Research report

Study of provincial and territorial measures to support official languages in libraries in Canada

Part 2: Portrait by province and territory

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Presentation

Data for this body of research were collected from whatever material was available on the Internet[1]. As a result, many documents not posted online could not be identified or analyzed. This could skew the results. This is particularly true for rural areas or Northern Canada, where digital capacity is more limited than in major urban centres. The resulting profile is nevertheless impressive.

The information for each province and territory is broken down into public, university and community libraries.

The **public libraries** heading contains details on public libraries:

- **Current situation**: the library network, stakeholders, and OLMC services;
- **Policy and regulatory framework**: the acts, regulations and policies listed under two categories: first, under the legislative and policy framework on libraries; and, second, under the official languages framework; strategic documents and other relevant policies, such as a book policy. Provincial/territorial measures are outlined first, followed by any locally adopted measures;
- **Other programs**: programs supporting the use of official languages and the development of OLMCs; and
- **Assessment**: brief summary of the findings.

The **university libraries** heading covers only those libraries that also play a community support role and presents these libraries and any programs they run.

The **community libraries** heading lists known libraries managed by local communities that are not, or are only somewhat, integrated into the public network. Other activities closely connected to libraries, particularly book fairs, are identified in this section as well.

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1. The links listed in the footnotes were valid at the time the search was performed. Some may no longer be functional.

Atlantic

Prince Edward Island

1. Public libraries

Current situation
The network of 25 libraries overseen by the Public Library Service falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning.[2] The same applies to archives.

The system is similar to that of New Brunswick. Under section 2 of the *Public Libraries Act*, the provincial Public Library Service has the duty to enhance and support public library services, in particular, to
> (a) purchase books and other materials for public libraries;
> (b) supervise libraries supported under this Act and cooperate with community authorities in the management and development of library services;
> (c) operate a centralized cataloguing service to public libraries and schools;
> […].

The 25 public libraries that comprise the provincial network are overseen by an executive office. With respect to French Library Services, the provincial site states the following:
> The Public Library Service provides access to French-language items such as books, CDs, and DVDs at all 26 branches [25 libraries and one main office] and through several online resources. French-language services, programming, and a wider range of materials are also available at three French branches: the Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village in Abram Village, the Bibliothèque publique Dr.-J.-Edmond-Arsenault in Charlottetown, and the Bibliothèque publique J.-Henri-Blanchard in Summerside.[3]

Each of these three libraries produces a report for the community, containing a few statistics on the number of members, programs and loans, but little information on the collection itself:
- Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village in Abram Village[4]
- Bibliothèque publique Dr.-J.-Edmond-Arsenault in Charlottetown[5]
- Bibliothèque publique J.-Henri-Blanchard in Summerside[6]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries
The *Public Libraries Act*, RSPEI 1988, c. P-31.1,[7] defines the roles of the provincial Public Library Service and establishes the governance framework for community and district libraries. It contains

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2. "Public Libraries – Locations and Hours," https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/public-libraries-locations-and-hours
3. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-early-learning-and-culture/french-library-services
4. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/pls-report-abv.pdf
5. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/pls-report-isj.pdf
6. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/pls-report-jhb.pdf
7. https://www.canlii.org/en/pe/laws/stat/rspei-1988-c-p-31.1/latest/rspei-1988-c-p-31.1.html

no provisions on French-language services. There is also a *PEI Public Library Service Policy Manual* (2018),[8] but it does not discuss OLMC issues.

Official languages

It is therefore the *French Language Services Act* (2013)[9] that requires the identification of designated services and specifies where and how an active offer is to be made. Under the *French Language Services Act General Regulations*:[10]

- Three libraries are identified for in-person bilingual services, namely Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village in Abram Village, Bibliothèque publique Dr. J.-Edmond-Arsenault in Charlottetown, and Bibliothèque publique J.-Henri-Blanchard in Summerside;
- Four online services are also designated bilingual.

The Acadian and Francophone Affairs Secretariat[11] is responsible for enforcing this legislation. An annual report on the *French Language Services Act* is produced and should provide more details on the issues and changing practices. It was out of scope of the present research to examine all these annual reports. For instance, the 2018–2019 annual report only identifies the three designated libraries,[12] whereas other, older reports, such as the *French Language Services Report* for the period from April 1, 2003, to March 31, 2005, are more detailed.[13]

Other programs

Efforts are being made to promote French-language services. These include a specific page on the province's website. It bears noting that, in 2016–2017, the province received a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts to promote reading in French.[14]

Assessment

The provincial structure ensures some degree of consistency among all practices. Although the policy and regulatory framework on libraries includes little in terms of French-language services, the framework on French-language services is particularly detailed and ensures such services at three libraries. The presence of a coordinator and the promotion of reading in French and of French-language services are also important to note.

2. University libraries

Not applicable.

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8. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/pls-policy_manual.pdf
9. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/F-15-2-French%20Language%20Services%20Act.pdf
10. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/f15-2g-french_language_services_act_general_regulations_1.pdf
11. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/acadian-and-francophone-affairs-secretariat
12. https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/lsfra_flsaan_1819_en.pdf
13. http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/afa_frenchprogf.pdf. The various reports are available at https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/search/site?keys=French+Language+Services+Report&op=search
14. "Service des bibliothèques publiques de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard [Prince Edward Island Public Library Service]. Promoting reading in French." https://statsandstories.canadacouncil.ca/story-eng.asp?province=2&category=0&year=2016&story=455 https://statsandstories.canadacouncil.ca/index-eng.asp?year=2016&province=2&category=0

3. Community libraries and book fairs

According to TonIle.ca, "[e]ach of the six Acadian and Francophone regions in Prince Edward Island has its own educational/community centre. Each centre organizes activities and offers French-language services, such as libraries, daycare centres and community and extracurricular activities."[15] However, the presence of these libraries is not documented on the centres' individual websites.

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15. https://tonile.ca/en/ressources-en/links

New Brunswick

1. Public libraries

Current situation

In New Brunswick, the library network is part of the provincial government. It falls under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour. According to the Government of New Brunswick website:

> The New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) is the network of public libraries in New Brunswick and is made up of one provincial office, 5 regional offices, 52 public libraries, 11 public-school libraries, a virtual branch and a provincial Books-by-Mail and Talking Book Service. In New Brunswick, public library service is provided in partnership between the provincial government and participating municipalities and is regulated by the *New Brunswick Public Libraries Act*.[16]

The provincial government is responsible for strategic planning, general administration, managing and delivering programs and services, human resources management, collection development, cataloguing and processing materials, overseeing the provincial library catalogue, automation, and online resources.

In short, library oversight is primarily provincial; for example, staff report to the province. Regional forums are in place to discuss various local issues, and each local library has a board. According to the Moncton Public Library, "[i]n New Brunswick, the municipal partner appoints trustees from the community to serve on local library boards. The role of the trustees is to support the Library Director in the delivery of quality public library service in their community."[17]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries

Library operations are governed by the *New Brunswick Public Libraries Act*[18] (R.S.N.B. 2011, c. 194), which essentially defines the network's structure.

The implementation of this act is supported by a vast set of policies adopted by the New Brunswick Public Library Service,[19] of which the most relevant in relation to official languages are the following:

- *Policy 1022 – Volunteers*
- *Policy 1041 – Collection Standards*
  > "5.2 NBPLS is committed to providing public library collections that meet the evolving cultural, economic, educational, and social needs of New Brunswickers. To fulfill this commitment, NBPLS strives to: provide equitable access to quality library materials in both official languages;[…]"

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16. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/nbpl/about-us/about-nbpls.html. See the list at https://www1.gnb.ca/0003/pages/en/alpha-e.asp?CODE=
17. https://monctonpubliclibrary.ca/about-2/
18. http://laws.gnb.ca/en/showdoc/cs/2011-c.194/20200720
19. New Brunswick Public Library Service, "Policies," https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/nbpl/about-us/policies.html

> "6.2.2 As market availability and resources permit, NBPLS collects materials to promote the cultural, economic, educational, and social development of the official linguistic communities in New Brunswick. However, NBPLS will not limit the resources it makes available to one linguistic community simply because the same or similar resource is not available to the other linguistic community."

- *Policy 1051 – Library Membership*
- *Policy 1062 – Language of Service*

  > "This policy identifies procedures to be followed by New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) staff to ensure that library services are offered in both official languages and provided in the official language chosen by the person receiving library services. This policy is intended to assist and guide staff in meeting the requirements of the [New Brunswick] *Official Languages Act* and corresponding government policies." It pertains to the active offer of service, which means "informing the public, at first point of contact, that services are available in both official languages." It states that "Library Services, within the context of this policy, refers to circulation, reference/information services, and public access computing."

- *Policy 1063 – Programs to Promote the Two Official Linguistic Communities*

  > "It is the policy of NBPLS to develop:
  > English programs to promote the cultural, economic, educational, and social development of the English linguistic community; and
  > French programs to promote the cultural, economic, educational, and social development of the French linguistic community."
  > To do this, Library Managers/Directors "will consider community needs and requests, availability of resources at the library and in the community, and the linguistic make-up of the intended audience to develop and deliver programs to promote the cultural, economic, educational, and social development of the official linguistic communities. To ensure that the needs of both official linguistic communities are appropriately addressed through library programs, Library Managers/Directors will focus outreach efforts on both linguistic communities."

- *Policy 1077 – Assistive Technology*

In short, the policy framework is precise enough, under the policy, as defined by the province's bilingual status.

Moreover, the *Strategic Plan 2017-2020*[20] sets out five key goals, although it does not address language communities specifically, the implication being that the developments contemplated are equivalent. Reference is made to official languages under the "Contribute to Community Economic Growth" goal, which would be supported through the provision of "programs and services that support learning New Brunswick's two official languages."

Official languages

With respect to official languages, New Brunswick is officially bilingual. This means that its bilingualism policy applies everywhere. The applicable legislative framework comprises two instruments.

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20. *New Brunswick Public Library Service Strategic Plan 2017-2020: Connect. Learn. Read. Play. Create. Succeed.* https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nbpl-sbpnb/pdf/nbpls_strategicplan.pdf

The first is the New Brunswick *Official Languages Act*,[21] the original version of which dates back to 1969. It enables five regulations, including one that applies to libraries:

- *General Regulation* 2015-67,[22] which defines the concept of "public service" in the Act.

The second is *An Act Recognizing the Equality of the Two Official Linguistic Communities in New Brunswick*, 2011 (1981).[23] This act:

- recognizes the equality of status and the equal rights and privileges of the two communities;
- protects their rights in various institutions where cultural, educational and social activities are carried out;
- promotes the cultural, economic, educational and social development of official language communities through positive measures.

Added to the above are the following:

- The *Official Languages – Language of Service Policy and Guidelines*[24] regarding active offer and service delivery; and
- The *Official Languages – Language of Work Policy and Guidelines*.[25]

Book policy

Another component of the policy framework is the adoption in September 2008 of a new book policy, entitled *Creating a Culture of Books and Reading: The New Brunswick Book Policy* (2008).[26] The Policy recognizes the role that public libraries play in this ecosystem. Consequently, its second objective is to "improve access to books and foster reading in the public library system," considering that "public libraries are key partners in the dissemination of books and the promotion of reading." Two strategies are set forth:

1. Make public library services accessible throughout New Brunswick.
2. Enrich New Brunswick public library collections, particularly collections of New Brunswick books and cultural periodicals. (p. 8)

Although the Policy is still available on the government's website, it seems to have had only limited success, as reported by Radio-Canada in 2013.[27] As well, it does not appear to have been updated

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21. https://www.canlii.org/en/nb/laws/stat/snb-2002-c-o-0.5/latest/snb-2002-c-o-0.5.html
22. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/ag-pg/PDF/RegulationsReglements/2015/2015-67.pdf
23. http://laws.gnb.ca/en/ShowPdf/cs/2011-c.198.pdf
24. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/finance/human_resources/content/policies_and_guidelines/language_service.html
25. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/finance/human_resources/content/policies_and_guidelines/language_work.html
26. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/thc-tpc/pdf/Culture/Books-Livres/NBBookPolicy.pdf.
See press release at https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2008.09.1292.html
27. "Politique du livre: des résultats mitigés après cinq ans," Radio-Canada, November 27, 2013, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/643600/politique-livre-cinq-ans-nb

recently. In 2019, in the wake of the policy, a review of the benefits for the sector was carried out, but touched only peripherally on libraries.[28]

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework

The first important feature is the fact that the library system is well structured at the provincial level. A set of policies and standards governs library operations. The NBPLS is characterized by consistency in terms of official policies and the services provided and announced. The website of each public library branch is linked directly to a page on the NBPLS website dedicated to the services and resources available at the branch that describes them in detail. For the handful of large libraries and resource centres with their own websites, the sections on policies and services are still connected to the NBPLS website to ensure consistency with provincial information and standards.

The second important feature is the official languages framework, which affirms community equality. This notably applies to the collection and loans. A more in-depth analysis of practices by region and/or by library could be performed.

Moreover, the Book Policy effort seems to have had limited results, and its impact is unclear.

Services

The New Brunswick Public Library Service publishes very interesting annual statistics.[29] According to the report *Statistics 2016–2017*,[30] the network has

- 1,118,240 works in English;
- 588,366 works in French; and
- 10,501 bilingual works.

Detailed data by library also show the number of loans in English and French,[31] which could not be explored owing to time constraints.

It should be noted that the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick conducted an audit of French-language services in 2015–2016, which consisted mainly in verifying active offer in departments and agencies. Although public libraries were included, the data published in the report are not presented by department or agency, but rather by region. They are therefore of no use here.[32]

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28. Nordicity, *A Strategic Review and Economic Impact Assessment of New Brunswick's Literature and Publishing Sector. Three areas of development: Export, Promotion, Institutional*, March 2019, https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/thc-tpc/pdf/Culture/Books-Livres/FinalReport-EconomicImpactAssessment-March2019.pdf
29. For the various documents, see https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/nbpl/about-us/publications.html
30. New Brunswick Public Library Service, *Statistics 2016–2017,* 53 pp., https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nbpl-sbpnb/pdf/annual_report_2016-2017.pdf
31. Ibid, p. 34 et seq.
32. "Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick tables 2015-2016 Annual Report," https://officiallanguages.nb.ca/newsroom/commissioner-of-official-languages-for-new-brunswick-tables-2015-2016-annual-report/; report at https://officiallanguages.nb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2015-2016_annual_report.pdf

2. University libraries

Bibliothèque Champlain, Université de Moncton

The main—and only—Francophone university hub is, of course, Université de Moncton and, especially, Bibliothèque Champlain.[33]

Bibliothèque Champlain is the main library at the Moncton Campus. Its mandate stems from that of Université de Moncton:

> [Translation] An institution with three constituent parts that are exclusively French . . . recognized in Acadia and in the Francophonie for excellence in education and research and for its contribution to the development of Acadian society and society at large.

To fulfill this mission, the university has three objectives:

> a) Provide the Acadian population and the Francophonie in general with training programs of the highest quality;
> b) Contribute, through its research activities, to the furtherance of knowledge in different fields; and
> c) Support the development and advancement of society through community services provided by members of the university community.

A set of policies and regulations governs the library's operations. These documents are also available on the website:[34]

- Politique d'acceptation des dons [Gift acceptance policy] (under review)
- Politique d'affichage [Signage policy] (04/2016)
- Politique d'utilisation des ordinateurs – Postes accessibles au public (Parc informatique) [Computer use policy – Stations available to the public (IT infrastructure)] (05/2013)
- Politique de consultation des documents - Salle des livres rares [Policy on the consultation of documents – Rare books room] (under review)
- Politique de prêt [Loan policy] (01/2019)
- Politique de prêt de portables et de iPad [Laptop and iPad loan policy] (09/2017)
- Politique du prêt entre bibliothèques [Inter-library loan policy] (fall 2013)
- Politique générale de développement des collections de la Bibliothèque Champlain [General policy on collection development at Bibliothèque Champlain] (06/2009)
- Politique Facebook [Facebook policy] (02/2017)
- Politique YouTube [YouTube policy] (05/2013)
- Utilisation des cabinets d'étude, salles de travail et chariots [Use of study cubicles, work rooms and carts] (08/2018)

The community component is significant. The library's *Plan stratégique 2015-2020*[35] states, under component 2 (on engagement), that it aims to:

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33. https://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-bibliotheque-champlain/accueil

34. "Politiques et règlements," Bibliothèque Champlain, Université de Moncton, https://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-bibliotheque-champlain/politiques-reglements

35. Annual reports, action plans and strategic plans are available at https://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-bibliotheque-champlain/rapports-annuels-plan-action

[Translation] Contribute research, education, innovation and service to the community in order to support community development and foster a better understanding of the issues of relevance to Acadian society.

Lastly, the library plays an important role through the Centre d'études acadiennes. A major feature was published in 2018 to mark the latter's 50th anniversary.[36]

The idea of a national library of Acadia was raised in 2019 in the wake of the 50th anniversary of the Centre d'études acadiennes. The project received a limited amount of media coverage.[37]

3. Community libraries and book fairs

Salon du livre de la péninsule acadienne[38]
Held in Shippagan, this book fair aims to spread [translation] "the joy of reading and put the spotlight on the world of books and literature, from creation to dissemination, while promoting the French language." For its 16th edition, in 2019, more than 6,000 visitors met with more than 100 authors.[39] In 2020, the fair was held virtually as a result of the pandemic. It ran from October 8 to 11.[40]

Salon du livre de Dieppe[41]
The Salon du livre de Dieppe was launched in 1991. It generally hosts more than 50 exhibitors and about 100 authors, drawing 13,000 visitors every year. As its president, Alain Roberge, pointed out in 2019, [translation] "a book fair is a crucial means of disseminating French-language literature and promoting Francophone and Acadian language and culture in minority communities."[42] The book fair also holds events in daycares, libraries and schools, reaching more than 3,500 students in French-

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36. "50 ans d'archives, 500 ans d'histoire. 50e du Centre d'études acadiennes Anselme-Chiasson," Bulletin no. 127, Automne 2018, 40 pp., https://www.umoncton.ca/publications_docs/bulletin/127/BULLETIN_127.pdf
37. "Une bibliothèque nationale de l'Acadie ?" *Acadie nouvelle*, July 30, 2019, http://www.acadienouvelle.com/chroniques/2019/07/30/une-bibliotheque-nationale-de-lacadie/; "Bibliothèque nationale de l'Acadie: des appuis de taille se manifestent," *Acadie nouvelle*, August 11, 2019, https://www.acadienouvelle.com/actualites/2019/08/11/creation-dune-bibliotheque-nationale-de-lacadie-des-appuis-de-taille-se-manifestent/; "Bibliothèque nationale de l'Acadie (fin)," *Acadie nouvelle*, August 13, 2019, https://www.acadienouvelle.com/chroniques/2019/08/13/bibliotheque-nationale-de-lacadie-fin/; Claude Boudreau, "Est-il trop tard pour rêver?" [about the Bibliothèque nationale de l'Acadie], *Acadie Nouvelle*, September 23, https://www.acadienouvelle.com/mon-opinion/2020/09/23/est-il-trop-tard-pour-rever/; Jules Boudreau, "Avons-nous encore des forces vives ?" [Commentary on the Bibliothèque nationale de l'Acadie project], *Acadie Nouvelle*, October 16, 2020, https://www.acadienouvelle.com/mon-opinion/2020/10/16/avons-nous-encore-des-forces-vives/
38. http://www.salondulivrepa.com/
39. "Foule au 16e Salon du livre de la Péninsule acadienne," *ICI Nouveau-Brunswick*, October 13, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1343941/foule-au-16e-salon-du-livre-de-la-peninsule-acadienne
40. Sébastien Lachance, "Un passage au mode virtuel réussi pour le Salon du livre de la Péninsule acadienne," *Acadie Nouvelle*, October 12, 2020, https://www.acadienouvelle.com/arts-et-spectacles/2020/10/12/un-passage-au-mode-virtuel-reussi-pour-le-salon-du-livre-de-la-peninsule-acadienne/
41. https://www.salondulivredieppe.com/
42. "Le Salon du livre reste à la page," *La Liberté*, March 11, 2019, https://www.la-liberte.ca/2019/03/11/le-salon-du-livre-reste-a-la-page/

language schools. However, the success of the 2019 edition seemed more mixed than that of previous editions,[43] and the 2020 fair was postponed.[44]

A Book Fair has also been held in Edmunston for more than 35 years.[45]

43. https://www.acadienouvelle.com/arts-et-spectacles/2019/10/27/un-bilan-positif-pour-le-29e-salon-du-livre-de-dieppe/; https://www.acadienouvelle.com/arts-et-spectacles/2019/10/31/des-exposants-insatisfaits-critiquent-le-salon-du-livre-de-dieppe/
44. Sylvie Mousseau, "Le Salon du livre de Dieppe remis à plus tard," *Acadie Nouvelle*, October 14, https://www.acadienouvelle.com/arts-et-spectacles/2020/10/14/le-salon-du-livre-de-dieppe-remis-a-plus-tard/
45. https://salon-livre.net/

Nova Scotia

1. Public libraries

Current situation

The network of public libraries in Nova Scotia is overseen by the Provincial Library, whose mission is to "[lead] and [support] Nova Scotia's public libraries, ensuring they remain vibrant." Since January 2011, the network has been part of a new unit called Archives, Museums and Libraries under the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. The mission has four components: support, leadership, collaboration and innovation. The website states the following:

> The Provincial Library works with Nova Scotia's 80 public libraries, providing leadership and support to ensure libraries continue to offer services that enrich lives and communities. The Provincial Library is not an actual library facility; we serve the public libraries that serve Nova Scotians, working together with government and the province's nine library regions.[46]

The Provincial Library of Nova Scotia is the central body that, through its policies and regulations, guides the network's activities. The network comprises nine regional networks of public libraries headed by a management board made up of representatives from various municipal boards in the region and two individuals appointed by the province. Some boards also appoint citizens. The boards are responsible for managing and running the network of regional libraries, of which there are 80 in total.

