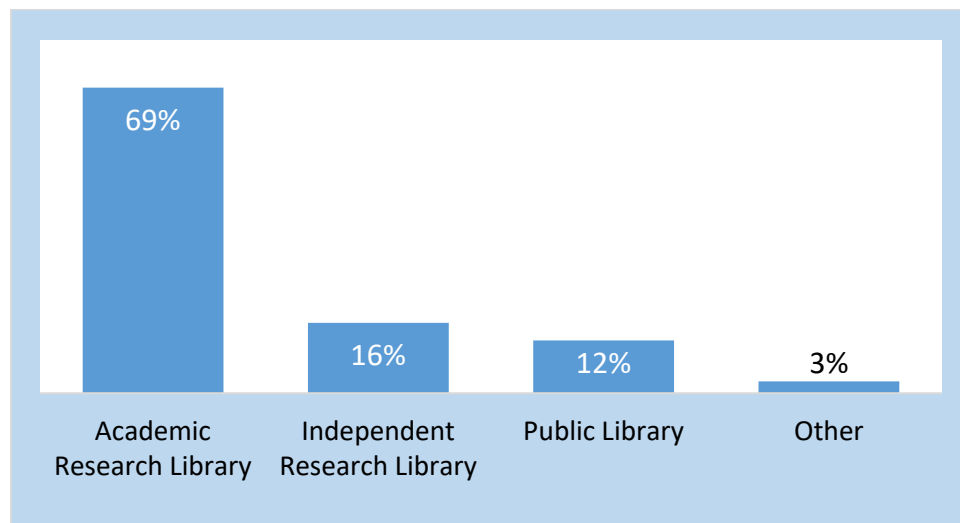
Submitted by the Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group

The RBMS Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group (CVEG) is in the process of integrating six separate thesauri (Binding, Genre, Paper, Printing & Publishing, Provenance, and Type) into a single integrated vocabulary. This work is part of a larger goal to distribute the vocabulary as linked open data. Given both the breadth of this work and the potential effects on the rare materials community, the CVEG sought input to inform this work going forward.

The CVEG distributed a survey on January 15, 2018 that was open through February 23, 2018. The survey was marketed on the DCRM and RBMS listservs, the RBMS News webpage, and via the RBMS twitter feed.

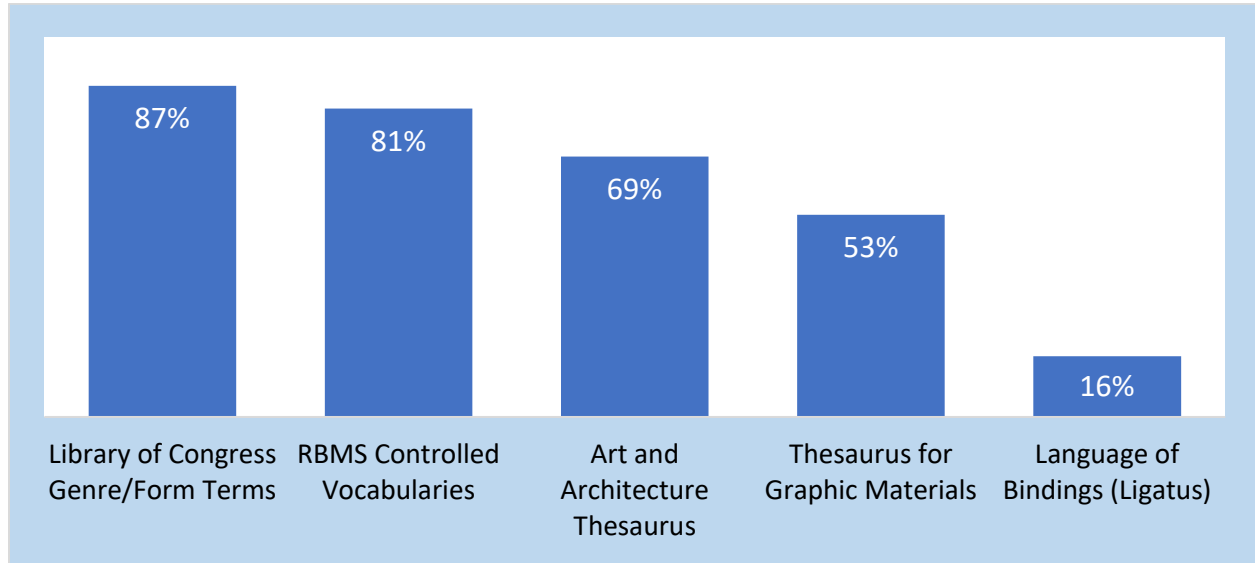
The survey garnered 150 complete and partial responses with 69% being from academic research libraries and the other 31% from independent research libraries, public libraries, and other types of institutions such as museums and historical societies.