In this network, two regional boards qualify for grants for French-language services: the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board[47] and the Western Counties Regional Library Board.[48]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries

The core legislation is the *Libraries Act*,[49] which essentially is limited to defining the roles and responsibilities of provincial services and regional boards. The *Libraries Act Funding Regulations* 2001 (1989)[50] states the following:

> French language grants
> 4 (1) The Minister shall, each fiscal year, pay to a regional library board, where the French language speaking population exceeds 10% of the total population of the area served by the regional library board, a French language operating grant to assist in the provision of library service in the French language.

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46. https://library.novascotia.ca/ See also: https://library.novascotia.ca/fr, https://library.novascotia.ca/about; Map at https://library.novascotia.ca/map; or a presentation:
https://library.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/images/2017_dec_17-46423_ns_library_brochure_eng.pdf
47. http://ecrl.library.ns.ca/; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Counties_Regional_Library.
48. https://westerncounties.ca/; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Counties_Regional_Library
49. *An Act Respecting the Provincial Library and Regional Public Libraries*, 2011 (1989),
https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/librarie.htm
50. https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/laws/regu/ns-reg-70-98/latest/ns-reg-70-98.html

Consequently, "[t]wo regional library boards qualify for this grant: Eastern Counties Regional Library Board and Western Counties Regional Library Board. Both boards employ French-speaking staff and offer French-language websites and programs."[51]

In 2008, the Library Funding Task Force suggested amending this regulation and making the grant available to all regional boards. Clearly, this has not been implemented. The task force's report specified the following:

> The final funding component extends a French-language grant to all regions, based on the number of French speaking Nova Scotians as counted in the 2006 census. A per capita rate of $8.41 was developed from the last funding model, and this same rate is extended in this formula to all library regions. This funding will allow libraries to build French-language services in all Nova Scotia library regions.[52]

However, it appears that the recommendation was not followed.

Another instrument, the *Standards for Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries* (2001), also provides specifications on services and collections in French:

- **French Language Collections:** In regions where the Francophone population is 10 per cent or more of the total population, the collection should include a minimum of two items per capita of the French-speaking population. The size of French language collections should be calculated on a regional basis and be in addition to the English language collections. These materials will serve as a resource collection for all public libraries in the province. (p. 10)[53]
- **Specialized and Professional Staff Members:** Bilingual staff members should be available when the French-speaking population reaches 10 percent of the total population. (p. 16)[54]
- **Size of Facilities:** It should be noted that libraries that provide services in both official languages will need adequate floor space to house both English and French collections. (p. 24)[55]

Lastly, some policies are also developed for regional boards. For example, the Western Counties Regional Library Board adopted a *Bilingual Service Policy*,[56] available only in English.

Very few libraries also explicitly promote their collections in French, one exception being the Colchester-East Hants library, which "provides a selection of French materials in both fiction and non-fiction to meet the recreational, general informational and educational needs of children."[57]

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51. *French-language Services Plan 2019-2020*, p. 5, https://cch.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/cch_2019-2020_fls_plan.pdf
52. *Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Report of the Library Funding Task Force*, p. 20, https://library.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/documents/library_funding_task_force_report.pdf
53. *Standards for Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries* (2001), p. 10, http://0-nsleg-edeposit.gov.ns.ca.legcat.gov.ns.ca/deposit/b10087424.pdf
54. Ibid, p. 16.
55. Ibid, p. 24.
56. https://westerncounties.ca/pdf/policies/bilingualservice.pdf
57. https://lovemylibrary.ca/policies/collection-development-and-maintenance-policy/

Official languages
The implementation of these instruments is supported by annual French-language services plans (2017−2018, 2018−2019 and 2019−2020),[58] which set out the applicable terms and conditions. These plans also include all other government programs.

The *French-language Services Plan 2019–2020* states the following regarding libraries:
Services: Under "French-language Services Inventory" (p. 5)
"Nova Scotia Provincial Library produces many library-related materials for the public in French. They include brochures and other promotional and informational pieces, such as the *Check Us Out!* brochure, and information on the Borrow Anywhere / Return Anywhere and accessibility programs. [...] All nine regional library boards collect and circulate French-language materials in multiple formats, including books, databases, music, movies, and e-books. The digital media collection provides online access to French-language e-books for library card holders across the province."
Acquisition: Under "Contribution to the Preservation and Growth of the Acadian and Francophone Community" (p. 7)
"Operational funding is provided to libraries and museums serving or located in Acadian and francophone regions. This includes special funding for the Acadian and francophone community to improve French-language collections in libraries located in qualifying regions. Thanks to this funding, the Acadian and francophone community benefits from better access to library, archival and museum resources in their mother tongue."

Other programs
Centre provincial de ressources pédagogiques (CPRP)[59]

The CPRP supports Nova Scotia's teaching staff working in French-language schools and in French immersion programs. Since August 2008, it has been part of education services in the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) [provincial Acadian school board].[60] The CPRP's mandate is to provide the following services:
- A library that has more than 70,000 documents of all types, appropriate for reading levels from kindergarten through to Grade 12
- Training and consultation
- Publications
- Computerization of CSAP school libraries
- Services

Learning French
Although they are not mandated to do so under the regulatory framework, regional boards have put in place various programs. In particular, this is the case for the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library,

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58. *French-language Services Plan 2017–2018*, https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-994/french-language-services-plan-2017-2018-office-service-nova-scotia-en.pdf; *French-language Services Plan 2018–2019*, https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-1828/french-language-services-plan-2018-2019-office-service-nova-scotia-en.pdf; *French-language Services Plan 2019–2020*, https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-2080/french-language-services-plan-2019-20-office-service-nova-scotia-en.pdf
59. https://sites.google.com/sepne.ca/moncprp/historique
60. https://csap.ca/

which posts information on French immersion programs and has created the My First Bilingual Book Series as part of language learning books[61]; and Halifax Public Libraries, which host Speak-Dating: Conversation Circles with Alliance Française.[62]

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework
The library system is structured in a decentralized manner among regional boards, even though the policy and regulatory framework is provincial.

From a policy perspective, it is important that support for library services in French be linked to libraries' policy framework and not to French-language services. Under the *Libraries Act Funding Regulations* (Nova Scotia House of Assembly, 2011/1989), funding for French-language services is determined on the basis of population statistics. This method provides a minimum of instruction and/clarity, with the exception of the obligation for regions with a specific Francophone population (where 10% or more of the population is Francophone) to receive a given percentage of the annual provincial grant for libraries. No regulations have been established for the specific types of services or materials to be provided or for the methods informing the acquisition of French-language resources. Recommendations to amend and expand this minimalist legislative basis (such as those arising from the 2008 report by the library funding working group of Nova Scotia's Department of Education and the Provincial Library) were not implemented. The 2001 standards address issues associated with collections, staff and equipment.

Services
These various policy and regulatory measures provide minimal oversight of French-language services in libraries. Furthermore, basic services in French in public libraries seem to be "optional," with many branches not offering websites or basic resources in French (even in regions that meet the population criteria under the *Libraries Act Funding Regulations*, such as the East and West regional library branches). Other services, such as the Bonjour ! program on accessibility for Francophones, also appears to be under-regulated or under-applied. This means that support for libraries in OLMCs is considered discretionary rather than duly mandated, even though there are obvious efforts to provide meaningful services to Francophones in many branches across Nova Scotia.

2. University libraries

Bibliothèque Louis-R.-Comeau
The Francophone hub is Université Sainte-Anne, which houses the Bibliothèque Louis-R.-Comeau.[63]

This library is [translation] "open to professors, students and employees of the institution as well as to members of the general public," offering "87,000 printed documents and audiovisual and other material, in addition to an extensive collection of electronic resources." It complies with the *Politique linguistique de l'Université Sainte-Anne* (2018),[64] which states that all activities must be in French. While the library complies with this policy by and large (for example, all staff must speak French fluently),

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61. http://www.parl.ns.ca/newcomers/education.php
62. https://halifax.bibliocommons.com/events/5cdc0284f652522e003cd303
63. https://www.usainteanne.ca/bibliotheque/
64. https://www.usainteanne.ca/politiques/linguistique

it also has a collections policy that does not exclude acquisition of resources in other languages. However, that policy is not available online and is, in fact, outdated and under review.

Novanet

Novanet is a consortium of university and college libraries in Nova Scotia along with Mount Allison University, in New Brunswick. Any university with a French program generally receives internal support. Dalhousie, Acadia and Mount Allison universities have very large French-language collections, but there is no indication as to what their policies are on collection development, staffing, and other such matters. They all work closely together to share access to documents and have an internal loan system called Novanet Express, which ensures quick delivery. Novanet also has a Demand-Driven Acquisitions (DDA) program for e-books available to all Novanet members, including access to French language titles. Despite this rich and prolific collaboration through the Novanet consortium, French services, collaboration and resources are not embedded in policies, the budget, strategic planning, or organizational priorities.

3. Community libraries
Not applicable.

Newfoundland and Labrador

1. Public libraries

Current situation

The library network is independent of the provincial government, albeit under its responsibility. Its administration is centralized, as staff report to the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board (Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries, or NLPL),[65] an agency that falls under the Education and Early Childhood Development Department.[66]

As its website explains, the NLPL is an independent board established by the provincial government in 1935. From the very beginning, this board has been responsible for public library services throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The Provincial Board is charged with establishing and operating public libraries throughout the province and providing centralized reference, resource and technical services.

The Provincial Board presently operates 94 public libraries throughout the province. These libraries are divided into four administrative divisions:
- West Newfoundland and Labrador Division (29 libraries)
- Central Division (33 libraries)
- Eastern Division (29 libraries)
- St. John's City Libraries (3 libraries)

Each of the local public libraries has its own local library board, which is accountable to the Provincial Board. These local boards assist the Provincial Board and are active in promoting the public library in their communities.[67]

In recent years, the network has been the subject of considerable debate. In 2016, the Provincial Board announced major cuts, which were to result in the closure of 54 libraries over the two years that followed.[68] These announcements led to protests, which prompted the government to request that Ernst & Young conduct a comprehensive study.[69] The purpose of this study was "to identify and prioritize opportunities to improve the public library system across the Province of Newfoundland

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65. http://nlpl.ca
66. Note that a bibliography on the NLPL was produced in 2010. Brenda Parmenter, *Public Libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador. Selected Materials in the Newfoundland and Labrador Collection,* St. John's Public Libraries, 2010, 18 pp., https://www.nlpl.ca/component/phocadownload/category/10-collection-guides.html?download=340:public-libraries-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-2010
67. Provincial Information and Library Resources Board, https://nlpl.ca/about/structure-of-library-services.html
68. "More than half of N.L. libraries closing in wake of budget cuts," CBC, April 27, 2016, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/newfoundland-labrador-library-closures-1.3555133 "Public libraries board releases list of 54 libraries to close," CBC, April 28, 2016, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/closing-libraries-1.3557776
69. "Public library workers hold information pickets across N.L.," CBC, June 22, 2016, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/public-library-demonsrations-1.3646917; "Library closures suspended until review completed," CBC, June 30, 2016, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-public-libraries-update-1.3659833; "Where's the report? Months after consultations, libraries waiting for plan," CBC, April 7, 2017, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/libraries-report-budget-operating-grant-1.4060428

and Labrador (the Province)."[70] The report contained 18 recommendations. Although the Minister was satisfied,[71] not everyone was.[72]

Following this study, the *Future State Plan*[73] was tabled in 2018 to follow up on the recommendations regarding the organization of public libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador and their services. The plan includes reports on the development of various service delivery standards, relating to library locations, hours of operation, programming, facilities, collections and technology. However, there is no mention of French-language services or support for Francophone communities. Moreover, the Minister reversed the initial decision and announced, in April 2018, that the closures would not go ahead.[74]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries

The legal foundation of the network is the *Public Libraries Act 1996* (1990),[75] which defines the respective responsibilities of the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board and the regional, local and St. John's library boards.

The *Local and Regional Library Board Member Orientation Manual*[76] (2018) is available to guide local governments. This detailed, 76-page document focuses on the election and duties of regional and provincial board members and the administrative procedures they are required to follow. It contains no mention of OLMCs, the French language or bilingualism.

Official languages

Newfoundland and Labrador's *French Language Services Policy*[77] states that "the objective of the French Language Services Policy is to ensure a more consistent and coordinated approach to service delivery in French throughout the provincial government."[78] The policy also specifies that it applies to "all provincial government departments." However, it effectively excludes not only libraries (which are

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70. Ernst & Young, *Organizational and Service Review of Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library System*, 2017, p. 5, https://www.nlpl.ca/phocadownload/NLPL-Review-EY-Report-Final-May-5-2017.pdf
71. "'It's very comprehensive': N.L. education minister defends report on libraries," CBC, June 5, 2017, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/dale-kirby-libraries-report-ey-1.4146900
72. "Close some libraries, make towns share cost: consultants' report," CBC, May 18, 2017, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/newfoundland-labrador-libraries-report-released-1.4121829; Union representing N.L. library workers slams 'very vague' report, CBC, May 24, 2017, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/cupe-local-2329-libraries-report-too-vague-1.4128502
73. Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries, *Future State Plan,* 2018, 34 pp., https://www.nlpl.ca/component/phocadownload/category/6-reports-plans.html?download=472:future-state-plan
74. "No public libraries to close, says Dale Kirby," CBC, March 28, 2018, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/dale-kirby-public-library-nl-budget-1.4595526; "Good news, bad news as libraries remain open but underfunded, say librarians," CBC, April 4, 2018, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/library-no-closure-announcement-1.4603116
75. https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/p40.htm
76. *Local and Regional Library Board Member Orientation Manual,* 2018, 76 pp., https://www.nlpl.ca/component/phocadownload/category/5-policies.html?download=455:orientation-manual-local-and-regional-boards
77. "French Language Services Policy," 2 pp., undated, https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/files/frenchservices-english-french-languages-services-policy-eng.pdf
78. "Office of French Services," https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/frenchservices/english/

managed by a public corporation), but also the responsibilities of the Office of French Services, which reports to the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs.

Other programs

Various guides have been produced to highlight French collections and services:

- a guide to French-language services (*Welcome to the Library!*),[79] available on the "Multilingual Library Resources" page;
- a French book club kit consisting of a list of selected titles for book clubs;[80] and
- a bibliography of materials on the Francophone presence in Newfoundland and Labrador available at St. John's public libraries.[81]

However, a smattering of information suggests that there are some limited French collections. For example, the Gander Public Library Wikipedia page states, without elaborating, that "[t]he Gander Public Library contains approximately 30,000 books including fiction, non-fiction and reference files in both English and French."[82]

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework

Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial structure is unique given than it is entrusted to a public corporation, which has nevertheless centralized its operations. The future of the network was also the subject of considerable debate following the announcement of closures in 2016, which led to a strategic planning exercise.

Given that the *French Language Services Policy* does not apply to libraries, no documents make mention of such services or support for OLMCs. The *Local and Regional Library Board Member Orientation Manual* provides guidelines on the use of technology, donation practices, and board member bylaws, but it omits issues relating to OLMCs, as do analysis reports on the future of the network.

Services

Although French-language services are mentioned in only a few documents and references, this does not mean they are completely absent. This is the case for children's books. At a children's book launch in November 2019, librarian Leigha Chiasson-Locke pointed out that, while supply is limited in bookstores, [*translation*] "public libraries often buy new books in French for young people in French-language and immersion schools."[83]

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79. *Welcome to the Library!*, 2 pp., https://guides.nlpl.ca/ld.php?content_id=34584925

80. https://guides.nlpl.ca/bookclubs/french

81. Brenda Parmenther, *The French in Newfoundland: Selected materials in the Newfoundland and Labrador collection of St. John's public libraries*, 2004, 22 pp., https://www.nlpl.ca/component/phocadownload/category/10-collection-guides.html?download=347:the-french-in-newfoundland-2004

82. "Gander Public Library," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gander_Public_Library

83. Patrick Butler, "Donner aux jeunes Franco-Terre-Neuviens 'une littérature qui leur ressemble,'" *ICI Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador*, November 29, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1408801/livre-danielle-loranger-jeunes-francophones-terre-neuve

2. University libraries
Not applicable.

3. Community libraries and book fairs

The library at the Centre scolaire et communautaire des Grands-Vents, under the responsibility of the Association communautaire francophone de Saint-Jean, serves both the school and the community. Opened in 2004, it closed its doors for renovations in April 2019 and reopened on October 18, 2019. The library has been holding a French book fair since 2008 and describes its offerings as follows: "in addition to a vast collection of books for adults, youth, and children, they offer a wide selection of films on DVD, certain music CDs and free access to the Internet."[84]

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84. "Association communautaire francophone de Saint-Jean," https://www.francotnl.ca/en/organizations/acfsj/; http://www.acfsj.ca/en/cgv/372-library

Central Canada

Ontario

1. Public libraries

Current situation

The library network falls under the overall responsibility of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. The Ministry's responsibilities include the following:

- administering the *Public Libraries Act* and the funding provided by the Act, and other public library sector assistance programs implemented on behalf of the Ministry;
- developing provincial policies on public libraries; and
- publishing annual statistics on Ontario public libraries.[85]

In 2018, Ontario had 259 public library boards and 47 First Nations public libraries serving 97.7 percent of the population.[86] These boards are constituted under the Act by municipalities or band councils. They are responsible for library activities in their region.

Two umbrella organizations, Ontario Library Service – North[87] and the Southern Ontario Library Service,[88] support the libraries. They provide public libraries with programs and support services on behalf of the Ministry. Note that these two organizations will merge in April 2021.[89]

Their goal is to increase the ability of libraries to provide services to the public. This includes the following:
- increasing cooperation and coordination among public library boards and other sources of information; and
- promoting library service delivery to the public by providing public library boards with services and programs that meet their needs, including consultation, training and mentoring services.

Support for French-language libraries is also provided. The Southern Ontario Library Service website states that it "provides professional guidance to Francophone libraries and library staff working with

85. "Ontario Public Libraries," http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/libraries/libraries.shtm
86. "2018 Ontario Public Library Statistics – Summary and Comparison,"
http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/libraries/2018/2018_Summary_and_Comparison_English.xlsx
87. www.olsn.ca
88. www.sols.org
89. "SOLS/OLS-North Joint Announcement For Merger Transition Committee," June 3, 2020,
http://fopl.ca/news/sols-ols-north-joint-announcement-for-merger-transition-committee/

Francophone client groups."[90] This quite effective support also occurs through associations, including the Ontario Library Association, which states on its website:

> Founded in 1900, the Ontario Library Association (OLA) is the oldest continually operating non-profit library association in Canada. With more than 5,000 members, the OLA is the largest library association in the country.[91]

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries[92] represents the province's public libraries. Its priorities for action are advocacy and promotion, research and development, marking and joint acquisitions.

In addition, Francophone librarians are grouped under the Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Franco, or ABO-Franco, a division of the Ontario Library Association. This group [translation] "is actively working on developing French-language services across the province, ensuring that libraries receive all relevant information in French, and overseeing the marketing of French-language services."[93]

With respect to collections in French, the latest data on public library documentary collections[94] show that, in 2018, only 5 percent of all titles in Ontario public libraries were in French. That said, the reality is varied. In 33 of the 310 institutions surveyed, more than 15 percent of volumes in the official languages were in French. In 15 of them, the rate exceeded 45 percent. Also, 30 libraries participated in collecting digital books in French from Archambault via the mabibliothèquenumérique.ca platform, which gave participating libraries access to French-language resources.[95] Archambault subsequently sold the loan platform for digital books from Canadian publishers to the De Marque company, which integrated it with the Cantook Station technology.[96]

Several libraries, even some whose websites are in English, promote their French collections. For example, the North Bay Public Library states on its website that "The North Bay Public Library has staff fluent in French as well as a French language department with an extensive collection of over 24,000 volumes in both the Adult and Children's sections. In addition, the library receives over 30 French language newspapers and periodicals."[97]

90. "For Francophone Libraries," https://www.sols.org/index.php/francophone
91. https://accessola.com/about-ola/
92. http://fopl.ca/
93. https://accessola.com/divisions/a-propos-de-labo-franco/. See also Regulation 7 concerning ABO-Franco, https://accessola.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/By-Law-7-ABO.pdf
94. Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, 2018 Library Holdings Report, http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/libraries/2018/2018_All_Population_Groups_Library_Holdings_English.xlsx
95. Communication MDR, *Environmental Scan of the Culture Sector. Ontario Culture Strategy Background Document*, April 2016, p. 52, https://files.ontario.ca/books/mtcs_environmental_scan_of_the_culture_sector_en.pdf
96. https://www.pretnumerique.ca/about?l=en
Catherine Lalonde, "De Marque croît dans les bibliothèques anglophones," *Le Devoir*, January 18, 2019, https://www.ledevoir.com/lire/545786/demarque-croit-doucement-dans-les-biblios-anglos
97. French Language Services, https://library.cityofnorthbay.ca/services/french-language-services/

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries

The basic purpose of the *Public Libraries Act*[98] is to define the roles and responsibilities of library boards. With respect to services in French, subsection 20(b) states that a board "shall seek to provide library services in the French language, where appropriate." The wording affirms the willingness to provide such services, but leaves the local boards free to define their scope, and even to determine whether these services are "appropriate."

Therefore, implementing this affirmed willingness is entrusted to local bodies. Nor are these criteria specified in *Regulation 976, Grants for Public Libraries* (1990),[99] which basically defines the types of documents that can receive grants.

At the provincial level, another important document is the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines*.[100] The program established by the guidelines is more of an accreditation process. In fact, the guidelines and the certification are managed by an independent organization: the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council.

The Guidelines offer public libraries voluntary standards,[101] which each public library chooses to achieve or exceed, whether or not it decides to pursue the entire accreditation process. As stated in a reference document:

> The Guidelines provide public libraries of all sizes with a framework for development, help in planning processes, improved accountability to taxpayers, equity of access to information for the public and secured funding. They were developed and directed by the Ontario public library community to improve the quality of public library service across the province and address recommendations of the 1990 Ontario Public Library Strategic Plan.[102]

It should be noted that, while French-language services are not expressly stated, the need for services in the appropriate language is mentioned several times.

The Ontario Library Service – North and the Southern Ontario Library Service support the boards' leadership. For example, the Southern Service provides a set of policy templates[103] (although no template is proposed for French-language services). At the same time, it "provides professional advice to Francophone libraries and library staff who work with Francophone client groups."[104]

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98. https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p44
99. https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900976
100. Ontario Public Library Guidelines, 7th Edition,
https://ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/7th-Edition-Flyer.pdf
101. Ontario Public Library Guidelines, 2020 Edition,
https://ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/OPLG-Checklist-2020-Self-Assessment-checklist-final-draft.docx
102. Resources for Ontario's public libraries. http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/libraries/resources.shtml
103. https://www.sols.org/index.php/sample-policies
104. For French-language libraries, https://www.sols.org/index.php/francophone

Ontario Library Service – North published the *Municipal Councillor's Public Library Handbook*,[105] but this document does not directly mention the issue of French-language services. As well, Ontario Library Service – North provides networking opportunities among Francophones[106] and a joint acquisitions program.[107]

Official languages

In 1986, Ontario adopted the *French Language Services Act*,[108] which ensures that government services are provided in French in regions where Francophone residents are present in sufficient numbers. Four regulations define its enforcement, particularly with respect to designated regions.

The Ministry of Francophone Affairs was created to implement the Act, with the mandate of ensuring that "Franco-Ontarians receive government services in French so they can participate in the social, economic and political life of the province, while maintaining their linguistic and cultural heritage."[109]

However, the Act does not apply to libraries, as the provision in the *Public Libraries Act* takes precedence.[110] Since the latter states that the definition of level of service is the responsibility of public library boards, policy formulation is relegated to local bodies.

This results in considerable diversity, given the decentralized nature of the network.

The Southern Ontario Library Service has a French Language Services Policy.[111] It was adopted in 2005, following confirmation that the Service was not subject to the *French Language Services Act*. The Policy states that the Southern Ontario Library Service "will provide services and resources in French based on available resources, current strategic priorities and according to the following five priorities:
- where there is a direct or close relationship to serving the needs of library users;
- where there is a cultural need for specialized services;
- where there is a need to alert people or to gain commitment or buy-in for services [the Southern Ontario Library Service] considers critical;
- where there is an actual language barrier experienced by library trustees or staff;
- where we want to send a message of inclusiveness to our Francophone clients."

In February 2020, the Ottawa Public Library adopted its Official Languages Policy, whose purpose is "ensuring the provision of a strong bilingual (English/French) context for all services and programs."[112] This is demonstrated through the following:
- ensuring that customers receive services in the official language of their choice;

105.   Municipal   Councillor's   Public   Library   Handbook,   2018,   21   pp., https://www.olsn.ca/images/Resources/EN/2018_Municipal_Councillors_Handbook_Final.pdf
106. https://www.olsn.ca/en/share-collaborate/networking-meetings
107. Collections and Acquisitions Resource Initiative. https://www.olsn.ca/en/cari
108. https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90f32
109. https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-francophone-affairs
110. http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/libraries/act_q_a.shtml#FrenchLanguageServices
111. https://www.sols.org/index.php/french-languages-services-policy
112. https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/official-languages

- ensuring that programs and services are offered in both official languages, and that "employees familiar with the appropriate culture develop those aimed at the target audience";
- reserving an annual amount of the materials budget for the purchase of French-language materials "based on the highest percentage of the following four data sets: mother tongue, home language, first official language spoken (provided by Statistics Canada) and the inclusive definition of a Francophone (provided by the Ministry of Francophone Affairs)";
- promoting system-wide programs and services in both English and French throughout the network, clearly indicating the language in which they will be offered.

However, some policies are rather limited. For example, the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Library Board, which is part of the Ontario public library system, approved in 2008 a policy that simply states that "[t]he Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Library Board shall seek to provide library services in the French language where appropriate."[113]

Book policy

The literary community, under the impetus of the Association des auteures et auteurs de l'Ontario français (AAOF), is interested in the status of Franco-Ontarian books and literature.

An initial study on the presence of Franco-Ontarian literature was conducted in 2003 under the leadership of Denise Lemire.[114] The investigation was conducted through a survey sent to 200 municipal libraries. Although only 27 of them responded, a great deal of data about interest in Franco-Ontarian literature was collected.

The same year, the French-Canadian Publishers Group, known as the "Regroupement des éditeurs canadiens-français" in French, asked for a report on the status of the Franco-Ontarian book industry.[115]

That effort led the AAOF in 2006 to establish a policy forum that produced its final report in 2007.[116] That same year, the Table de concertation du livre franco-ontarien [roundtable on the Franco-Ontarian book industry] was established. Following a consultation process that ended in 2010, the roundtable proposed the adoption of a Franco-Ontarian book policy.

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113. Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Library Board French Services Policy, https://sdglibrary.ca/sites/default/files/POL_french_services2016.pdf
114. Denise Lemire (dir.) and Marc Haentjens, *Présence et circulation de la littérature franco-ontarienne dans nos institutions : résultats d'une enquête menée en avril 2003 auprès des établissements d'enseignement de langue française, des bibliothèques et des centres d'alphabétisation en Ontario.* Association des auteures et auteurs de l'Ontario français, 2003, 21 pp., https://aaof.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Enqu%C3%AAte-2003-Marc-Haentjens-AAOF.pdf
115. Regroupement des éditeurs canadiens-français, *État de l'industrie du livre en Ontario français*, report prepared by Laurent Bergeron Collin, September 2006, 23 pp.
116. AAOF, *Rapport final. Forum de concertation du livre franco-ontarien*, Fall 2007, 56 pp. "L'AAOF lance le rapport final de son Forum de concertation," *l-express*, December 11, 2007, https://l-express.ca/laaof-lance-le-rapport-final-de-son-forum-de-concertation/

The proposal also comes as a response to a study of the book supply chain, written by Lucie Hotte et al.[117] In addition to book policy, the research group was also interested in libraries. It sent a survey consisting of 19 questions to 58 libraries, of which 28 responded. The survey profiled users, collections, acquisitions, promotion, literary activities, local authors, and resources.[118] Overall, the report underlined the disparity in availability and the development of Franco-Ontarian books among the institutions.[119] Its main recommendation concerning libraries was to "Enforce the *French Language Services Act* in public libraries in designated regions,"[120] echoing the Desjardins recommendation of 1980.

The roundtable held another forum on books and schools in 2016.[121] Since then, the book policy project has been raised from time to time in the community.[122] In fact, the matter was taken up again in 2017 by the Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario. In its white paper, *Francophone Arts and Culture in Ontario,*[123] it called on the Government of Ontario to establish such a policy, a call that has so far gone unheeded.

Other programs
The networking structure put in place in Ontario has multiple components. For example, the OverDrive digital book and audiobook lending platform gives access to an extensive collection of digital works in French,[124] but even more in English. Similarly, the Cantook Station platform (from De Marque) is more focused on the lending of French-language digital books in Ontario.[125]

Partnerships with the education sector are also frequent. For example, in 2016:
- the Arnprior Public Library partnered with the French Catholic School Board to expand its collection of children's books;
- the Cornwall Public Library formed a partnership to manage an educational enrichment program for Francophone children from four to eight years old in five local schools;

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117. Lucie Hotte, Caroline G. Boudreau, Emir Delic, Jennifer Dumoulin and Martine Noël, *La chaîne du livre en Ontario français. Un état des lieux.* Chaire de recherche sur les cultures et les littératures francophones du Canada, June 2010, 96 pp., https://aaof.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/La-cha%C3%AEne-du-livre-en-Ontario-fran%C3%A7ais-Un-%C3%A9tat-des-lieux.pdf. A summary was produced in 2011: Table de concertation du livre franco-ontarien. *La chaîne du livre en Ontario français : un état des lieux. Sommaire exécutif*, February 2011. https://aaof.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Sommaire-exécutif-État-des-lieux-février-2011.pdf

118. Lucie Hotte et al., op cit., pp. 34–57.

119. Ibid, p. 18.

120. Ibid, p. 8.

121. Catherine Voyer-Léger, *Forum nos livres, nos écoles. 3 et 4 mars 2016 – Ottawa*, https://aaof.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/AAOF-Forum-Rapport-2016-16072017.pdf; Étienne Fortin-Gauthier, "Mobilisation pour la littérature franco-ontarienne," *ONFr+*, November 24, 2015, https://onfr.tfo.org/mobilisation-pour-la-litterature-franco-ontarienne

122. Étienne Fortin-Gauthier, "Faut-il une politique du livre francophone en Ontario?," *ONFr+*, May 20, 2016, https://onfr.tfo.org/faut-il-une-politique-du-livre-francophone-en-ontario
Benjamin Vachet, "Bientôt une politique du livre francophone en Ontario?," *ONFr+*, November 23, 2017, https://onfr.tfo.org/bientot-une-politique-du-livre-francophone-en-ontario
"Pour une politique du livre en Ontario," Radio-Canada, March 24, 2018, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/les-malins/segments/entrevue/64964/loi-51-politique-livre-ontario

123. Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario, *White Paper on Francophone Arts and Culture in Ontario,* June 2017, 2017, 44 pp., https://monassemblee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/LivreBlancAC_ENG_2017-06-29.pdf

124. https://odmc.overdrive.com

125. https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/fr/downloading-materials

- the Meaford Public Library developed a partnership with Canadian Parents for French to provide story hour programs, as well as to get support for the French-language collection and to receive documents in French;
- the North Grenville Public Library partnered with the French Catholic School Board to provide monthly French-language programming at the library;
- the Wawa Public Library partnered with the Early Years literacy program, the TD French-language Summer Reading Club, and other reading programs.[126]

Several libraries offer a great variety of programs and services. It is not possible to list them all here. They range from conversation circles to French-language library visits to story hours.[127]

Nevertheless, the situation is not straightforward, as shown by the January 2020 debate on the fate of French books in the Toronto Public Library. As Étienne Fortin-Gauthier recalls, the decision to withdraw 26,000 works in French, 18 percent of the collection, caused a reaction,[128] even outside of Canada. As Kevin Sweet sarcastically remarked, "borrowing books in French is a luxury, not a right."[129] However, the controversy had some effect, leading the city to double the acquisitions budget and plan for consultations. The latter were postponed as a result of the pandemic. Yet again, the library sector remains fragile.

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework
Ontario differs from the other provinces by the mention in the *Public Libraries Act* of the need—or rather the opportunity—to provide French-language services. However, the Act remains vague on the scope of these services, leaving that decision to local bodies. Moreover, by excluding libraries from the *French Language Services Act*, the government has deprived citizens who wish to make a complaint of the right to seek a remedy from the French Language Services Commissioner.

This local autonomy leaves local boards free to define appropriate policies. As stressed in the report by Louis Desjardins et al. (see below), there was pressure to amend the Act, with no apparent success. At the local level, the establishment of policies like that adopted by the Ottawa Public Library shows that matters are evolving, even though this evolution remains uneven.

Certainly, a solid network of organizations such as the Ontario Library Association, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, the Ontario Library Service – North and the Southern Ontario Library Service, among others, helps public library boards to provide French-language services. Effective support for developing and implementing official policies is also provided, including policy document templates, guidelines, and training. The templates and guidelines have been adopted and used by

126. http://fopl.ca/news/highlights-of-public-library-education-partnerships
127. For a study on this program at Caledon, see Alexandra Caroline Black Sensicle, "French as a Second Language (FSL) Storytimes: Fostering Language, Literacy and Lifelong Love of Reading," *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 7(1), 2012. https://doi.org/10.21083/partnership.v7i1.1724.
128. Étienne Fortin-Gauthier, "400 000 $ de nouveaux livres en français : les bibliothèques de Toronto y sont presque," ONfr+, October 27, 2020,
https://onfr.tfo.org/400-000-de-nouveaux-livres-en-francais-les-bibliotheques-de-toronto-y-sont-presque
129. Kevin Sweet, "Emprunter des livres en français, c'est un luxe, pas un droit," ICI Ottawa-Gatineau, January 18, 2020, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1476719/bibliotheques-ontario-catalogue-francophone-emprunts-disponibilite-responsabilite

several boards across the province, sometimes resulting in clear and holistic policy frameworks that take official-language minority communities into consideration (as is the case with the Ottawa Public Library). However, most library boards seem to have overlooked these useful resources. Therefore, they have no clear publicly disseminated policy, or the policies in place have flaws or are limited, like that of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Library Board.

It bears noting that the efforts to have the *French Language Services Act* apply to libraries are what has garnered attention from the 1970s to today.

Services

The issue of French-language library services has been the subject of a number of studies since 1970.[130] In 1979, following repeated demands to improve the situation, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation ordered a study that was published the following year. As mentioned in the summary included in *Documentation et bibliothèques*,[131] the inquiry revealed numerous shortcomings and made 22 recommendations, the main ones being to amend the Act to guarantee services, to define standards, and to appoint a provincial coordinator. Other reports on needs followed. Two important ones were published in 1988 and 1990.[132]

This concern for French-language library services has also been evident more recently. In 2008, Wendy Newman's report on the outlook for the library of the future identified policy and resource needs for official-language minorities:

> Diversity – The library of the future will be a partner in developing and providing services for high-priority populations like new immigrants, multicultural groups, the elderly, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal peoples, and official-language minorities. These high-priority populations will have increased in the Ontario of 2020, and the library will help enable their full participation in the life and benefits of this country.[133]
>
> Diversity – Diversity is growing in Ontario. It has many dimensions, including multiculturalism and official-language minorities. Meeting diverse needs requires policy development regarding collections and services. It will also require some intergovernmental policy collaboration.[134]

Enforcement was also raised as part of the work on the book policy, and again in 2017 by the Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario (see *supra*).

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130. Denise Dunn, *Community services practicum: a study of the Francophone population of North York in order to determine its library-information needs*, University of Toronto, Faculty of Library Science, 1974.

131. Jean-Guy Desroches, Compte rendu de [Desjardins, Louis, and Gagné, Evelyn. Les services en langue française dans les bibliothèques publiques de l'Ontario. Toronto, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 1980. 101 pp.], *Documentation et bibliothèques*, 26 (4), 1980, pp. 221–224, https://doi.org/10.7202/1054221ar

132. Larry Eshleman, *Library service to the francophone community in Ontario: some observations and suggestions*," Ontario, Libraries and Community Information Branch, 1988, 18 pp.; Goss, Gilroy & Associates Ltd., *French Public Libraries Study*, Toronto, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, December 1990.

133. Wendy Newman, *Third Generation Public Libraries. Visionary Thinking and Service Development in Public Libraries (to 2020) and Potential Application in Ontario*. Report for the Ontario Ministry of Culture, 2008, p. 21, http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/publications/third_gen_libraries.pdf

134. Ibid, p. 34.

Yet, while these structural reforms did not appear to have been carried out, it is very likely that the situation nonetheless has improved at the local level, pressured by a general growth in French-language services. Further research on the status of collections, for example, would no doubt provide more information.

The project to develop a promotional kit is part of this growth outlook at the local level. In 2013, the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) received a grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to develop a toolkit for Ontario public libraries serving French-speaking and francophile communities. To develop the kit, the OPL consulted the French-speaking community and asked for input from library organizations and staff. The document was published in 2013[135] and made available to all libraries in English and French.[136]

It should also be noted that having a number of networks and associations has a multiplier effect. In this respect, the presence of a Francophone libraries group within the Ontario Library Association is undoubtedly a vector for consolidating support for French-speaking communities.

2. University libraries

A few university hubs stand out.

The University of Sudbury library[137] is the only university library to offer French-language services in accordance with Ontario Regulation 398/93, "Designation of Public Service Agencies."[138]

Laurentian University's J.N. Desmarais Library states on its home page:

> [Translation] At the J.N. Desmarais Library, we offer you services, resources and collections in French. You can contact . . . your Francophone librarian . . . for assistance with research in French and to learn about French-language resources, databases, Zotero, etc. The guide to French-language resources will give you valuable reference tools for studying and research, and to "nurture" your French-speaking community.[139]

Also, its Collection Development Policy, adopted in 2013, states in an article on the language of documents that, "[i]n accordance with Laurentian University's bilingual mandate, a minimum of 30 percent of the acquisition budget is reserved for the acquisition of French language resources."[140]

The University of Ottawa (uOttawa) is also committed to offering a bilingual campus. With respect to its library, the Collection Development Policy, which is being revised, states the following: "We

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135. *Destination Biblio. Toolkit for planning, promoting and working with Francophones and Francophiles in your community*, 2013, 37 pp., https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/sites/default/files/PDFs/Trousse-EN%202%20FINAL-s.pdf https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/sites/default/files/PDFs/Trousse-%20FR%202%20FINAL-s.pdf
136. http://fopl.ca/news/destination-biblio/
137. https://usudbury.ca/en/services/library
138. https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/930398
139. https://biblio.laurentian.ca/research/fr/guides/services-de-biblioth%C3%A8que-pour-%C3%A9tudiants
140. Collection Development Policy, J.N. Desmarais Library, Laurentian University, 2013, https://biblio.laurentian.ca/research/sites/default/files/pictures/Collection%20Development%20Policy.pdf

develop a balanced, current, and diverse collection in appropriate formats. We strive for a bilingual collection (English and French) to the greatest extent possible."[141]

The Library plans to strengthen this approach. In fact, its Strategic Plan 2020–2025 includes a specific objective in this respect:

> Promote the distinctive character of uOttawa through emphasis on our French language scholarly collections
> The Library collection reflects the distinctive Franco-Ontarian, Franco-Canadian and bilingual character of uOttawa. Our holistic approach to developing French language collections includes collection strategy, internal metadata creation, and discovery interfaces, and improves the experience of students, faculty and researchers.[142]

Other Library initiatives have also facilitated access to Francophone documentary heritage, thanks to funding from the Government of Canada paid through the Canada–Ontario Agreement concluded with the Department of Canadian Heritage.[143] The Library has digitized over 20,000 works published before 1923 and made them available on the Internet Archive site.[144]

Additionally, with the advent of the Université de l'Ontario français, there are new concerns about the presence of a true university library.[145]

Collaborative approaches in addition to these initiatives have been put in place. In 2014, the Ontario Council of University Libraries, which comprises 21 university libraries, set up a pilot project in French called "Ask a Librarian," in collaboration with the libraries at the University of Ottawa, Laurentian University, and the Glendon campus of York University.[146] This is now an integral part of the online chat service. Annual funding also comes from the federal envelope of the Canada–Ontario Agreement.