Q: At what type of institution do you work?

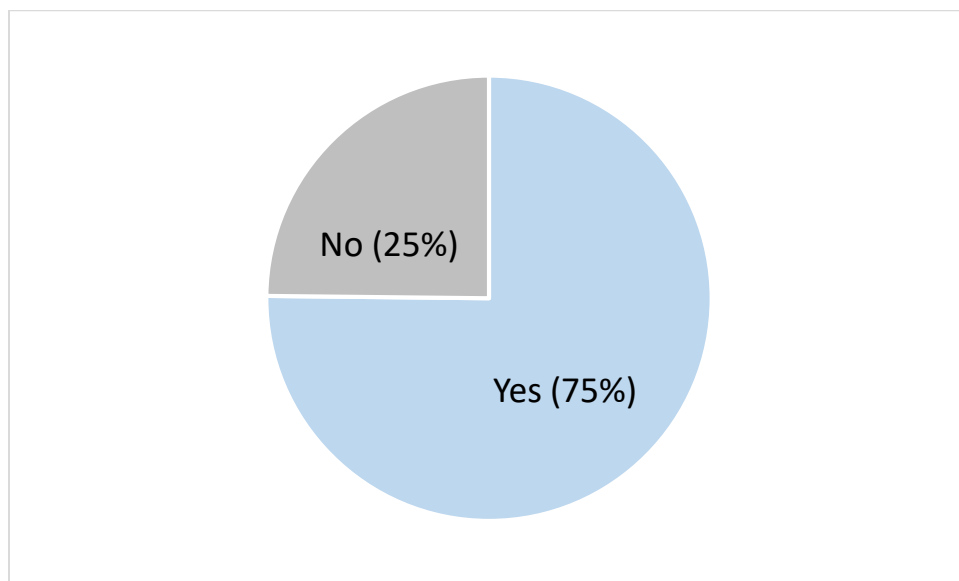


The CVEG wanted to consider the work of thesauri integration and the future scope of the vocabulary in relation to community use of other major vocabularies. The survey identified the Library of Congress Genre Form Terms (LCGFT) and RBMS Vocabularies (RBMS CV) as the most used at 87% and 81% of respondents respectively. The Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) is also in heavy use. Additionally, 75% of 149 respondents confirmed that there is a preferred order of vocabulary application.

Q: What are the controlled vocabularies your institution uses for genre/form terms? (Select all that apply)