3. Community libraries and book fairs

Five book fairs take place across the province to promote awareness of Francophone documentary heritage:
- The Hearst Book Fair[147]
- The Toronto French Book Fair[148]
- BookFest Windsor[149]

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141. https://biblio.uottawa.ca/en/about/collections/collection-development-policy
142. Strategic Plan 2020–2025, https://biblio.uottawa.ca/en/strategic-plan-2025
143. http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/ententeAgreementEd.pdf
Under this agreement, the Library receives annual funding for the acquisition of French-language books and resources.
144. https://archive.org/details/universityofottawa
145. Hélène Carrier, "L'Université de l'Ontario français : repenser la bibliothèque universitaire?," *Open Shelf*, December 8, 2020,
https://open-shelf.ca/201209-luniversite-de-lontario-francais-repenser-la-bibliotheque-universitaire
146. "New French Pilot Service: Clavardez avec nos bibliothécaires – Ask a Librarian," July 22, 2014,
https://ocul.on.ca/node/3179
147. https://www.salondulivredehearst.com
148. https://www.salondulivredetoronto.com
149. https://www.bookfestwindsor.com/

- The Salon du livre du Grand Sudbury[150]
- The Niagara Francophone Book Fair[151]

150. https://www.lesalondulivre.ca
151. Rudy Chabannes, "Le Salon du livre du Niagara écrit son premier chapitre," ONFR+, March 9, 2020, https://onfr.tfo.org/le-salon-du-livre-du-niagara-ecrit-son-premier-chapitre

Quebec

1. Public libraries

Current situation

In 2017, Quebec's public library network comprised 824 libraries.[152] This network had three components:

- 173 independent (municipal) public libraries (19.8 million documents);
- The Grande Bibliothèque (3.5 million documents); and
- Regional service centres for public libraries. Eleven regional networks serving 654 libraries (2.7 million documents) are grouped together under the Réseau Biblio, which provides technical and networking services.[153] The regional networks offer services, resources, training and technology infrastructure to affiliated libraries in their area. These libraries serve municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants and rely primarily on volunteers to operate.

The Government of Quebec supports the network in two ways:

- Through the Quebec Department of Culture and Communications (MCCQ), which provides support to public libraries through its *Lecture et livre* [reading and book] focus area;[154] and
- Through the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ), which also plays a coordination role.

Community libraries are called "association libraries." Some are recognized by their municipalities as public libraries and have access to MCCQ funding programs because of this recognition.

For the English-speaking community, this type of model exists at the Bibliothèque de Métis-sur-Mer/Métis-sur-Mer library,[155] which shares its premises with the Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence society and whose catalogue is accessible through the Biblio public network.

The same applies to the Bibliothèque et salle d'opéra Haskell/Haskell Free Library and Opera House (see the section on community libraries).

The municipal network has a few predominantly English-language libraries, amongst them the largest being probably the Westmount Public Library. As Katherine Sehl mentions "When the Westmount Public Library opened its doors, in 1899, there were already nearly 700 members jostling to borrow one of the 1,992 books on its shelves. Since then its collection has grown to include more than 170,000

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152. General statistics on public libraries, by administrative region and for all of Quebec, https://statistique.quebec.ca/en/document/statistics-on-public-libraries-quebec/tableau/statistiques-generales-bibliotheques-publiques-par-region-administrative-ra-et-ensemble-quebec#tri_tertr=00&tri_biblio=5&tri_pop=1. For an overview of the network, see also D. Chagnon (2017), "Overview of public libraries in Québec," Bibliothèques et Archives nationales du Québec. https://www.banq.qc.ca/documents/services/espace_professionnel/milieux_doc/ressources/partenariats/Danielle_Chagnon_Overview_public_libraries_Quebec.pdf
153. http://www.reseaubiblioduquebec.qc.ca/fr
154. https://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=4375
155. https://heritagelsl.ca/bibliotheque-de-metis-sur-mer-metis-sur-mer-library/
https://ville.metis-sur-mer.qc.ca/en/citoyens/public-library-schedule

books, films, and other miscellany."[156] The Westmount Public Library is the province's first municipal library.

Another example is the Bibliothèque publique de Pointe-Claire/Pointe-Claire Public Library, located in a municipality in the West Island of Montréal. As a bilingual library, it has a very extensive collection of English documents (115,347 out of a total of more than 204,000 items), and offers a wide variety of services and programs in both English and French[157].

A final example is the one in Beaconsfield. One study on the vitality of this official-language minority community cited the importance of the services that the library provides.

> The Beaconsfield library is a local hub and crucial to the cultural and historical vitality of the community. Staff members speak both English and French, and books and programs are also available in both languages. The library is in the same building as the Municipal offices, featuring a bulletin board and local newspapers, and an array of pamphlets advertising local services and resources are readily available for citizens in both English and French.
>
> […] The Municipality of Beaconsfield, the local library, and most of the community-based organizations offer services to residents in English and French; this includes all documentation and websites in both English and French.[158]

It is worth highlighting the historical role that English-language libraries played in the creation of an informal library network in the province in the 19th century, a quite widely recognized phenomenon.[159] However, the same cannot be said of knowledge about the current state of English-language services and collections. Even an expert librarian from the Concordia University Library confirmed this to us as part of this study:

> Believe it or not, your question about English services and books in Quebec public libraries is a challenging one, and so far I have not found a single recently published source that would adequately address it. . . [Further,] I can pretty much confirm that there is no ongoing serial publication with detailed data on the state of English-language books and services in Quebec public and community libraries.[160]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries
Quebec's policy and regulatory framework, as far as libraries are concerned, differs from that of other provinces in many respects. Three components must be considered:

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156. Katherine Sehl, "The best Montreal libraries you need to discover right now," *TimeOut*, June 4, 2019, https://www.timeout.com/montreal/things-to-do/best-montreal-libraries
157. https://biblio.pointe-claire.ca/general-info
158. Prairie Research Associates, *Horizontal Evaluation of the Roadmap for Linguistic Duality 2008–2013: Acting for the Future. Technical Report: Case Study on the Vitality of OMLCs. Beaconsfield, Quebec July 17, 2012*, [unpublished report], pp. 6–7.
159. Peter F. McNally, "Print Culture and English-Speaking Quebec," Fontanus, 10 (1998), https://fontanus.mcgill.ca/article/download/161/182. See also Chapter 9 entitled "Bibliothèques publiques et gratuites : des pionnières anglophones," in François Séguin, *D'obscurantisme et de lumières : la bibliothèque publique au Québec des origines au 21e siècle*, Montréal, Hurtubise, 2016, 657 pp.
160. Susie Brier, personal communication, September 16, 2020.

1. public library network;
2. BAnQ; and
3. book policy.

<u>1. Public library network</u>

The situation in Quebec with respect to the legislative framework governing public libraries is unique in Canada in that there is no legislation dedicated to oversight of public libraries. Adopted in 1959, the *Public Libraries Act* became obsolete and was repealed in 1992.[161] Since the Act was not replaced, requests were made for such a legislative framework to be introduced, as called for by the Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec in an April 2006 memorandum,[162] a view echoed by Benoit Ferland and Marcel Lajeunesse.[163]

However, Chapter III of the *Act respecting the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications*[164] pertains to public libraries and regional service centres for public libraries. Although the Act does not set out rules for operating and managing public libraries, which fall under municipal jurisdiction, it does define the department's role, which includes holding consultations on needs and means "for the purpose of devising the sectorial policy on public libraries." However, no such policy has been introduced to date.

Aside from this decentralization, a difference in governance exists at the municipal level: management of public libraries themselves falls directly to the municipal governments and not to boards, as is the case elsewhere in Canada.[165] This means that the network is municipalized rather than decentralized, as each municipality is responsible for maintaining and developing its libraries.

This is not to say that there are no oversight tools. In 1974, the Quebec Department of Cultural Affairs published service standards for the first time, which were turned into a guide (1996) and then guidelines (2011). A revamped version was published in 2019.[166] The only mention of English-language documents is implicit. These documents are part of the general collection because specific collections consist of works [translation] "in a language other than French and English."[167] Under these guidelines, municipal libraries have complete freedom.

161. *Public Libraries Act*, c. 65, s. 24. http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/B-3. For more information, see Isabelle Crépeau, "La législation des bibliothèques publiques du Québec à travers l'histoire : essai de synthèse," *Documentation et bibliothèques*, 45, 1 (January–March 1999), https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1032775ar

162. Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec, Memorandum to the Council of Ministers of the Government of Quebec. Projet de loi sur les bibliothèques publiques au Québec, April 2006, https://cbpq.qc.ca/sujet-projet-de-loi-sur-les-bibliotheques-publiques-au-quebec-avril-2006

163. Benoit Ferland and Marcel Lajeunesse, "Une loi des bibliothèques publiques du Québec : une nécessité," *Documentation et bibliothèques*, 53, 4 (October–December 2007), https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1030777ar

164. Chapter M-17.1, http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/M-17.1

165. Virginia Wilson, "Public Libraries in Canada: An Overview," *Library Management*, 29, 6/7 (2008), p. 563.

166. *Lignes directrices pour les bibliothèques publiques du Québec*, 2019, 144 pp., http://lignesdirectricesbiblioquebec.ca/pdf/lignes_directrices_biblio_2019.pdf

167. Ibid, 8.3, p. 63.

2. BAnQ

The *Act respecting Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec* created BAnQ in 2004.[168] The institution's mandate is to preserve and disseminate documentary heritage and to encourage consultation, standardization and networking among all Quebec libraries (subsection 15(7)).

BAnQ, a Government of Quebec institution, is subject to a wide range of policies.[169] Of those pertaining more specifically to English-language documents or services, the following are of note:

- Politique de développement de la collection universelle [universal collection development policy]:[170] Adopted in 2014, the policy states the following in section 5.3: [translation] "BAnQ acquires and makes available substantial collections in French, but also in English and in other languages in use in Quebec, according to the needs of the patrons it serves."
- Politique d'abonnement et de prêt [membership and loan policy]:[171] Adopted in 2012, this policy provides (in section 4) that, [translation] "[i]n accordance with its mission, BAnQ offers all Quebecers open and free access to culture and knowledge as well as to Quebec's documentary heritage. This offering is made without discrimination based on . . . language."
- Politique linguistique [language policy]:[172] This policy focuses on [translation] "the use and quality of French" and on "ensuring that French is pre-eminent in its activities." The policy discusses communication and translation activities, documents produced and language of work. While French is given prominence, various exceptions apply; for example, the policy states that [translation] "any written communication sent to a natural person in Quebec at the initiative of a BAnQ staff member shall be in French, except if that person asked to receive his or her correspondence in English."

3. Book policy

The third component of the public policy on libraries is a more indirect one: the *Act respecting the development of Québec firms in the book industry*.[173] Adopted in 1981, the Act sets out the conditions, standards and scales with which public libraries, regional service centres for public libraries, and BAnQ must comply when purchasing documents. It aims to promote the development of the book market. A few accredited English-language bookstores are part of the network.[174]

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168. http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/B-1.2
169. https://www.banq.qc.ca/a_propos_banq/mission_lois_reglements/lois_reglements_politiques/politiques_procedures/index.html?language_id=1
170. https://www.banq.qc.ca/a_propos_banq/mission_lois_reglements/lois_reglements_politiques/politiques_procedures/politique_dev_collection_pret_ref/index.html
171. https://www.banq.qc.ca/a_propos_banq/mission_lois_reglements/lois_reglements_politiques/politiques_procedures/politique_abonnement_pret/index.html
172. https://www.banq.qc.ca/a_propos_banq/mission_lois_reglements/lois_reglements_politiques/politiques_procedures/politique_linguistique/index.html
173. http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/D-8.1#sc-nb:1; for more details, see https://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=4385
174. See list: https://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=2181

Official languages

In Quebec, the *Charter of the French Language*, approved in 1977, defines French as the official language of Quebec and states that French has primacy over all other languages. However, the Charter recognizes the English-speaking community's contribution, stipulating the following in its preamble:

> Whereas the National Assembly intends to pursue this objective in a spirit of fairness and open-mindedness, respectful of the institutions of the English-speaking community of Québec, and respectful of the ethnic minorities, whose valuable contribution to the development of Québec it readily acknowledges.[175]

The Charter defines French as the language of the legislature (Chapter III), civil administration (Chapter IV), labour relations (Chapter VI) and instruction (Chapter VIII). It includes a series of 13 regulations, which refer little to libraries.

Furthermore, the Government of Quebec created the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise,[176] which has a funding program called "Strengthen community vitality."[177] According to the document *Renforcer la vitalité des communautés : Survol des initiatives de 2018-2019*[178] [Strengthen Community Vitality: Overview of 2018–2019 Initiatives], no support specific to libraries was provided in 2018–2019; however, the Eastern Townships Resource Centre did receive some support.

Other programs

Although it does not have a legislative oversight policy for public libraries, the Government of Quebec acts primarily through MCCQ funding programs. Two programs of this sort exist:
- the Programme de soutien au développement des collections [collection development support program],[179] which provides funding to supplement and diversify documentary collections and to support their proper management; financial assistance for the purchase of Quebec documents; and free access to the public library service for users; and
- the Programme d'aide aux immobilisations [capital assistance program],[180] which provides financial support for the construction, expansion, renovation and redevelopment of public libraries and for the purchase of specialized equipment for them.

No policies, but documents in collections

One unique feature of Quebec libraries is that, despite the absence of specific policies, and even statistics, they nevertheless carry large collections intended for the English-speaking minority.

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175. http://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/showdoc/cs/C-11
176. https://www.quebec.ca/en/government/ministere/conseil-executif/secretariats/srqea/
177. [Funding program]. *Cadre normatif 2018-2021*, 21 pp., https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/conseil-executif/publications-adm/srqea/francais/cadre-normatif.pdf?1572014940
178. *Renforcer la vitalité des communautés : Survol des initiatives de 2018-2019*, 2019, 62 pp., https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/conseil-executif/publications-adm/srqea/francais/Programme_financement_Renforcer_vitalite_communautes-FR.pdf?1572014687
179. https://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=1101
180. https://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/index.php?id=1366

That is the case, for example, with BAnQ. While the acquisition of English-language documents is not mentioned in its policies, this does not mean that the institution does not offer them. A catalogue search,[181] conducted on September 24, 2020, yielded 1,085,890 English-language documents, including electronic resources (480,820), printed books (397,538), audio recordings (87,545), and films and television series (66,911). In addition, the BAnQ blog recently featured the English collection.[182]

Other public libraries have such collections as well. The Bibliothèque municipale de Gatineau carries 69,703 English-language documents in all categories in addition to 241,976 French-language ones.[183] The same applies to the City of Montreal, whose collection as at December 31, 2018, included 757,771 English-language documents, or 19.42% of the total collection. However, the proportion of documents varies by sector, ranging from 4.04% in Ville-Marie to 46.56% in Pierrefonds.[184]

The absence of data is also evident in the collection of statistical data for the entire territory. The Government of Quebec invests quite extensively in the collection of data on libraries. Provincial statistics on independent public libraries therefore exist,[185] while datasets are available in a very powerful application called StatBib.[186]

However, none of the data collected include the language aspect of collections, services and the like, hence the difficulty in painting an accurate big picture. The only exception is a 2004 study, *État des lieux du livre et des bibliothèques*[187] [book and library status report], which contains interesting, detailed data on some aspects, including reading language, assistance for writers, and book distribution, but no data on the availability of works or services.

Assessment

The main observation was a marked difference in approach from the other provinces and territories, which requires a more nuanced analysis. This difference was apparent in the following areas:

1. **A blind spot: English-language services and volumes**
   Although detailed data are gathered on different aspects of library services, it should be noted that the issue of English-language services and collections (and, more broadly, collections and services in a language other than French) is missing from the profile. Even more surprising is the fact that there are few or no research papers[188] on English-language libraries and English-speaking communities in Quebec, so that the profile presented here required more in-depth research than elsewhere.

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181. https://cap.banq.qc.ca/advancedsearch/:new
182. Lidia Merola, "Lire en anglais pendant le confinement? You bet!" BAnQ blog, May 6, 2020, http://blogues.banq.qc.ca/chezmoi/2020/05/06/lire-en-anglais/
183. https://www.gatineau.ca/portail/default.aspx?p=guichet_municipal/bibliotheque, accessed on September 23.
184. City of Montreal, Inventory by sector and language, 2012–2018, http://donnees.ville.montreal.qc.ca/dataset/bibliotheques-montreal-statistiques/resource/e3bb23ca-32a9-4848-893e-a113a318f6ae
185. https://statistique.quebec.ca/en/document/statistics-on-public-libraries-quebec/tableau/statistiques-generales-bibliotheques-publiques-par-region-administrative-ra-et-ensemble-quebec#tri_tertr=00&tri_biblio=5&tri_pop=1
186. https://applications.banq.qc.ca/apex/f?p=306:1
187. *État des lieux du livre et des bibliothèques*, 2004, https://statistique.quebec.ca/fr/fichier/etat-lieux-du-livre-et-bibliotheques.pdf
188. The notable exception being Jean Vilbas, *Bibliothèque et bilinguisme : l'exemple de la Bibliothèque Intermunicipale de Pierrefonds – Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec, Canada*, dissertation, École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques, 1992, 84 pp.

2. A separate policy and governance framework

While there is no legislation specifically for libraries, it should be emphasized that government involvement occurs through other laws and measures that support the network. The municipalization of libraries is also a distinctive characteristic, marked by the absence of library boards (which are present in the other provinces and the territories).

3. The absence of a specific policy does not mean that there is no policy at all

As has been emphasized, the absence of a specific approach to acquisitions and services in English, or services for the English-speaking community, is not indicative of a complete absence. Although policies govern activities, their absence does not mean that the activities do not take place. Rather, it means that the activities fall under different initiatives.

4. A disparate community network

The lack of aggregate data makes it difficult to fully grasp the whole dynamic around English-language community libraries, at least for the 11 libraries identified below under "Community libraries." A few characteristics are noteworthy:

- Historical role: Interestingly, several of these libraries have a long history and played a crucial role in the development of the Quebec network.
- Isolation: They rely mostly on volunteers and seem rather isolated, and some have experienced major difficulties, particularly the Fraser-Hickson Institute.
- Link to the public network: Some, but not all, are integrated into the public network.

2. University libraries

Three major English-language universities (McGill, Concordia and Bishop's) serve Quebec. Each one has a major library, and their collections are accessible via the new Sofia portal, which was launched in September 2020 and is shared by all university libraries in Quebec.[189] However, an assessment of their resources does not fit well with this study, given that the English-speaking community is not their only audience.

Moreover, the Department of Culture and Communications collects statistics on university libraries,[190] but the data do not show the language of the documents, nor whether there are any community programs.

3. Community libraries and book fairs

One distinctive Quebec trait is both the importance of the English-language community library network and its fragmented nature, marked by an (at least apparent) absence of networking. Yet, as librarian Kathleen Hulley has pointed out, the mandate of English-language community libraries is significant because:

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189.   https://biblios-uni-qc.org/actualites/le-bureau-de-cooperation-interuniversitaire-annonce-le-lancement-de-loutil-de-recherche-sofia; presentation on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHPLIGsexn8&feature=youtu.be
190. https://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/culture/bibliotheques/universitaires/stat_biblio_univ.htm

Institutions, such as the Morrin Centre, step in to fill this gap by making English-language library materials available, materials that are rarely added to the collection at the local public libraries.[191]

Several of the English-language community libraries have played a role in establishing a network of libraries in Quebec, a historical dimension that is beyond the purview of this research.

Morrin Centre (Quebec City)
Morrin Centre library in Quebec City,[192] established around 1830,[193] is undoubtedly one of the oldest in the province. Currently, in addition to being the main English-language library in the provincial capital, it focuses particular attention on documenting Quebec: "Part of our mandate, in particular, is to collect and make available English-language library materials published in Quebec or related to Quebec."[194]

There is another exceptional fact about this library. While the role of libraries in official-language minority communities is not widely known, the Morrin Centre has received recognition from the Senate Standing Committee on Official Languages. In its 2011 report, the Committee stated the following:

> Centre Morrin in Quebec City, which has taken on the mission of supporting English-language culture and fostering cultural exchanges between Francophones and Anglophones. Its library holds an impressive collection of books in English that are accessible to the general public. The Commissioner of Official Languages acknowledged the centre's value in fostering a sense of identity, belonging and attachment within the community.[195]

Atwater Library and Computer Centre
The Atwater Library and Computer Centre[196] is probably the best-known among the independent English-language community libraries in Montréal. Its collection includes close to 40,000 documents, not counting the seed library that opened in 2015. Given that the library is the heir to the Mechanics' Institute Library, founded in 1828, its history is well documented.

It is part of the Montreal Association of Independent Libraries, founded in 1997.

The association also includes the following libraries:

- **Fraser-Hickson Institute**
  "The Fraser-Hickson Institute, a registered non-profit organization, was established in 1870 according to Hugh Fraser's will, as a free library, museum and gallery. It opened its doors

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191. Personal communication, September 23, 2020.
192. https://www.morrin.org/en/explore-the-library/
193. See, among other sources, G. Bernatchez, "La Société littéraire et historique de Québec (The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec) 1824-1890," *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, 35, 2 (1981), 179–192. https://doi.org/10.7202/303949ar; and, more recently, Louisa Blair, Patrick Donovan and Donald Fyson. *Iron Bars and Bookshelves: A History of the Morrin Centre*. Montréal, Baraka Books, 2016.
194. Kathleen Hulley, personal communication, September 23, 2020.
195. *The Vitality of Quebec's English-Speaking Communities: From Myth to Reality*, Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages, October 2011, p. 46, https://sencanada.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/411/ollo/rep/rep02oct11-e.pdf
196. https://www.atwaterlibrary.ca/

in 1885 as one of Montréal's first libraries and for more than 70 years operated out of a building known as Burnside Hall at the corner of University and René-Levesque."[197]

The library closed its doors in 2006 because of a lack of funding,[198] but reopened in a new form in 2013.[199] Public commitment to the library played an important role.[200]

- **Jewish Public Library (JPL)**
  As stated on its website, "The JPL opened its doors on May 1st, 1914, in a modest cold-water flat at 666 rue St. Urbain with a small collection of 500 books. From the beginning the library was more than mere shelves and texts. It quickly became the meeting place for literary and cultural exchange, maintaining a link to the still flourishing Jewish communities of Eastern Europe while promoting the community's growth in its new Quebec home." Its collection contains approximately 150,000 documents, and it has 5,200 members.[201]

- **Montreal Children's Library**
  Created in 1929, the Montreal Children's Library is one of the oldest privately funded libraries in Montréal. Various branches have been opened over time.[202]

Pettes Memorial Library (Knowlton)
As stated on its website:
> Our story began in 1894 with an act of Parliament. We were Quebec's first and we remain a free public library, still housed in the same heritage building, donated by Mrs. Narcissa Farrand Pettes, and still governed by a volunteer board of trustees.[203]

North Hatley Library
According to its website:
> [The Library] is owned and operated by the North Hatley Library Association, a private organisation. The earliest records of the Library show that it was active prior to 1898. Without financial support from any level of government for 90 years, the generosity of the community allowed it to establish and expand its attractive building and its extensive collection. Since 1986, some government projects have allowed the Library to purchase equipment and to hire a student in the summer.
> The Library's collection consists of over 18,000 titles.[204]

197. http://www.ndg.ca/en/fraser-hickson-institute.
198. Caroline Montpetit, "La bibliothèque de l'Institut Fraser-Hickson ferme ses portes," *Le Devoir*, October 25, 2006, https://www.ledevoir.com/lire/121251/la-bibliotheque-de-l-institut-fraser-hickson-ferme-ses-portes
199. Curran, Peggy, "The Fraser-Hickson rises again," *Montreal Gazette*, February 7, 2013, https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/the-fraser-hickson-rises-again
200. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraser-Hickson_Library
201. https://jewishpubliclibrary.org/; https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioth%C3%A8que_publique_juive
202. https://www.mcl-bjm.ca/home; https://www.mcl-bjm.ca/notre-histoire; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreal_Children%27s_Library
203. https://www.pettes.ca/notre-histoire-our-history. See also https://www.pettes.ca/; https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioth%C3%A8que_comm%C3%A9morative_Pettes
204. http://www.nhlibrary.qc.ca/en_defi.html

Haskell Free Library and Opera House (Stanstead)

This library is unique in many respects. Founded in 1901, the Haskell Free Library and Opera House straddles the Canada–U.S. border and, as a result, supports the cultural needs of the community, both English and French, on both sides of the border. Its entrance is in the United States, but the collection is in Canada. In another example of the integration of some community libraries into the public network, its catalogue can be accessed through the Biblio network.[205]

Its unique situation led François Séguin to say:

> [Translation] Some people joke that Haskell is the only American public library that has no books and the only Quebec library that has no front door.[206]

Like many other libraries, it has been the subject of presentations and research on its history.[207]

Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence (Métis, Rimouski)

This organization[208] is an interesting example of community investment. Its website states the following:

- "The Heritage Cultural Resource Centre and Metis Bilingual Public Library are located within our head office." In other words, the community library is integrated into the public network. Opened in 2012, this is the only bilingual library east of Quebec City, with a collection that is divided equally between English and French.[209]
- The organization also manages the Rimouski Resource Centre & English Library.

South Shore English Network (Lévis)

Most recently, a newspaper reported on an English-language library project in Lévis.[210]

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205. https://haskellopera.com/;
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioth%C3%A8que_et_salle_d%27op%C3%A9ra_Haskell

206. François Séguin, "La bibliothèque gratuite Haskell : la seule bibliothèque publique transfrontalière et binationale au monde," https://asted.org/la-bibliotheque-gratuite-haskell-la-seule-bibliotheque-publique-transfrontaliere-et-binationale-au-monde/

207. https://haskellopera.com/history/; R. Chénier, "La bibliothèque publique et la salle d'opéra Haskell," *Cap-aux-Diamants*, 63 (2000), pp. 61, https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/cd/1900-v1-n1-cd1043747/8456ac.pdf

208. https://heritagelsl.ca/hcrc/

209. Martin Ross, "Une bibliothèque bilingue," *CFTF*, June 29, 2016. https://cftf.teleinterrives.com/nouvelle-Regional_Une_bibliotheque_bilingue-27905

210. Érick Deschenes, "Une initiative pour rassembler la communauté anglophone," *Le journal de Lévis*, August 8, 2019, https://www.journaldelevis.com/1298/%C3%80_la_une_aujourd_hui.html?id=65267

Alberta

1. Public libraries

Current situation

The public library system in Alberta is largely decentralized. In the government, Public Library Services, which reports to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, offers support service to libraries and "[p]rovides policy, planning and administrative expertise to develop and maintain provincial legislation related to public library service."[211]

Under the *Librairies Act*, libraries are first and foremost a municipal service. The provincial government supports them, but the decision to provide the service rests with municipalities:

> Public library service is a municipal service as set out in the *Libraries Act*.
>
> Municipalities may choose to provide the service at the local level, and also at the regional level.
>
> The Government of Alberta provides grants to municipal and library system boards to supplement municipal funding and encourage library service.
>
> We also establish standards for operation, planning of service and facilitate province-wide sharing of public library resources.[212]

In addition, municipalities can create intermunicipal governance structures. The Act also provides for the establishment of community libraries. There are 222 local boards and 7 regional systems. Except at the local level, there are no provisions for French-language services or collections.

According to Alberta's *French Services Directory*:[213]

- Alberta's publicly funded libraries offer French-language resources; the majority are accessible throughout the province through the interlibrary loan program.
- Other community organizations, such as the Institut Guy-Lacombe de la famille (Edmonton) and the Médiathèque francophone (Lethbridge), provide information resources in French to the community.

Four municipalities are officially bilingual in Alberta: Beaumont, Legal, Falher and Plamondon. Their libraries have French-language holdings. Thirteen other municipalities self-identify as bilingual.

In addition, the library in Saint-Isidore describes itself as the [translation] "only completely French library in the public municipal system."[214] Its history is particularly interesting: created in 1981 on the

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211. https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-services.aspx

212. "Public library structure in Alberta – Overview," https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-structure-in-alberta-overview.aspx

213. https://www.alberta.ca/french-services-directory.aspx

214. Bibliothèque Saint-Isidore, https://www.bibliothequestisidore.ab.ca/A-propos

initiative of a small women's group wishing to open a library to serve the hamlet's Francophone community, it was housed at the time in a small room in the village church, relying on donations to fill its collection. It moved into the new Saint-Isidore cultural centre in spring 1987 and then joined the public Peace Library System the following year, thereby acquiring access to the collections of all provincial libraries. In 2016, it moved to new premises in the renovated cultural centre.[215]

It is also noteworthy that a community of practice for Francophone libraries existed from 2011 to at least 2014.[216]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries
Alberta's library system is based on the *Libraries Act*, the 2000[217] consolidated version of a statute initially passed in 1970. The Act defines the regulatory powers of the government and the roles and responsibilities of the various types of libraries (municipal, intermunicipal and community libraries, and library systems and federations). It is complemented by regulations (*Libraries Regulation*, 141/1998),[218] which provide guidance on service planning and development, policy development, and expanding interlibrary cooperation.

The provincial service also supports libraries through a series of policies and tools. On the one hand, the province is governed by a set of policies,[219] pertaining chiefly to resource sharing:
- Public Library Network Policy
- Resource Sharing Operational Policy for Public Libraries
- SuperNet Operational Policy
- Electronic Resources Operational Policy

On the other hand, various tools are made available to libraries,[220] mainly to guide them in developing the policies of municipal boards. These include the documented *Policies and Bylaws: A Guide for Alberta Public Library Boards*, which states the following:

> The board may wish to set priorities on specific user needs such as research, recreation, instruction, reference or general information. It may also wish to focus on specific topics of local interest. Within these general priorities, the board may wish to set direction on the formats of material collected. These could include print materials, audio-visual materials, materials in languages other than English, or materials that are specifically suited to print-disabled patrons.[221]

215. https://www.bibliothequestisidore.ab.ca/A-propos/Histoire-de-la-bibliotheque
216. *La communauté de pratique de bibliothèques albertaines. Services de bibliothèque en langue française de l'Alberta* https://bibliofrancoalberta.wordpress.com/
217. https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-l-11/latest/rsa-2000-c-l-11.html
218. https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/1998_141.pdf
219. https://www.alberta.ca/provincial-public-library-legislation-and-policies.aspx
220. https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-services.aspx.
221. *Policies and Bylaws: A Guide for Alberta Public Library Boards*, 2017, p. 36, https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/16450bbb-2ce2-42e1-88eb-003e40e035bb/resource/202e731d-d1ee-4bae-bdcb-35cbca5d0f4a/download/policies-and-bylaws-guide-final-september-2017.pdf. A complementary document produced by the same service is *Library Bylaws, Questions to Ask*, 2008, 22 pp., https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/449f4f34-35b3-4e65-ba67-4124c812c593/resource/61fff61f-82c5-46ae-b9ce-c319397b333d/download/ma-libraries-act-chapter-l-11-library-bylaws-questions-to-ask-2008-05.pdf

These tools also include the *Standards and Best Practices for Public Libraries in Alberta*.[222]

It is noteworthy that the *Public library board policies and bylaws* page,[223] which proposes a series of policy development guides, does not specifically mention French-language services. Similarly, the resource page *Public library boards – Other legislation* draws no connections to the French Policy.[224]

While, at the provincial level, the policy and legal framework for libraries has little to say about language issues, the situation is slightly different at the local level.

It is important to note that, among the four bilingual municipalities, two municipal libraries make specific commitments regarding French-language works:

- Beaumont Library[225] has adopted a collection development policy, which states that "[the] Library is mandated to provide functional, up-to-date French language materials to all age groups. As such, sustainable funding for this purpose will be made available on a yearly basis."[226]

- Falher Library / La Bibliothèque Dentinger[227] mentions BiblioTECH access to electronic resources in French:

    > We are a BiblioTECH that encourages patrons to explore Library e-Resources. Our bilingual staff provides assistance on how to access materials, but ALL of our written documentation is in English. This project will allow us to provide e-Learning documents in French, which will be made available online under a new *BiblioTECH en français* tab on our website at www.falherlibrary.ab.ca. Other francophone populations in the Peace Library System (Grande Prairie, Peace River, Saint-Isidore) will be able to use this information to support their patrons too. More Francophone programs and resources will be provided as part of this two-year project. More Francophone programs and resources will be provided as part of this two-year project.[228]

    Similarly, under its 2017 Plan of Service, it aims to "[m]aintain our 90% satisfaction rating with library service levels in both French and English, while providing non-traditional library services (Career Resource Centre) to help meet our communities' changing needs."[229]

222. 2011, 82 pp., http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/documents/libraries/standardsbestpractic97652.pdf
223. https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-board-policies-and-bylaws.aspx
224. https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-boards-other-legislation.aspx
225. https://beaumontlibrary.com
226. Beaumont Library, "Collection Development," 2017, 3 pp. [replacing the policy adopted in 2014], https://beaumontlibrary.com/~/media/yrl/beaumont/documents/operationalcollectiondevelopment.ashx?la=en.TMoreMore
227. https://www.falherlibrary.ab.ca
228. "More Francophone programs and resources will be provided as part of this two-year project," https://falherlibrary.ab.ca/Using-the-Library/BiblioTECH
229. https://www.falherlibrary.ab.ca/content/download/27663/file/2017-2021%20Plan%20of%20Service.pdf

One last example is the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL), whose Collection Development Policy[230] states that "The selection of library materials is based on [...] the need to deal in an informative and balanced manner with social, personal, racial, multicultural, religious and scientific issues" (p. 57) and that the "French Language Resources collection is a joint collaboration between many school boards and GPPL" (p. 58).

Official languages
With regard to official languages, the Alberta government adopted a French Policy in 2017.[231] At that time, the Francophone Secretariat was established to "[liaise] with Alberta's Francophonie and [coordinate] the implementation of the French Policy." Reporting to the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, the Secretariat is also responsible for preparing an annual report.

The Policy is accompanied by an Action Plan,[232] adopted in December 2018. It is noteworthy that one of this plan's "Priority Initiatives for 2018–2021" is to "[w]ork [in 2019–2020] with public library stakeholders to promote available French-language content and potentially expand it."[233] The 2019 Annual Report picks up on this theme, indicating that efforts are being made to make French-language resources accessible for libraries. At particular issue here is access to French-language newspapers and magazines via PressReader and RBdigital Magazines, as well as access via Alberta eBook to a language learning platform. The annual report also states that the libraries offer "a small yet growing selection of French ebooks that complements an existing French-language print collection available through the Alberta library network."[234]

This strategic direction is compellingly reiterated in the Francophone Secretariat's *French Policy 2020–23 Action Plan*, in which the Ministry of Municipal Affairs notes the following:

> A key ministry focus in supporting Alberta's French Policy is to contribute to the vitality of Alberta's French-speaking communities by supporting public libraries with operating grants that help those in francophone communities develop collections to meet local needs. The ministry also manages the network of municipal and library system boards that provides province-wide access to public library services for all Albertans. This includes facilitating access to French-language print and electronic materials.[235]

Note that this supports a priority initiative for the three years of its life.[236]

230. Grande Prairie Public Library, "Collection Development Policy," November 19, 2019., https://www.gppl.ca/assets/Documents/board/Policy~Manual/GPPL%20Policy%20Manual%20(Nov%202019).pdf.
231. https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9818af69-7a54-43af-9d91-f899745d864c/resource/fbc613c8-aa52-4669-a3f9-80192a0a1283/download/french-policy-english.pdf
232. Francophone Secretariat, Culture and Tourism, Government of Alberta, *French Policy. 2018-21 Action Plan*, December 2018, 28 pp., https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/57df6963-7de2-440e-967a-1b29da01f438/resource/bd5c0317-a097-409f-b142-1cf385988a97/download/final-french-policy-action-plan-12202018-en.pdf
233. Ibid, p. 25.
234. Francophone Secretariat, Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Government of Alberta, *French Policy – 2019 Annual Report*, October 2019, pp. 18–19. https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/166a38a5-d02e-41b9-8045-39f74e8b21b7/resource/0a69875a-f681-4a25-8bb2-26666000a17f/download/cmsw-french-policy-annual-report-2019.pdf
235. Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Government of Alberta, *French Policy 2020-23 Action Plan*, October 2020, p. 26, https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/96f8b5e5-7bf3-433b-832b-285dfff9da82/
236. Ibid, p. 9.

Other programs

Some budgetary provisions serve as policies where acquisitions are concerned without being actual policies. For example, many of the bigger Alberta libraries, including the Edmonton Public Library, do not have policies governing French services. Rather, they have "Automatic Release Plans (ARPs)," which indicate the amounts available for acquisitions and their distribution.

Other municipal and intermunicipal libraries have also created appropriate programs. These include the Red Earth Creek Public Library (RECPL), which holds an "Annual French-Canadian book and information display." The RECPL's website states the following:

> In an effort to uphold Goal #1 "Celebrate diversity and promote cultural awareness," a book and information display is featured each quarter "of an author from one of the following cultures [...]: French-Canadian, Aboriginal, Ukrainian/Polish, and German."[237]

Similarly, the Peace Library System has created story time kits focused on early French literacy training.[238]

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework

The Alberta public system has a number of distinctive features:
- It is notably decentralized and includes different types of organizations; and
- The library service reports to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The result of this is that, while overall direction is provided by the provincial authorities, essentially decisions are made at the local level.

That being said, as regards official languages matters, where libraries are concerned:
- the provincial service offers no specific direction. However, the province promotes access to Francophone collections through the public network;
- a few municipal libraries are particularly proactive and promote their collections through the provincial network. For example, Saint-Isidore has adopted the mission of [translation] "offering services and resources in French for the regional community as well as the entire province";
- the contribution of community libraries is valued as a significant part of the service offering.

On the other hand, the Francophone Secretariat takes a specific interest in libraries. For instance, considering library development as a strategic action is significant, as is the effort described in the annual report and, especially, in its *French Policy 2020–23 Action Plan.*

237. RECPL's Plan of Service (2016–2020), https://www.redearthlibrary.ab.ca/About-Us/Policies-Plans-and-Reports
238. https://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/content/download/29238/file/POS%202019-2021%20Final.pdf

Services

The foregoing shows that efforts are being made to offer services in French. According to the provincial government, in total, "more than 200,000 French-language resources are accessible through Alberta's publicly-funded libraries."[239] To approximate the size involved here, it bears mentioning that 21 million records were counted in 2016.[240]

It should be noted that the province makes important data available, including a Library Directory[241] and numerous statistics,[242] although the latter do not make it easy to document collections and services by language.

Finally, we must also state that Alberta has been one of the few provinces to more comprehensively examine the library service offering in French, as it did in a study conducted in 1984.[243] However, we do not know what kind of follow-up this study was given.

2. University libraries

The University of Alberta's Bibliothèque Saint-Jean[244] serves not only the university's Francophones and Francophiles, but also the broader French-language community. The collection is not solely academic, and includes many works of fiction for children, teens and adults, as well as films, CDs and comic books. The website states that [translation] "users of Bibliothèque Saint-Jean can take advantage of, among other things, the vast French-language holdings of University of Alberta libraries in both print and electronic format, which amount to about half a million titles."[245] There is also a detailed page on Wikipedia.[246]

However, the Bibliothèque will certainly be affected by the planned restructuring of the faculty.

Various papers and articles about Bibliothèque Saint-Jean and its role in the community have been written, including the following:
- Usova, T., Vézina, C., and Boisvert, D. (2013). "Bibliothèque Saint-Jean de l'Université de l'Alberta." *Documentation et bibliothèques*, 59 (2), 120–123. https://doi.org/10.7202/1033224ar
- Usova, Tatiana. (2017). "Preservation of Francophone Heritage Materials at the University of Alberta." Paper presented at IFLA WLIC 2017 – Wroclaw, Poland – Libraries. Solidarity. Society. In Session S08 – Satellite Meeting: Preservation and Conservation Section – held jointly with the Association International Francophone des Bibliothécaires et Documentalistes (AIFBD), in collaboration with Médiathèque Valais. http://library.ifla.org/id/eprint/1802

239. Government of Alberta: *Serving French-speaking Albertans.* 2010. [Electronic resource] p. 2, https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/b5e3d9bb-bddd-40ec-b893-08a22cb82de9/resource/60ee717e-66e5-46f5-84f2-3bf53e90c438/download/6555924-2010-gouvernement-de-lalberta-au-service-des-franco-albertains.pdf

240. "Facts about Alberta public libraries," https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-statistics.aspx

241. *Alberta Public Library Directory*, 76 p., 2018, https://open.alberta.ca/publications/6656702

242. Public Library Statistics, https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1189-4644. https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-statistics.aspx

243. Resources Management Consultants (Alberta). *Library needs of the francophone community in Alberta, for Multilingual Biblioservice*, Alberta Culture, 1984, 53 p.