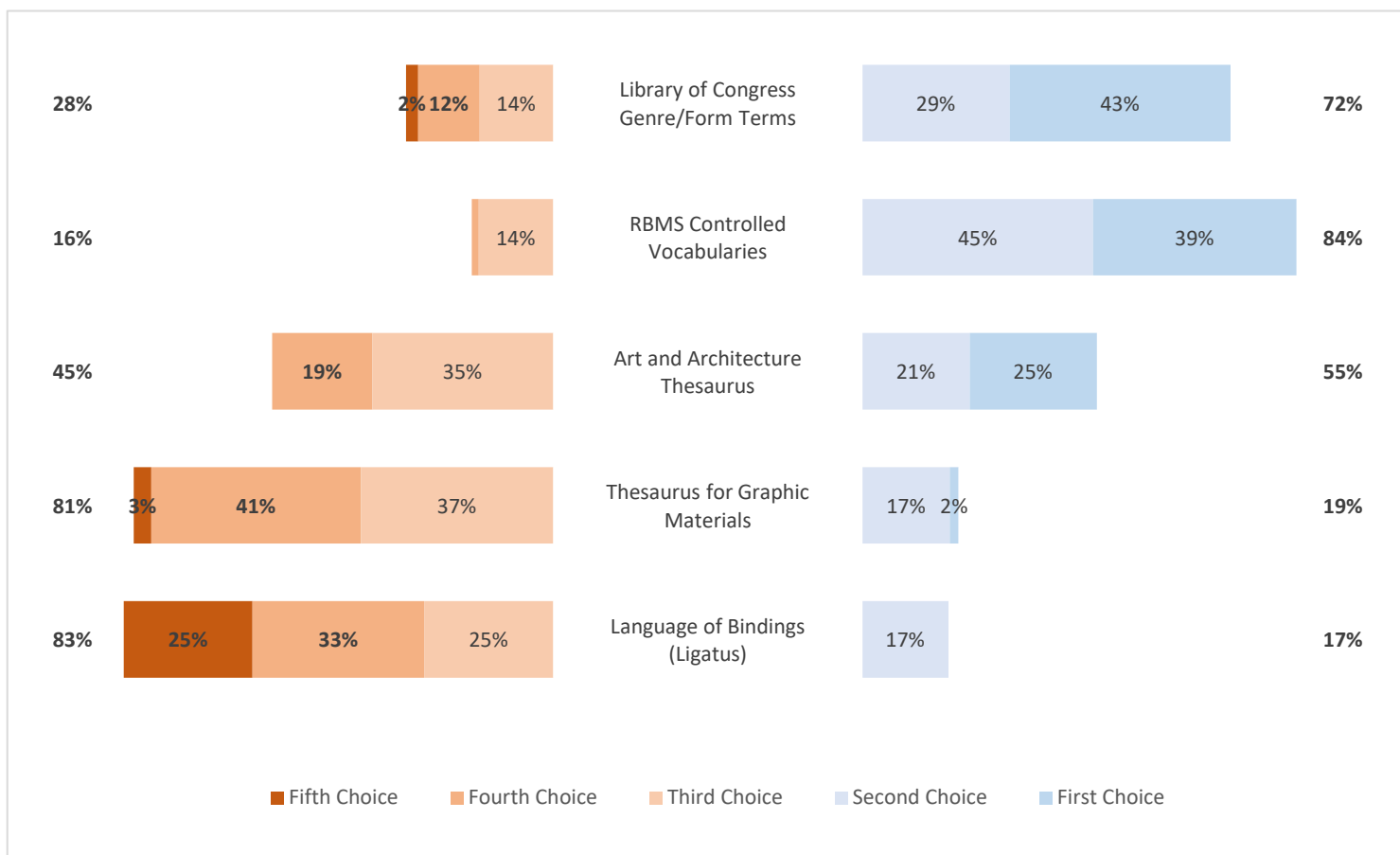


Q: In a scenario where multiple vocabularies have an equivalent term option, is there an order of preference in application? (e.g. the term Bibliographies is common to AAT, LCGFT, and RBMS)

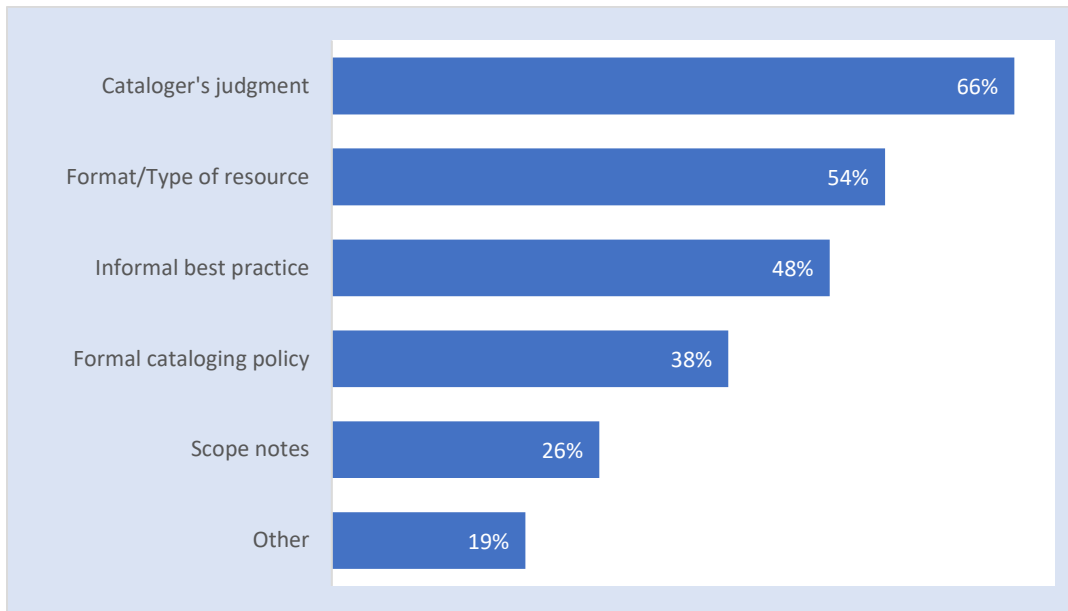


Of those respondents noting an order of preferred application among the vocabularies, LCGFT is the first choice among 43% compared to 39% for RBMS CV. However, 84% of respondents chose the RBMS CV as the first or second choice, while LCGFT was first or second choice among 72% of respondents. The community also uses AAT consistently, although it is most often the third choice among respondents. 112 respondents also provided details on the factors informing the order of application. 66% noted it is based on cataloger's judgement and 54% said the order was dependent on the format/type of resource.