244. https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-saint-jean/services/bibliotheque-saint-jean

245. https://www.library.ualberta.ca/locations/bsj

246. https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioth%C3%A8que_Saint-Jean

- Usova, T. (2008). "Bibliothèque Saint-Jean, U of A, collaborates with the Provincial Archives of Alberta," *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research,* 3(2). https://doi.org/10.21083/partnership.v3i2.828

3. Community libraries and book fairs

The Bibliothèque de l'Institut Guy-Lacombe has French-language resources in various fields, presented as follows on its website:

> [Translation] The library of the Institut Guy-Lacombe de la famille has been our little gem for more than 20 years now [...] You will find French-only resources in various fields: books, magazines and DVDs. There is content for children, teens and adults. There is something for the whole family. Did you know that our collection totals more than 17,000 items? We are fortunate to receive many book donations every year, and they are always appreciated.[247]

The Alliance Française de Calgary has what it claims to be the largest French multimedia library in Alberta. According to its website, available in English only, the library has 9,000 resources, including the following:

- 3,000 novels by francophone and international authors, with new additions monthly;
- 650 essays (philosophy, social sciences, art, tourism, history and geography);
- 1,500 resources in the youth collection (fiction, non-fiction, comic books, story books);
- 200 resources in the learners' library (French for learners, abridged classics, audio books);
- 900 DVDs (world French-language cinema for youth and adults) with new releases monthly;
- magazine subscriptions for learners of French;
- 600 French-Canadian resources.[248]

The website states that the librarian is bilingual, but also states that the French library is open only on Saturdays.[249]

The Centre d'appui familial – Sud de l'Alberta has a library service and a bookmobile. The centre is mandated to offer programs and resources in French in the fields of parental support and child development through to age 18. One of the values it espouses, to promote a sense of belonging to the Francophonie, consists in [Translation] "supporting the diversity of families who choose to live in French by offering programs and services to reinforce strong social ties within the Francophone community."[250]

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247. http://institutguylacombe.ca/bibliotheque/index.php/bibliotheque-francais/
248. https://www.afcalgary.ca/library/general-information/. See also Audrey Neveu, "La bibliothèque de l'Alliance française de Calgary: 8 000 titres à découvrir," *ICI Alberta*, August 29, 2020, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1729656/livres-francais-calgary-bibliotheque-alliance-francaise
249. See also Audrey Neveu, "La bibliothèque de l'Alliance française de Calgary: 8 000 titres à découvrir," *ICI Alberta,* August 29, 2020, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1729656/livres-francais-calgary-bibliotheque-alliance-francaise
250 https://centredappuifamilial.ca/

The Centre d'appui officially opened in 2018, following the integration of the Centre de Ressources Francothèque, which had a large toy library, into the Centre d'appui.[251]

> The Grande Prairie French Language Resource Centre, an initiative to support the development of resources for teaching in French, was launched in 2004 by several organizations working in partnership. The Resource Centre's mission is to develop bilingualism in Northwestern Alberta:
>
>> At the French Language Resource Centre, our mission is to enhance the delivery of French education in Northwestern Alberta by providing a variety of exciting services and educational materials for teachers.[252]

In 2015, the Centre had no fewer than 18,000 resources.[253] In 2013, it won the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta's (ACFA) Prix Impact,[254] and the extent of the partnerships in place was even the subject of a study.[255]

The Médiathèque de Lethbridge is housed on the first floor of the Lethbridge Cité des Prairies, the city's Francophone cultural community centre.[256] It is the French public library of reference serving Lethbridge and surrounding areas. Its books, audiobooks, DVDs and CDs are all in French. The Médiathèque is affiliated with the Chinook Arch library network.[257] After going through some difficult years, it was expanded with the support of grants in 2017 and 2018.[258]

251. Hélène Lequitte, "Le Centre d'appui familial inauguré officiellement," *Le Franco*, October 18, 2018, https://lefranco.ab.ca/calgary/le-centre-d-appui-familial-inaugure-officiellement/
252. "Mission," http://www.frenchlrc.ca/en/about/mission/Pages/default.aspx#/=
253. "Un centre de ressources unique en Alberta," *Le Franco*, February 19, 2015.
254. https://www.acfa.ab.ca/Documents/reconnais/2013_PrixImpact.pdf
255. Lesley Doell, "Strength Together: A Cooperative Venture into the World of French Resources," *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 3(1), 2008. https://doi.org/10.21083/partnership.v3i1.469
256. https://citedesprairies.info/
257. "La médiathèque de Lethbridge: un espace créateur et rassembleur," *Radio-Canada*, April 4, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/le-cafe-show/segments/entrevue/112693/mediatheque-francophone-lethbridge
258. Lucas Pilleri, "Médiathèque de Lethbridge: Une année 2017 difficile," *Le Franco*, March 29, 2018, https://lefranco.ab.ca/en-region/mediatheque-de-lethbridge-une-annee-2017-difficile)

British Columbia

1. Public libraries

Current situation
In 2018, British Columbia had 71 public libraries, 247 service points and 6 federations, serving 99% of the province's population. The collection amounted to 10.2 million items.[259]

The network is under the supervision of the Libraries Branch, which reports to the Ministry of Education and provides policy, planning and administration expertise related to public library services. It also provides advice and makes recommendations to library boards, administrators at all government levels, and other key stakeholders on governance and compliance with legislation relating to public libraries.[260]

The network comprises the following types of libraries:[261]
- municipal libraries
- regional district libraries
- public library associations
- integrated library systems
- library federations

To guide the actions of the Libraries Branch, a strategic plan was tabled in 2020.[262] Although it did not take direct action on this plan, it is worth noting that the government released Ken Roberts's report on the future of libraries in December 2012.[263]

Limited data are available on services for the Francophone community. However, it is noteworthy that acquisitions are actively continuing, as is clear from this report.

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries
The *Library Act*, 2018 (1996) provides for the establishment and operation of library boards, mandates free basic library services, and authorizes the provision of provincial grants for public library purposes. It defines the roles and responsibilities of the various types of libraries. The Act also provides a model of collaboration among library jurisdictions through library federations. In this regard, there is a notable connection to French-language education, since the Act stipulates the following:

259. *B.C. Library Facts and Stats Infographic 2018*. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/arts-culture/public-libraries/facts-and-stats

260. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/arts-culture/public-libraries/tool-resources-library-administrators/about-the-libraries-branch

261. Data on the network can be found at https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/organization/libraries

262. *B.C.'s Strategic Plan for Public Library Service*, 2020, 14 p., https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/community-partnerships/libraries/libraries-strategic-plan.pdf

263. Ken Roberts, *Facing the Future. A Vision Document for British Columbia's Public Libraries*, 2012, 30 p., https://nvdpl.ca/sites/default/files/Facing-the-Future-A-Report-on-the-future-of-libraries-for-the-Province-of-British-Columbia_WEB.pdf

48 (1) (e.1) A library board may enter into a written agreement to cooperate in the provision of library services with [...] a francophone education authority as defined in the *School Act*.

Two regulations clarify the Act, the *Library Board Agreements Regulation* and the *Library Materials Regulation*, but they are of limited interest for the present purposes.[264] In addition, particular importance is given to accountability. Under the Public Library Accountability Framework,[265] the 71 public libraries are required to submit various management reports and to participate in the annual provincial survey of B.C.'s public libraries.

At the local level, some libraries have adopted policies that promote the acquisition of French-language works. For example, in its 2017 acquisition policy, the Cranbrook Public Library specifies that "[i]n addition to applying the selection criteria, the Library will attempt to acquire material [...] in both official languages, and possibly other languages which reflect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the community; […]."[266]

However, the more general practice, as in Vancouver, seems to be to target the development of multilingual collections, which may or may not include French. For example, the Creston Valley Public Library explains that, for acquisitions, its "goals are to [...] [r]ecognize and accommodate varied educational levels, abilities and disabilities, English and non-English speaking users."[267] Similarly, the Castlegar and District Public Library indicates that "[b]ooks in languages other than English may be provided in response to identified needs."[268]

Although the French-language collection of the Vancouver Public Library is excluded from the Library's Multilingual Collection Strategy[269] because of its official-language status, it is not covered by a specific strategy. This is not to say that it sees no acquisitions of French resources,[270] although it features two collections through the World Languages page.[271]

Official languages
The province has a Francophone Affairs Program that reports to the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS), which is part of the Office of the Premier. The Program "supports programs and services in French for approximately 70,000 Francophones and 300,000 Francophiles in B.C. to ensure our French-speaking community has access to information it needs."[272]

264. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/arts-culture/public-libraries/tool-resources-library-administrators/legislation-governance/legislation-library-act
265. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/arts-culture/public-libraries/tool-resources-library-administrators/reporting-accountability
266. "Material Selection policy," 2017, p. 2, https://www.cranbrookpubliclibrary.ca/files/2019/02/Policy-Manual-Complete.pdf
267. "Selection of Library Materials," http://crestonlibrary.com/about-us/library-policies/
268. *Policy Manual*, 2019, p. 7.4.2., https://castlegar.bc.libraries.coop/files/2013/05/PolicyManual2019.pdf
269. Vancouver Public Library, *Multilingual Collection Strategy,* May 2018, https://www.vpl.ca/sites/vpl/public/MultilingualCollectionStrategy.pdf
270. "Et le livre en français le plus lu à Vancouver est…," *ICI Colombie-Britannique–Yukon*, February 28, 2016, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/767587/classement-livres-en-francais-lu-vancouver-bibliotheque-camus-thuy-musso-varga
271. https://www.vpl.ca/borrowing/world-languages
272. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/office-of-the-premier/intergovernmental-relations-secretariat/francophone

In 2018–2019, an electronic publications initiative was introduced by the B.C. Francophone Affairs Program. The following was the justification for this project, the Provincial French E-books and Audio Books Public Library Collection:

> With the increasing popularity of French education programs in B.C., there is also a greater demand for French content in B.C.'s public libraries. Most public libraries in B.C. offer French-language resources; however, collections tend to be small. This year, the Francophone Affairs Program partnered with the B.C. Libraries Cooperative, a cooperative made up of the public libraries of B.C., to purchase and promote French e-books and audiobooks, and to make them available to British Columbians across B.C. through the provincial Library2go program.

Granted a budget of $42,000 (funded equally by the governments of Canada and B.C.), the project has yielded the following results:

> A total of 61 medium-sized public libraries spread across British Columbia were supported. By partnering with the B.C. Libraries Cooperative instead of individual libraries, the Francophone Affairs Program was able to make use of funding for the purchase of collectively owned French e-resources. The program provides 950,000+ people with free access to over 70,000 electronic books and electronic audiobooks that can be borrowed from the Library2go website or from a mobile device application.[273]

This program has been the subject of various reports in the media.[274]

Other programs

Other programs, including the following, are also available:
- The Surrey Public Library makes French-language documents about the region available to newcomers;[275]
- The Cranbrook Public Library also has a language-learning program;[276]
- The Coquitlam Public Library has a page of French-language resources and allows users to search for French works.[277]

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273. *Final Report on Results and Actual Expenditures*. Canada–British Columbia Agreement on French Language Services 2018–2019 to 2022–2023. Fiscal year 2018–2019, p 15, https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/organizational-structure/office-of-the-premier/intergovernmental-relations-secretariat/francophone-affairs-program/bc-francophone-affairs-program-annual-report-en.pdf

274. "British Columbians benefit from increased access to French resources in libraries." Press release, https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019IGRS0051-000904; "B.C. government marks Francophone Day with more money for services," CBC, March 20, 2018, https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/francophone-day-services-funding-bc-federal-1.4584477; Saïda Ouchaou, "Des livres numériques en français accessibles en ligne à travers la C.-B.*." ICI Colombie-Britannique–Yukon*, May 10, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1169147/ouvrages-internet-francais-bibliotheques-litterature

275. https://www.surreylibraries.ca/sites/default/files/CitizenshipInformation.pdf

276. https://www.cranbrookpubliclibrary.ca/files/2019/04/RtC2018-Web.pdf

277. https://www.coqlibrary.ca/using-your-library/ressources-en-francais

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework
The policy and regulatory framework seems rather limited as regards provincial services related to libraries. However, efforts to cost the Francophone Affairs Program through the 2018–2019 funding show that there is a definite interest in these issues.

It is probably at the local level that we might get a better grasp of the real situation, but the data currently available do not allow for a more realistic profile.

Services
We have little data on French-language collections or services in libraries themselves. Statistical data are certainly available,[278] but it is impossible to draw conclusions about the size of these services and collections. As elsewhere, however, the absence of a policy is in no way indicative of an absence of works.

2. University libraries
Not applicable.

3. Community libraries and book fairs

Created in 1975, the Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver has a collection of close to 7,000 French books, making it one of the largest in British Columbia. The collection covers everything from literature to social sciences, to reference works (dictionaries, atlases, etc.), and to works for young readers.[279]

The Salon du livre en français de Vancouver resumed its activities in 2019, after a 25-year absence. This activity brought a large number of authors together with hundreds of visitors.[280]

Tire-Lire is a "French-language educational resource lending service for children and their parents. It offers Francophone families and early childhood centres an opportunity to borrow a wide range of books, educational games, DVDs and more."[281]

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278. B.C. Public Libraries Statistics 2002—Present, https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-public-libraries-statistics-2002-present
279. https://www.lecentreculturel.com/en/books-dvds
280. Lucas Pilleri, "Le retour du Salon du livre francophone après 25 ans d'absence," *Le Franco*, May 4, 2019, https://lefranco.ab.ca/francophonie/le-retour-du-salon-du-livre-francophone-apres-25-ans-dabsence/. See also https://salondulivrevancouver.com
281. http://tire-lire.ca/en/

Manitoba

1. Public libraries

Current situation

The Public Library Services Branch is part of the Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage. It is mandated to "ensure libraries are following related laws and standards." The Branch's goals are "to foster and strengthen the network of community-based public library services in Manitoba," notably by supporting "the delivery of province-wide services through municipal and regional public library systems to enhance local service delivery province-wide."[282]

According to a Branch policy report in 2017, there are 56 public library systems in Manitoba, with 120 branches. This includes 31 municipal libraries, 21 regional libraries and 4 libraries serving Indigenous communities. Of these libraries, 13 serve designated French-English bilingual communities and 9 are located in school facilities.[283]

In addition, there are regional and municipal library federations. It is noteworthy that the Fédération des bibliothèques des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba was incorporated in 1995.[284] The website of the Jolys Regional Library in St-Pierre-Jolys, which is a member of the Federation, reads as follows:

> This Federation was formed in 1995, with the purpose of promoting the French language and heritage in our communities. The FBMB is subsidized by the Association of Bilingual Municipalities and is presently composed of 12 bilingual libraries. French resources in the form of CDs and DVDs are exchanged every three months, allowing us to offer our clientele a greater selection. During these exchange-meetings, the librarians discuss current issues concerning their libraries.[285]

The 12 participating libraries are Bibliothèque St-Joachim – La Broquerie; Bibliothèque Ste-Anne; Bibliothèque Père-Champagne – Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes; Bibliothèque St-Adolphe; Bibliothèque Montcalm – St-Jean-Baptiste; Bibliothèque Ste-Agathe; Bibliothèque Ritchot – Ile-des-Chênes; École St-Léon; Bibliothèque Régionale Jolys – St-Pierre-Jolys; Bibliothèque St-Malo; Bibliothèque Allard St-Georges; and Bibliothèque Taché – Lorette.

In addition, the following libraries also have works in French:
- Parkland Regional Library, which states in its 2018 annual report that it has 2,268 French-language documents out of a total of 130,951 items (1.73%).[286]
- Bibliothèque St. Claude Library, which reports having a French-language collection of more than 2,700 books to choose from, along with DVDs in French and Spanish and audiobooks on CD. It also has cake tins available for rent, and a DLP projector with monitor.[287]

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282. https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/pls/index.html
283. Public Library Services Branch, *Uniting perspectives: Library development in Manitoba*, 2017, p. 4. http://digitalcollection.gov.mb.ca/awweb/pdfopener?smd=1&did=25484&md=1
284. http://www.fbmb.ca/en/home/
285. http://www.jrlibrary.mb.ca/en/services/
286. https://parklandlib.mb.ca/files/2019/03/Annual-Report-2018.pdf
287. https://stclaude.mb.libraries.coop/en/explore/services-programs/our-services/services-en-francais/

The Winnipeg Public Library offers programs, services and collections in French at the St. Boniface Library, indicating as well that all the other libraries offer limited French-language holdings (and sometimes also magazines, films and music).[288] Interest in French-language works was highlighted by a feature story on Radio-Canada.[289]

Within this municipal network, the main Francophone branch is the St. Boniface Library, which indicates on its English webpage (the only one available) that "[e]xtensive French resources include books and magazines for all ages, as well as a genealogy research collection. [...] The Library offers programs and workshops for all ages, in both English and French."[290]

In 2018–2019, the Library received the Ronald Duhamel Award, as mentioned in the *Report on French Language Services*:

> The Prix Ronald-Duhamel – Ronald Duhamel Award is a joint initiative of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM), Manitoba's Federal Network of Official Languages, the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, and the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM). The award is presented every two years. Officially launched in March 2005, the award was created to recognize an employee or group of employees of a government or quasi-governmental body at the federal, provincial or municipal level for distinguished service to Manitoba's Francophone community.
> The 2019 prize was awarded to the staff of the St. Boniface Library for their delivery of services, programming and resources to their clientele throughout Winnipeg, but particularly within St. Boniface and the Francophone community.
> Over the last number of years, staff from the St. Boniface Library have been innovative, reaching out into the community to support those who need it most, and attracting new users through engaging and creative programming. The library offers programs for all ages, focusing on programs in French on a range of topics that celebrate and encourage learning French language, literature and culture. All library programs are free to attend to ensure equal access for all. Staff at the St. Boniface library deliver almost 200 programs in service to the community, many of which extend beyond the library's walls and are in partnership with community stakeholders and organizations.[291]

This event was reported in the local press.[292]

Beyond the public library network, there is also another provincial institution that offers library services, the Direction des ressources éducatives françaises (DREF), which defines itself as follows:

> [Translation] The Direction des ressources éducatives françaises is a library designed for Manitoba's teachers, offering educational resources in support of K–12 curricula in the

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288. https://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/ourservices/servicesenfraasp
289. Gavin Boutroy, "Où se trouvent les livres français de la bibliothèque municipale de Winnipeg," *ICI Manitoba*, April 26, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1166208/livres-francais-bibliotheque-municipale-winnipeg
290. https://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/branchpages/branch.aspx?sbon
291. Minister responsible for Francophone affairs, *2018-2019 Report on French Language Services*, p. 9, https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/annual_report_2018_19.pdf
292. Julien Sahuquillo, "Le personnel de la bibliothèque de Saint-Boniface reçoit un prix pour son travail," *ICI Manitoba*, March 14, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1158479/livre-bibliotheque-prix-reconnaissance-francophonie-ronald-duhamel

French school program, the French immersion program and the French course (English Program).[293]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries

The policy and regulatory framework that applies specifically to libraries is supported by the *Public Libraries Act* (2015),[294] which defines the roles and responsibilities of the provincial service, municipal libraries, regional libraries and library federations. The Act makes no mention of language matters.

The *Public Libraries Allocation of Grants Regulation 279/87* (1987)[295] contains a clause (subsection 3(3)) on the acquisition of works, which increases grants for libraries designated bilingual.

The Public Library Services Branch describes the collection development grants (regulated) as follows:

> This annual grant of $5,500 for each service point supports collection development. Libraries located in designated French-English bilingual service areas or north of the 53rd parallel receive an additional $1,000. The grant requires that libraries participate in interlibrary loan and maintain a minimum of 10 operating hours at each service point.[296]

The Public Library Services Branch has also published two guides for the management of public libraries:
- *Manitoba Public Libraries: Governance at a Glance*[297] presents general instructions on management and community relations.
- *Municipal and Regional Public Library Standards and Guidelines:*[298] contains information on languages used, particularly in signage.

Various other strategic planning documents have been produced. In 2006, a committee reviewed the library system,[299] producing its report in 2017. The report states as follows regarding bilingual communities:

> 4.2.3.2 French-English Bilingual Communities
> French is the primary language of more than 42,000 Manitobans. Bilingual communities face unique challenges in maintaining their language and culture. Even where French language services are available, they are typically more expensive. Many bilingual libraries and their Francophone users raise concerns about the lack of French language

293. https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/french/sites.html
294. https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/p220e.php
295. https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=279/87
296. Public Library Services Branch, *Uniting perspectives: Library development in Manitoba*, 2017, pp. 6–7.
297. Public Library Services Branch, *Manitoba Public Libraries Governance at a Glance*, 8 pp., undated, https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/pls/pdf/LibraryGovernance.pdf
298. Public Library Services Branch, *Municipal and Regional Public Library Standards and Guidelines,* 28 pp., https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/pls/pdf/librarystandardsguidelines_e_web.pdf
299. *Reaching Our Vision. Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services For all Manitobans*, 2006, 26 pp., https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/pls/pdf/reaching_our_vision30may06.pdf

resources available through public libraries. Bilingual libraries rely heavily on interlibrary loans to meet the needs of their users. Other Canadian jurisdictions are in similar situations and collaboration may provide an opportunity to address these issues.[300]

The document also underscores the contribution of the TD Summer Reading Club. Apart from their findings, however, these documents offer little concrete direction for the future.

Official languages

The policy framework derives more globally from the Franco-Manitoban approach, which carries an imposing legislative and policy framework for French-language services:

- Bilingual services: In 2017, the province adopted a revised version of the *French-Language Services Policy*,[301] the first version of which was published in 1989. Under the policy, departments and various government and paragovernmental agencies offer services in French in designated bilingual areas. However, the policy does not mention libraries specifically. Under this framework, bilingual service centres offer a wide range of government programs and services in both French and English in six communities that have a vital Francophone presence.[302]

- Pursuant to this policy, there is a *Guidelines Manual for the Implementation of French Language Services* (2017), which specifically promotes libraries' role in disseminating information. This manual addresses the following:

  > How can public bodies ensure the Francophone population is aware of existing bilingual information? How is this information best made accessible to Francophones?
  > When possible, make use of the various networks and institutions of the Francophone community, e.g. schools, caisses populaires [credit unions], banks, post offices, libraries and community centres in designated areas.[303]

- There are also specific instructions on defining "active offer."[304]
- An overview of these services was also provided in the Chartier Report, though without any instructions relating to libraries.[305]

The other component relates to community support. In 2016, Manitoba passed the *Francophone Community Enhancement and Support Act*.[306] On the one hand, this law recognizes the historical and dynamic character of the Francophone community and, on the other, acknowledges that "it is desirable for the government to continue fostering the advancement of the Francophone community in Manitoba through a comprehensive sectoral approach."

While this Act does not mention libraries specifically, it nonetheless imposes certain obligations. As noted by the Secretariat, "one of the key elements of the Act is the requirement for public bodies to

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300. Public Library Services Branch, *Uniting Perspectives,* p. 15.
301. The current version was introduced in 2017: https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/fls_policy_en20170908.pdf
302. See the *Bilingual Service Centres Act*
303. IV, pp. 6–7; https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/part4_partie4_092017.pdf
304. https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/activeoffer.html
305. Richard Chartier, *Above All, Common Sense. Report and Recommendations on French Language Services Within the Government of Manitoba*, May 1998, https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/report/pdf/toc.html
306. https://www.canlii.org/en/mb/laws/stat/ccsm-c-f157/latest/ccsm-c-f157.html

prepare multi-year strategic plans related to the provision of French language services. The Act sets out the elements which need to be included in the Multi-Year Strategic FLS [French-language services] Plan." Multi-year FLS Instructions[307] and a template[308] are available, in English only, as are Annual Operating Plan Instructions and a template.[309] However, we were unable to find this plan for the Public Library Services Branch.

In addition, the Francophone Affairs Secretariat[310] compiles annual reports[311] on the various accomplishments. For example, the 2015–2016 report states the following:

> The Public Library Services (PLS) Branch provided $913,702 to 12 bilingual municipal and regional public libraries to supplement the local investment toward operating, collection development and library technology needs that directly benefits a cumulative service population of 79,239. In partnership with the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, the Branch provided bilingual Active Offer signs and badges to 13 bilingual service points. The PLS Branch worked closely with the Fédération des bibliothèques des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba to support resource-sharing objectives. The Branch continued to support libraries to provide Francophone families access to high quality public library service province-wide.[312]

Other legislative measures
Lastly, the *Public Schools Act*[313] recognizes English and French as languages of instruction in Manitoba public schools and recognizes that Francophone schools fall within Francophone school divisions.

It should also be noted that the *City of Winnipeg Charter* prioritizes French-language library services for St. Boniface residents. The Charter stipulates the following:
> 460(2). The city shall, in the by-law referred to in subsection (1), give priority to providing in both official languages fire, police and ambulance services, library services and leisure and recreational programming to persons in St. Boniface Ward.[314]

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework
Manitoba's libraries help support the vitality of OLMCs through a complex policy and regulatory framework.

307. *Multi-Year Strategic French Language Services (FLS) Plan: Instructions*, 14 pp., https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/multi-year-strategic-plan-fls-instructions.pdf
308. Multi-Year Strategic FLS Plan – Template, https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/multi-year-strategic-plan-fls-template_092017.pdf
309. FLS Annual Operating Plan – Instructions (in English only), https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/fls-annual-operating-plan-instructions.pdf; FLS Annual Operating Plan – Template, https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/fls-annual-operating-plan-template.pdf
310. https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/intro.html
311. https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/reports.html
312. Report on French Language Services, Appendix II – Accomplishments 2015-2016, pp. 21–22. https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/accomplishments_2015_16.pdf
313. https://www.canlii.org/en/mb/laws/stat/ccsm-c-p250/latest/ccsm-c-p250.html
314. Subsection 460(2), *City of Winnipeg Charter*, S.M. 2002, c. 39, https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/municipal/c03902_2e.php.

Under the policy and legislative framework for libraries, libraries benefit from the Grants Regulation, which permits the acquisition of French-language works in bilingual areas through an increase in grant amounts. In addition, the issue of lack of resources is cited in the 2017 strategic plan. It is significant that a call for collaboration on this issue is made: "Other Canadian jurisdictions are in similar situations and collaboration may provide an opportunity to address these issues."

Under the legal framework for official languages, use of libraries is encouraged in various ways. Also, the presence of libraries is considered to provide an opportunity to disseminate government information in French, whereby libraries serve as a link to the community. Finally, the award handed out in 2019 demonstrates definite recognition of these libraries' contributions.

Services

Various elements demonstrate a concern to offer appropriate services. Of particular note are the following:

- the presence of the Fédération des bibliothèques des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba, which has 12 member libraries;
- various service policies of libraries that are not part of this federation;
- the essential role played by St. Boniface Library; and
- the contribution of the Direction des ressources éducatives françaises.

The fact that the province keeps detailed statistics[315] allows us to determine the share of French-language resources in collections. In 2019,

- 12 libraries had 2% or more of their collection in French, while 9 of them had between 15% and 38%;
- 9 others had 1%; and
- the share of French-language resources in the collections of public libraries as a whole rose from 6.2% in 2008 to 6.7% in 2019.[316]

It is also noteworthy that a large amount of data is available for analysis, at least for Winnipeg.

2. University libraries

Bibliothèque Alfred-Monnin at Université de Saint-Boniface[317] maintains a collection of 88,000 titles available for loan and more than 3,700 rare books and records, and subscribes to some 350 newspapers and periodicals. It has the oldest and largest French-language collection in Manitoba and in Western Canada. It shares the Alma integrated management system with the University of Manitoba's library network. The library is also a member of the Manitoba Library Consortium.

Bibliothèque Alfred-Monnin is part of Université de Saint-Boniface[318], the first and only French-language university in Manitoba and in Western Canada. Located in Old St. Boniface, a Francophone quarter of historical charm in the very heart of Winnipeg, Université de Saint-Boniface

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315. https://mb.countingopinions.com/index.php?page_id=4
316. See the appendix for detailed information.
317. https://ustboniface.ca/biblio/en
318. https://ustboniface.ca/biblio/page.aspx?pid=3342

offers 26 college and university programs distributed among a dozen faculties, schools and departments to 1,400 students and 2,000 persons in continuing education.

One form of community engagement is the holding of book fairs. This practice began in 2004 with the collaboration of La Boutique du Livre[319] and expanded in 2013 with the Expo-Livre Manitoba, an annual gathering that goes beyond the university framework to offer [translation] "a wider range of literary genres for the French-speaking community, giving people the opportunity to meet famous authors." As one official commented, this [translation] "fair is an attempt to meet a need, to create a French book culture. It gives participants a role to play in the community."[320]

3. Community libraries and book fairs

The Centre du patrimoine houses a reference library with close to 13,000 titles. It also has a large collection of family histories and histories of the parishes of Manitoba and Western Canada. Its website states the following:

> [Translation] Library: In addition to a reference library and close to 8,000 rare-book titles, the Société historique de Saint-Boniface (SHSB) has also acquired the Bibliothèque nationale de l'Archevêché de Saint-Boniface, one of the largest collections of books (about 30,000 titles) and brochures on the history of Francophones in Western Canada. Many documents pertain to the issue of schools. There are also a number of records about caisses populaires [credit unions] and *L'Action catholique* [daily newspaper published by the Catholic Church in Quebec from 1915 to 1962]. This collection features many periodicals and newspapers, such as *Le Manitoba* and *Le Métis,* as well as important genealogical resources.

> Genealogical resources: Operation of the archives and the numerous book acquisitions have made it possible to develop important resources for genealogical research. These include records available in the library's catalogue, databases whose contents are derived from sacramental registers, and files of family-based records.

> Periodicals: "Over the years, the Société historique de Saint-Boniface has acquired numerous magazines, newsletters and periodicals. These records can be accessed through either archival databases or the library catalogue. In addition, some copies of the *Bulletin de la Société historique de Saint-Boniface* are available in digital format.[321]

The Centre's library also has acquisition and screening policies.[322]

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319. "Des écrivains de renommée à l'Université de Saint-Boniface," *La Coupole*, September 23, 2014, https://ustboniface.ca/carrefour_page176

320. "Créer une culture du livre en français," September 23, 2014, https://cdem.com/fr/publications/culture-du-livre-en-fran-ais; https://cdem.com/fr/publications/culture-du-livre-en-fran-ais

321. "Research," Centre du Patrimoine, https://shsb.mb.ca/test-page-in-english/

322. Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Service de bibliothèque, Politiques d'acquisition et d'élagage, November 2006, 5 pp., https://shsb.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Politiques_bibliotheque2007.pdf

In 2018, the Maison Gabrielle-Roy and Les Éditions du Blé relaunched the Salon du Livre du Manitoba. The first Salon, held that same year,[323] proved a great success and was followed by a second in 2019[324] with highly diverse programming.[325]

A Quebecer has launched a citizen initiative in Winnipeg in the form of a French-language "survival library" that provides access to French volumes. As reported on Radio-Canada:

> [Translation] Quebecer Charles Sagalane has decided to take French literature all over the country with his "survival libraries," the latest of which was installed in October at The Forks in Winnipeg. Charles Sagalane readily admits that he had the crazy but simple idea of putting people who felt lost in contact with books. The mechanism is straightforward: a box containing books of which passers-by can avail themselves.[326]

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323. "Le Salon du livre francophone à Saint-Boniface," Radio-Canada, April 21, 2018, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1096578/salon-livre-francophone-saint-boniface-winnipeg

324. Patricia Bitu Tshikudi, "Un Salon du livre en français le 18 mai à Winnipeg," *Le 6 à 9*, May 2, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/le-6-a-9/segments/entrevue/115996/salon-livre-manitoba-editions-ble-emmanuelle; "Succès pour la deuxième édition du Salon du livre du Manitoba," *ICI Manitoba*, May 19, 2019, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1170726/deuxieme-edition-salon-livre-manitoba

325. http://ble.refc.ca/files/2019/04/2019-Salon-du-livre-du-Manitoba-programation.pdf

326. "Un Québécois installe une bibliothèque de survie francophone à Winnipeg," Radio-Canada, October 27, 2018, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1132274/bibliotheque-survie-fourche-livre-litterature-lecture. The interview can be heard at https://ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/l-actuel/episodes/418828/audio-fil-du-vendredi-26-octobre-2018/8

Appendix: French-language collections of public libraries, 2019[327]

	French collection	Total collection	Percentage of collection in French
Bibliothèque Montcalm Library	14,496	38,014	38
Bibliothèque Ritchot Library	18,514	49,230	38
Bibliothèque Saint-Joachim Library	15,748	49,786	32
Bibliothèque Ste Anne Library	6,515	28,078	23
Jolys Regional Library	11,363	53,790	21
Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library	3,516	19,324	18
Bibliothèque St. Claude Library	2,284	13,196	17
Lorne Library Services	3,652	22,499	16
Bibliothèque Taché Library	5,640	36,469	15
Winnipeg Public Library	64,753	1,186,633	5
Springfield Public Library	2,123	54,793	4
Parkland Regional Library	2,074	126,093	2
The Pas Regional Library	441	34,832	1
South Interlake Regional Library	694	63,855	1
Thompson Public Library	253	28,213	1
Portage la Prairie Regional Library	639	73,439	1
Flin Flon Public Library	226	26,827	1
Brokenhead River Regional Library	202	25,523	1
Gaynor Family Regional Library	483	68,276	1
Headingley Municipal Library	118	18,240	1
Leaf Rapids Public Library	68	13,243	1

327. Only libraries that have a portion of their collection in French are included in this list.
https://www.countingopinions.com/pireports/report.php?5dd162dc02b68db8f33ef1d9932132be&live

Saskatchewan

1. Public libraries

Current situation

Central service for the province is assumed by the Provincial Library and Literacy Office, whose role is defined as follows:

> The PLLO, a branch of the Ministry of Education, provides the policy framework that supports cooperation in both the provincial public library system and multitype library system, and opportunities for literacy development and supports for Saskatchewan families.[328]

The public library network includes 300 establishments, which are integrated into 11 systems. These systems are divided into three types, each with a different mode of governance and funding:
- three municipal libraries
- seven regional libraries, serving the southern part of the province
- a federation of the libraries located in the northern region of the province[329]

The network is supported by a coordinating organization, the Multitype Library Board (MLB), created in 1996 by the *Libraries Co-operation Act*[330] to facilitate cooperative development of the network. More recently, in 2009, the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services (SILS) Consortium was established as a not-for-profit corporation. Its overall objective is to provide equitable one-card access to public library services and resources for citizens across the province.[331]

It should also be noted that the announcement of major cuts in 2017 led to the Save Sask Libraries[332] campaign, giving rise to important pro-library positions, such as that of Heritage Saskatchewan.[333] As Richard Russo noted:

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328. *Public Library System in Saskatchewan 2018 Year in Review,* http://www.jmcpl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Public_Library_System_in_Sask_2018_Year_in_Review.pdf
329. https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/library-system-in-saskatchewan. See also map at: https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/112312/PL_Bndy%252Band%252BLib_Hwy_c_2018.06.11.pdf
330. https://mlb.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=19355724. This approach is discussed in detail in Michael Shires, "Celebrating Co-operation among Saskatchewan's Libraries: The Multitype Library Board, 1996–2016," *Partnership, The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 10, 2 (2015). https://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/view/3547
331. https://www.sasklibraries.ca/history. The consortium makes available interesting statistics on its site: https://www.sasklibraries.ca/statistics2019. A history of the network's development is available at http://slta.ca/about/history
332. https://savesasklibraries.ca/
333. Heritage Saskatchewan, "The Role of Public Libraries in Civil Society," 2017, https://heritagesask.ca/pub/2017%2006%20Role%20of%20Libraries%20in%20Civil%20Society.pdf

Proposed funding cuts for public libraries in the provincial government's 2017-2018 austerity budget – to close a $1.2 billion deficit – would have eliminated this popular program. The proposed cuts to the library system galvanized multiple organizations and communities to fight for their libraries, forcing the government to restore funding in the final budget. Shires (2018) calls this grassroots readers' revolt "The Saskatchewan Spring of 2017."[334]

It was probably in the wake of these exchanges that consultations were held in 2018.[335]

The Francophone collections appear to be included in libraries' multilingual collections. The 2018 report makes no mention of books in French, although it does indicate the following under "Collections and Resources":

> The multilingual collection at the PLLO provided public libraries the ability to support newcomers and local communities by offering materials in their first languages for literacy, learning and recreational reading. In 2018, the collection had over 53,800 print books in 32 languages and almost 4,000 e-books in 19 languages.[336]

An analysis of the collections of a few rural communities was conducted by Richard Russo, whose 2017 research made news,[337] followed by a French-language publication,[338] and then another more detailed one in *Minorités linguistiques et société / Linguistic Minorities and Society.*

It should also be noted that a history of the presence of French books has been published.[339]

334. Richard A. Russo, (2019). "French-Language Books in a Minority Setting: A Report from Rural Saskatchewan." *Minorités linguistiques et société / Linguistic Minorities and Society*, (11), p. 56, https://doi.org/10.7202/1065212ar. This report refers in particular to the article by Michael Shires, "The Saskatchewan Spring of 2017: 34 Days that Shook the Province and Led to the Provincial Government Reinstating Funding to Public Libraries," *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research* 12(2), 2017,
https://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/view/4060
335. *Report of Saskatchewan Public Libraries Engagement*, https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/109876/109876-Library_Engagement_Report,_2019.pdf
336. *Public Library System in Saskatchewan 2018 Year in Review*, p. 14.
337. Marie Galophe, "Quels livres en français pour la Saskatchewan? La bibliosphère saskatchewannaise," *L'eau vive*, December 11, 2017, https://leau-vive.ca/Nouvelles/quels-livres-en-francais-pour-la-saskatchewan; "Geographer Russo exploring accessibility of French books across Saskatchewan," *Leader Post*, November 3, 2017,
https://leaderpost.com/entertainment/books/geographer-exploring-accessibility-of-french-books-across-sask
338. Russo, Richard, "La diffusion des oeuvres littéraires en français en Saskatchewan," CRFM Série "Jonctions et convergences université-communauté," No. 2017.1, December 19, 2017,
https://lacite.uregina.ca/uploads/media/5aba8234565b6/rapport-richard-russo-version-du-19-dec-vf-vf.pdf?v1
339. Roussel Beaulieu, Frédéric. "Le livre de langue française en Saskatchewan, de l'époque des pionniers aux années 1930," *Revue historique*, Volume 17, No. 1, September 2006, http://musee.histoiresk.ca/le-livre-de-langue-francaise-en-saskatchewan-de-l-epoque-des-pionniers-aux-annees-1930-n210-t1789.html.

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries

The library system is governed by the *Public Libraries Act*, 1996,[340] which defines the roles and responsibilities of the different parts of the provincial system. Its adoption was followed the same year by that of the *Public Libraries Regulations*, 1996,[341] which clarify some aspects of the Act, and the *Libraries Co-operation Act*, 1996, whose purpose is "to provide a mechanism for formalized co-operation, across jurisdictional boundaries."[342]

However, these documents give no indication of any development regarding French collections or services.

There are a few exceptions at the local level, which would merit further investigation. For example, under the theme of accessibility, the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library (JMCPL) notes the following in its *Policy Manual*:

> The Library is committed to providing equitable access to all library patrons. To meet this objective, the library will endeavour to collect resources in local languages, and in multiple formats, like large print and audio books. In addition, the Library will obtain resources for patrons with various reading abilities and for patrons with a first language other than English.[343]

Official languages

The issue of official languages was addressed in *The Language Act*, 2016 (1988).[344] The Act provides that all acts and regulations may be enacted, printed and published in English only or in English and French, and that English and French may be used in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and courts. However, procedural rules must be written in English and French.

It was the *Government of Saskatchewan French-Language Services Policy*,[345] adopted in 2002, that defined the terms of service. Recognizing that "Francophones are an important component of the province's linguistic duality and play an active role in Saskatchewan's economic, cultural and social development," the provincial policy is aimed at "meeting its constitutional and statutory obligations [and pursuing] targeted initiatives to respond to needs identified by the Francophone community." To this end, the Policy outlines goals for communication, service delivery and consultation. The Policy applies to all provincial ministries, crown corporations and government agencies.[346]

Follow-up is provided by means of an annual report.[347] Yet, as Richard Russo points out:

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340. https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/1214/P39-2.pdf
341. https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/2365/P39-2r1.pdf
342. https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/832/L14-01.pdf
343. John M. Cuelenaere Public Library (JMCPL) *Policy Manual*, 2020, p. 23,
http://www.jmcpl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/JMCPL-Policy-Manual-2020-01.pdf
344. https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/870/L6-1.pdf
345. https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/99529/French-
Language%252BServices%252BPolicy.pdf
346. https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/parks-culture-and-
sport/francophone-affairs-branch#french-language-services-policy
347. https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/2607

The provincial Francophone Affairs Branch [does not] discuss library services in its annual reports (Saskatchewan, Francophone Affairs Branch, 2018). It is because the province's public libraries appear surprisingly peripheral to the linguistic and cultural objectives of Saskatchewan's Francophones (referred to as "Fransaskois") that French-language books are the primary focus of this research.[348]

Other programs

Story time is among the various programs offered specifically to promote French. The John M. Cuelenaere Public Library (JMCPL) holds a French story time for children, presented by the Association des Parents Fransaskois.[349] The Saskatoon Public Library also holds similar activities: in its 2018 annual report, the library noted that "652 kids attended story times in French, Chinese, Urdu and Hindi."[350]

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework

Legislative and policy provisions place little emphasis on either the issue of Francophone communities or libraries. Throughout the network, as noted by Richard Russo, we observe a general lack of official languages policies with regard to libraries. Russo therefore recommends that

> [T]he Fransaskois community, in order to achieve full cultural benefits from their public libraries, have more engagement in the decision-making process of acquiring French-language books and other print/textual media, with a focus on providing resources for adults to encourage the lifelong maintenance of French-language use. Francophones can also join their public library boards to be more involved in local policy-making.[351]

Services

We have very little data on services in French. At most, we note that, at the local level, the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library offers a French section within the library space[352] and that a report in early 2020 noted the lack of French books at the Saskatoon Public Library.[353]

2. University libraries

The Cité universitaire francophone at the University of Regina[354] has two information resources. The first is the Archer Library, for the university community, which manages the collection of books,

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348. Russo, 2019, p. 53.
349. (http://www.jmcpl.ca/storytimes/
350. P. 16, https://saskatoonlibrary.ca/sites/default/files/4000_Report_to_Our_Community_2018_lores_1.pdf
351. Russo, *loc. cit,*, p. 66.
352. "L'espace francophone de la bibliothèque J.M. Cuelenaere," *L'eau vive*, June 12, 2015, (https://leau-vive.ca/Nouvelles/l-espace-francophone-de-la-bibliotheque-jm-cuelenaere) and activities such as story time in French (http://www.jmcpl.ca/storytimes/)
353. Omayra Issa, "Une mère fransaskoise déplore une insuffisance de livres en français à Saskatoon," *ICI Saskatchewan*, January 20, 2020,
https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1477039/bibliotheque-publique-saskatoon-maria-ferre-livres-francais
354. https://lacite.uregina.ca/en/uni/campus/library

articles and other resources in French at the University of Regina, where a librarian service is available in French for all students in French programs.