Q: Please place the following vocabularies in order of application preference (in a context where each vocabulary has an equivalent option)

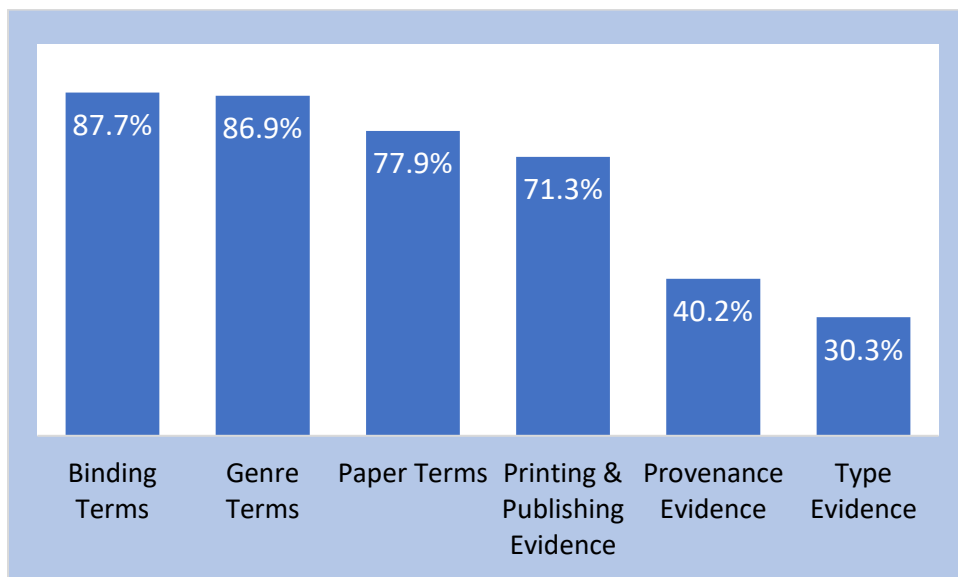


Q: What factors inform this hierarchy of application? (Select all)



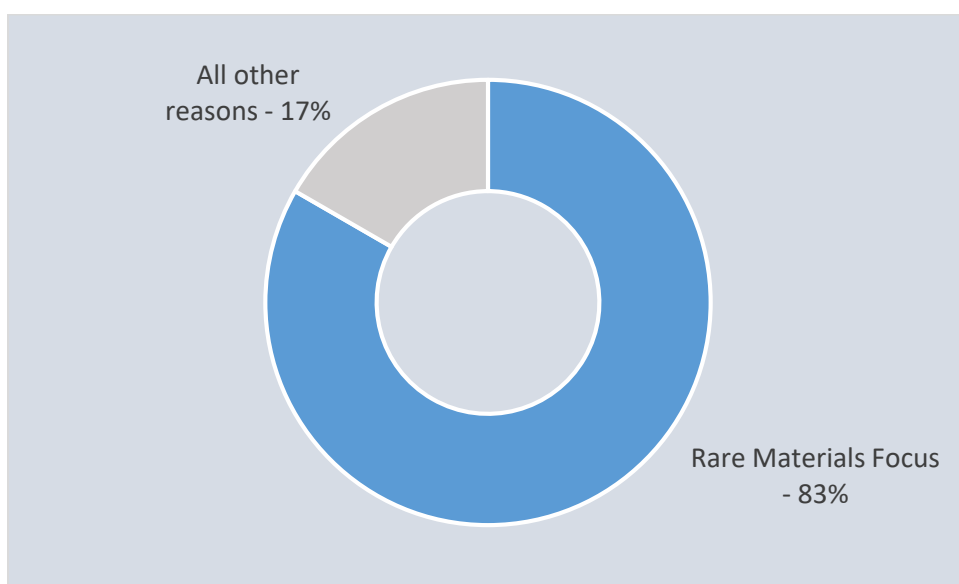
The 122 respondents that selected RBMS CV as one of the vocabularies in use also detailed which specific vocabularies are applied. The Binding and Genre terms are the most heavily used, with Paper and Printing/Publishing in high-use.

Q: Which RBMS Controlled Vocabularies are actively used at your institution? (Select all)



Of the 122 respondents that use RBMS CV, 88 respondents provided textual responses on what the RBMS CV offers their institution. Overwhelmingly, the RBMS CV is considered a resource with a rare materials focus that provides the community with terms specific to materials found in special collections. This response will inform the scope of the vocabulary going forward.

Q: Please tell us what the RBMS Controlled Vocabularies offers your institution compared to other controlled vocabularies



Based on the rare materials community responses to this survey, including an overwhelming preference for the RBMS CV, with 84% of respondents identifying it as the first or second choice of vocabulary, the CVEG recommends maintaining all terms and scope notes created to date. However, given the use of other major vocabularies such as LCGFT and AAT, and their continued expansion, the CVEG also recommends a more defined scope for the integrated vocabulary going forward.

The RBMS Controlled Vocabularies Group maintains terms specific to the needs of the rare materials community. New terms are added at the request of community members and vetted for inclusion by the Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group. General terms that are already accessible in other major vocabularies will not be added unless a specific, differentiating rare materials definition exists.