The second is La Rotonde, called "the Hub for Student Life in French," which owns a vast collection of information resources available for free loan. The service is available to everyone, "whether it's for school or fun, students, profs and the general public alike are invited to check out the collection,"[355] and includes

- a film library consisting of more than 300 French-language titles;
- a comic book collection with more than 1,000 titles;
- a large inventory of Francophone music;
- a collection of French-language magazines; and
- a small library specializing in the Francophonie in Canada and worldwide.

3. Community libraries and book fairs

Le Lien [The Link] is both a school and a community library. As part of Collège Mathieu, it serves the college student community. It also serves all French-language schools and immersion schools in Saskatchewan and neighboring provinces. Since Collège Mathieu is a century-old institution, Le Lien is home to valuable resources often requested by researchers interested in the history of French-language education in Western Canada.

Identifying itself as the Fransaskois centre for cultural and educational resources, it also includes a community component. In this capacity, this centre

> [Translation] serves Francophones and Francophiles in Saskatchewan and Western Canada. As the only French-language centre offering product distribution and service delivery, Le Lien gives its users access to several thousand resources: books, audiobooks, magazines, educational guides and kits, board games, films (DVD, VHS), and compact discs.
> Le Lien is also a virtual library serving Francophones and Francophiles in Western Canada, including Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, as well as the territories.[356]

With a view to increasing access to resources in French, Le Lien plans to invest in software that would facilitate a connection with the provincial library network through the "Rés-O-Lien" project in order to reach users who are lacking services.

Created in 1985, [translation] "Le Lien is present in Fransaskois communities through the Rés-O-Lien project, which circulates material to the public and will be even more visible and accessible owing to the creation and implementation of the virtual library." Rés-O-Lien provides free access to cultural and educational resources in French in the various regions of Saskatchewan via a network of repositories located in Francophone community cultural centres and in schools.[357] Included are

355. https://lacite.uregina.ca/en/uni/campus/rotonde
356. https://www.collegemathieu.sk.ca/le-lien.
357. https://www.collegemathieu.sk.ca/le-lien/res-o-lien

- Association fransaskoise de Zénon Park (AFZP)
- Association communautaire francophone de Bellegarde (ACFB)
- Sacred Heart School / École Sacré-Cœur
- Centre francophone BDS (Saint-Isidore-de-Bellevue, Domremy and Saint Louis)
- Association communautaire fransaskoise de la Trinité (St. Denis, Vonda and Prud'homme)
- Centre francophone des Battleford (North Battleford)
- Les Auvergnois / Centre culturel de Ponteix
- Association communautaire francophone de Moose-Jaw (ACFMJ)
- Palliser Regional Library, Willow Bunch Branch Public Library

These services will soon be available in Regina and Saskatoon through Rés-O, which will be opening on the Collège Mathieu campuses in both cities.

North

Exceptionally, access to library services and French-language books was included in a study on the vitality of Francophone boreal communities.[358] The findings are significant in terms of the general contribution of libraries to these communities. Thus, according to the authors of the study,

> [translation] [l]ocally available media (television, newspapers, electronic media), public library books, DVDs or videos are available mostly in English, or offer a very limited choice of products in the original French version.[359]

For them, considering that [translation] "access to French-language books, comic strips, videos or DVDs remains problematic, despite the efforts of some municipal libraries and community organizations,"[360] they recommend that

> [translation] [a] program of access to a more developed Francophone video library or library than those that currently exist through Francophone associations or municipal libraries and schools should be encouraged both by the public authorities and by community organizations.[361]

Nunavut

1. Public libraries

Current situation

Nunavut has 11 community libraries, coordinated by Nunavut Public Library Services, which falls under the Department of Culture and Heritage. According to the website:

> Nunavut Public Library Services (NPLS) provides materials, technical support and programming resources for the 11 community libraries in the Public Library System to promote outcomes. We provide guidance and professional expertise to help Nunavut's communities make the most of the opportunities provided by public libraries. Nunavut's public libraries offer a broad range of books, magazines, DVDs and other services to patrons. Other services include technology training, children's programs, free Internet access, reference, screenings, inter-library loans, and seasonal special events promoting Nunavut's culture, literacy and their benefits.[362]

Additional details can be found on a Wiki site.[363]

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[358] Anne Robineau, Christophe Traisnel, Éric Forgues, Josée Guignard Noël, et Rodrigue Landry, *La Francophonie boréale : la vitalité des communautés francophones dans les territoires*, Moncton, Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities / Institut canadien de recherche sur les minorités linguistiques, Université de Moncton, 2010, 408 pp., https://icrml.ca/fr/recherches-et-publications/publications-de-l-icrml/download/120/8436/58

[359] Pp. 227–228.

[360] P. 331.

[361] P. 357.

362. https://www.gov.nu.ca/culture-and-heritage/information/nunavut-public-library-services; see also https://publiclibraries.nu.ca/en

363. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nunavut_Public_Library_Services

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries

The main function of the *Consolidation of Library Act* (R.S.N.W.T. 1988, c. L-7, [Current to: August 15, 2014])[364] is to define the roles of NPLS and the minister. No further information is available on the policy or regulatory framework for libraries.

The group of libraries within the Nunavut Library Association has defined their core value as providing "library services and materials to all Nunavummiut in the official language or languages of their choice: Inuktut (Inuit language), English and French."[365]

Official languages

Nunavut is officially trilingual under the *Consolidation of Official Languages Act*, 2008,[366] which sets out guidelines for service.

Management of linguistic issues falls to the Official Languages Division, which is

> [r]esponsible for supporting all Government of Nunavut departments and agencies in the delivery of services to the public in Nunavut's official languages, and provides support to help implement the Inuit language as the working language of the government. Official Languages also provides translation services to the government through the Translation Bureau offices located in Kugluktuk and Igloolik, and administers language services under the provisions of the Canada-Nunavut General Agreement on the Promotion of French and Inuit Languages.[367]

In 2015, a survey on French services needs was carried out, and improving library services in French was considered a priority (7 out of 10).[368]

Support also exists. For example, in 2018, the Iqaluit Centennial Library:

> Obtained funding under an Official Language program for a new assistant librarian, full time until March and part-time after that, to assist with French language programming in Iqaluit. Also hoping to add French language e-book services.[369]

Worthy of note is that the Nunavut website is trilingual.

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364. https://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/rsnwt-nu-1988-c-l-7/latest/rsnwt-nu-1988-c-l-7.html
365. https://nunavutlibraryassociation.ca/about/organization-description/
366. https://langcom.nu.ca/sites/langcom.nu.ca/files/OLA%20June%202018%20-%20EN.pdf
367. https://www.gov.nu.ca/culture-and-heritage/information/official-languages
368. *Priorities of the Francophone Community of Nunavut Regarding French Services*, March 2015, 36 pp., https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/ch_frenchservicesreport_eng_0.pdf
369. "Meeting Notes & Action Minutes" of the NLA Fall Meeting Teleconference, 2018, https://nunavutlibraryassociation.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/nla-meeting-minutes2018dec6.pdf

Other programs

Reading and story time programs
As stated on the NPLS website, "NPLS encourages all branches to schedule programs centered on story and reading." In Iqaluit, for example:

> [t]he Centennial Library runs a number of regular programs, such as a weekly story time on Tuesdays for preschoolers, and a drop-in every Saturday; there is one English, one French and one Inuktitut program per month, and an evening story time once a month.[370]

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework
Given that we were limited to online research, many documents may have slipped under the radar. Nevertheless, strong support for the language policy from the Nunavut Library Association ensures that the value of enhancing French in libraries is at least formally recognized. In practice, however, there is a chance that support for French will be overshadowed by policies, programs and activities [translation] "promoting Inuit culture, values, livelihoods, knowledge, language and traditions," which are also greatly needed.

Services
As a result of Nunavut's language policy, which specifies three official languages, service in French is quite accessible. The following comes from a presentation by the Iqaluit Centennial Library:

> Iqaluit Centennial Library, as its name suggests, was founded in 1967 and moved into a joint facility with the Iqaluit Visitors Centre in 1992. It's the biggest and busiest library in Nunavut, and provides services in English, Inuktitut and French, with an active Friends of the Library group.[371]

2. University libraries
Not applicable.

3. Community libraries and book fairs

According to the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut Community Library website:

> [Translation] The library at École des Trois-Soleils promotes the growth of the Francophonie by offering books for all ages, from toddlers to adults. This is the only family and community library in Iqaluit that occasionally offers educational and cultural activities. You can find French-language books for all ages, music albums and even films there.[372]

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370. https://nunavutlibraryassociation.ca/about/our-libraries/nunavuts-public-libraries/
371. https://nunavutlibraryassociation.ca/about/our-libraries/nunavuts-public-libraries/
372. http://csfn.ca/bibliotheque-communautaire/

The Pond Inlet Library and Archives Society manages a collection of documents in Pond Inlet, but there is no indication that services are available in French.[373]

373. https://nunavutlibraryassociation.ca/about/our-libraries/pond-inlet-library-and-archives-society/

Northwest Territories

1. Public libraries

Current situation

The Northwest Territories (NWT) has 21 community libraries in its public network.[374] These libraries are coordinated by NWT Public Library Services, which falls under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. According to its website:

> Our role is to provide all residents of the Northwest Territories with quality library services that meet their educational, cultural, informational and recreational needs. We fund and support public community libraries as well as providing books by mail for residents without libraries in their communities.[375]

It should be noted that, during a 2002 tour by National Librarian Roch Carrier, there was discussion of the measures needed to increase the library's French-language resources.[376]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries
The main purpose of the *Public Library Act*, 2009,[377] is to define the powers of the minister and Public Library Services of the NWT. The Act is complemented by the *Public Library Designation Order*, 2009,[378] which lists all the libraries.

Moreover, the *French First Language Education Regulations* require that the school board administration provide library services.[379]

Those are currently the only documents available online.

Official languages
In the Northwest Territories, management of official languages is based on the Northwest Territories' *Official Languages Act*, 1988.[380] The Act is complemented by the *Government Institution Regulations*, 2019 (2006),[381] which specify four cities with a greater demand for French-language services owing to their Francophone populations: Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife. Moreover, the *French Communications and Services Standards* were approved in September 2019.[382]

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374. https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/nwt-public-library-services/nwt-community-libraries
375. https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/public-libraries
376. Simon Bérubé, "Bibliothèque en français : Il faut faire connaître les ressources," *L'Aquilon*, June 7, 2002, https://aquilon.nt.ca/Article/Il-faut-faire-connaitre-les-ressources-18448903615/default.aspx
377. https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/public-library/public-library.a.pdf
378. https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/public-library/public-library.r1.pdf
379. Paragraph 7(1)(d), *French First Language Education Regulations – Education Act*, NWT Reg 166-96, https://www.canlii.org/en/nt/laws/regu/nwt-reg-166-96/latest/nwt-reg-166-96.html
380. https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/official-languages/official-languages.a.pdf
381. https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/official-languages/official-languages.r3.pdf
382. https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/sites/ece/files/resources/2019_french_standards_english_version_september_2019.pdf

Likewise, a *Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services 2018–2023* was adopted[383] further to a report on the positive development of French-language services.[384]

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories mandated a special committee to review the Act. The committee report, *One Land, Many Voices,*[385] provides a general overview without specifically addressing libraries.

Language issues are managed by the Francophone Affairs Secretariat,[386] which produces an annual progress report. Without reviewing all the reports available online, we found examples of new initiatives from the 2017–2018 report, including "books distributed to public libraries in Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Smith and Yellowknife are also available to all residents through the NWT Interlibrary Loan Program," and a mention of 1,135 books purchased by the NWT public library network.[387]

Note that the government website is fully bilingual.

Assessment

It is difficult for us to draw general conclusions solely on the documentation available online. While it appears that substantial efforts were made to improve the collections in 2017–2018, further research is required.

2. University libraries
Not applicable.

3. Community libraries and book fairs
Not applicable.

383. https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/sites/ece/files/resources/flcs_-_strategic_plan_-_en_-_final.pdf
384. "Les T.N.-O. ont de meilleurs services en français, selon un rapport," *ICI Grand Nord*, October 5, 2018, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1128272/service-francais-offre-active-territoires-nord-ouest-franco-tenois
385. Yellowknife, 2003, 381 pp., http://library.assembly.gov.nt.ca/2003/LA/02-0021756.pdf
386. https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/francophone-affairs-secretariat
387. Government of the Northwest Territories, 2017-2018 Annual Report on Official Languages, pp. 48–49, https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/sites/ece/files/resources/3291_ece_annual_report_-_official_languages_of_the_nwt_english_web.pdf

Yukon

1. Public libraries

Current situation
The Yukon public library network comprises
- 14 community or regional libraries; and
- the Whitehorse Public Library, which acts as a central library.

Added to those are four government libraries.[388]

Coordination is handled by Yukon Public Library, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Community Services. According to the Department's website:

> We work collaboratively with community library boards, other libraries, literary and literacy groups and similar organizations. Together, we promote the use of public libraries, books and reading with appropriate resources and programs. Public Libraries provides books, audiovisual materials and other resources to meet the needs of Yukoners of all ages. We also provide fun and informative programming for children and adults and safe, healthy community meeting places.[389]

Policy and regulatory framework

Libraries
Under the *Public Libraries Act*, 1987,[390] Yukon may set up a central library and a library board in Whitehorse and oversee local and community branches. The *Public Libraries Regulations*, 1988/018, set out the terms for managing community library boards.[391]

Official languages
Section 1 of the *Languages Act* (2002) states the following:

> The Yukon accepts that English and French are the official languages of Canada and also accepts that measures set out in this Act constitute important steps towards implementation of the equality of status of English and French in the Yukon.[392]

Language issues are managed by the French Language Services Directorate.[393]
The government website is fully bilingual.

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388. https://yukon.ca/en/find-library
389. https://yukon.ca/en/department-community-services
390. http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/acts/puli.pdf
391. http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/regs/oic1988_018.pdf
392. http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/acts/languages.pdf
393. https://yukon.ca/fr/direction-services-francais

Assessment

Policy and regulatory framework

The limitations of this research make it difficult for us to properly characterize the official languages framework and practices in Yukon. However, as noted in Marie-Hélène Comeau's article, efforts in Whitehorse, such as holding a book fair, some there is vitality, which could be better documented through further exploration.

Services

There is particular interest in French. As early as 1983, the Association des Franco-Yukonnais (AFY) contributed to the creation of a francophone section at the Whitehorse Public Library.[394] According to Sarah Gallagher, Liaison Librarian, 7,699 French books are available in Yukon libraries, and the Whitehorse Public Library has one position officially designated as bilingual, while six other librarians can provide service in French there.[395]

2. University libraries

Not applicable.

3. Community libraries and book fairs

Since at least 2015, the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon[396] has held an annual book fair. The 2019 edition was reported to be a huge success.[397]

According to one blogger,[398] street libraries in Whitehorse are an effective way to distribute French books.

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394 Robineau, 2010, p. 113.

395. Marie-Hélène Comeau, "Des ressources en français appréciées dans les bibliothèques publiques du Yukon," *L'aurore boréale*, September 26, 2019, http://auroreboreale.ca/des-ressources-en-francais-appreciees-dans-les-bibliotheques-publiques-du-yukon/

396. Salon du livre en français in 2019, https://commissionscolaire.csfy.ca/%C3%A9v%C3%A8nement/salon-du-livre-en-francais-2/

397. Maryne Duhaime, "Le Salon du livre en français, un événement grand public incontournable," *L'aurore boréale*, September 26, 2019, http://auroreboreale.ca/le-salon-du-livre-en-francais-un-evenement-grand-public-incontournable/

398. Caroline Lafleur, "Whitehorse et ses bibliothèques de rue," *Blog le fil rouge*, April 20, 2018, https://chezlefilrouge.co/2018/04/20/whitehorse-et-ses-bibliotheques-de-rue/

Appendix: Some examples of policies adopted by local public library boards

In Ontario, the Ottawa Public Library adopted a *Policy – Official Languages* in February 2020 with the overall purpose of "[e]nsuring the provision of a strong bilingual (English/French) context for all services and programs."[399] This is notably reflected in:

- services to patrons in the official language of their choice;
- programs and services offered in both official languages and developed "by employees familiar with the appropriate culture";
- an amount set aside for the purchase of French-language materials. "The designated amount shall be based on the highest percentage of the following four data sets: mother tongue, home language, first official language spoken (provided by Statistics Canada) and the inclusive definition of a Francophone (provided by the Ministry of Francophone Affairs)"; and
- the promotion of "system-wide programs and services in both English and French, clearly indicating the language(s) in which the program/service will be offered."

In Alberta, four municipalities are officially bilingual, namely Beaumont, Legal, Falher and Plamondon. Their libraries therefore have French-language collections. Thirteen others self-identify as bilingual. The library in St-Isidore describes itself as [translation] "the only completely French library in the public municipal system."[400] Its history is particularly interesting, as it came into existence in 1981 on the initiative of a small women's group wishing to open a library to serve the hamlet's Francophone community. The Beaumont Library[401] has adopted a collection development policy which states as follows: "the Library is mandated to provide functional, up-to-date French language materials to all age groups. As such, sustainable funding for this purpose will be made available on a yearly basis."[402]

In British Columbia, the Cranbrook Public Library states the following in its 2017 acquisitions policy: "In addition to applying the selection criteria, the Library will attempt to acquire material . . .in both official languages, and possibly other languages which reflect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the community."[403]

In Manitoba, the Winnipeg municipal library stands out. Within this municipal network, the main Francophone branch is the St. Boniface Library, which states the following on its English webpage (the only one available): "Extensive French resources include books and magazines for all ages, as well as a genealogy research collection."[404] The Library offers programs and workshops for all ages, in both English and French. In 2018–2019, it received the Ronald Duhamel Award, as mentioned in the *Report on French Language Services*:

399. https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/official-languages
400. "Bibliothèque de St-Isidore – À propos," https://www.bibliothequestisidore.ab.ca/A-propos
401. https://beaumontlibrary.com
402. Beaumont Library, *Collection Development Policy*, 2017, 3 p., https://beaumontlibrary.com/~/media/yrl/beaumont/documents/operationalcollectiondevelopment.ashx?la=en
403. *Cranbrook Public Library Policy Manual*, "SC-10 – Selection of Collection Material," p. 49, 2017, https://www.cranbrookpubliclibrary.ca/files/2019/02/Policy-Manual-Complete.pdf
404. https://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/branchpages/branch.aspx?sbon

The 2019 prize was awarded to the staff of the St. Boniface Library for their delivery of services, programming and resources to their clientele throughout Winnipeg, particularly within St. Boniface and the Francophone community. Over the last number of years, staff from the St. Boniface Library have been innovative, reaching out into the community to support those who need it most, and attracting new users through engaging and creative programming. The library offers programs for all ages, focusing on programs in French on a range of topics that celebrate and encourage learning French language, literature and culture. All library programs are free to attend to ensure equal access for all. Staff at the St. Boniface library deliver almost 200 programs in service to the community, many of which extend beyond the library's walls and take place in partnership with community stakeholders and organizations.[405]

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405. Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, *Report on French Language Services, 2018-2019*, p. 9, https://www.gov.mb.ca/fls-slf/pdf/annual_report_2018_19.pdf