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L-35: Advanced Rare Book Cataloging Workshop  
19–24 October 2014

**Detailed Course Evaluation**

- 1) *How useful were the pre-course readings? Did you do any additional preparations in advance of the course?*
  1. Pre-course readings were essential to understanding the underlying principles behind rare book cataloging, but did not play much part in what we did in the class. I did all the readings. For a couple of articles, it was not the first time I read them. But at the same time, I think I could have done just as badly (or well) without them. But I believe it is due to the nature of the class, rather than the suitability of materials chosen as pre-course reading. Cataloging, in my very short experience with it, has taught me that you learn by doing it, by making mistakes, and by having your record shown to the entire class for scrutiny. Humiliation is a pretty good teacher.
  2. I did all the pre-course reading. I thought it was useful. I wish the class had had more time.
  3. I admit that I didn't get through them all. There is one I'm going to read later.
  4. Fairly useful. Much of it I'd already read for the beginning rare book cataloging course.
  5. The readings were very useful.
  6. I had previously read most of the pre-course readings because they were required for DJL's first rare book cataloging class that I took a few years ago. Also, I refer to some of the readings during my daily cataloging activities.
  
- 2) *Were the course workbook and other materials distributed in class appropriate and useful (or will they be so in the future, after you return home)?*
  1. Yes, they are very useful and well put together. I think I will also be revisiting and re-reading what is on Folgerpedia. Examples and links on Folgerpedia will be very handy. The "Advanced Rare Book Cataloging" checklist is such an excellent idea. I will be using them to check the records I create.
  2. As a possible suggestion, it would be helpful to have more help pages for a greater number of document genres.
  3. Yes, useful during class and useful at home.
  4. Yes, definitely useful, and I will refer to them.
  5. Appropriate and useful as always. They will be put to great use in the future.
  6. The class workbook was extremely useful while cataloging in class, and will continue to be useful when I return to work. I plan to refer to it often, and possibly teach from it when explaining rare materials cataloging to my colleagues.
  
- 3) *Have you taken one or more RBS courses before? If so, how did this course compare with your previous coursework?*
  1. Yes. My previous RBS courses were at Charlottesville. Having a class in October, and not in Charlottesville, is an entirely different experience. I miss

Charlottesville.

2. Yes. I wanted more hands-on experience.
  3. Yes. This one applied directly to my daily work activities more than some others I've taken.
  4. Yes. Since this course wasn't taught at UVA, there wasn't the large number of support staff; still, the Folger staff were very helpful and friendly. Alex Kyrios was invaluable as a teaching assistant. DJL should definitely continue using his services.
  5. Yes. As with my other RBS experiences this class was informative, fun, and will serve me well in my work.
  6. Yes. I really loved this workshop because it was organized as a hands-on cataloging course. I find it easier to learn if I can work through the process of cataloging with other people. It was really nice to have discussions about certain cataloging rules with DJL and the other students. I feel much more confident in my cataloging, and in the fact that there are other people whom I can now contact if I have further questions. I hope that we can continue our cataloging discussions via the class wiki or via e-mail once we all return to our own institutions.
- 4) *Which aspects of the course content were of the greatest interest or relevance for your purposes?*
1. Being exposed to different genres/types of materials to catalog.
  2. I enjoyed getting experience working with specific types of document genres.
  3. Applying DCRM(B) in a group of people and the ability to discuss problems and ask questions.
  4. Getting a refresher course on collation, something I'd developed a phobia about. Getting lots and lots of hands-on experience doing DCRM(B) cataloging. Now I want to go home and upgrade a lot of records while I'm still in the groove.
  5. The entire class was relevant to my work, but the hands-on experience was most valuable.
  6. The hands-on cataloging portions and the discussions the class had as a group about certain MARC fields, certain rules, and even BIBFRAME.
- 5) *Did the instructor successfully help you to acquire the information, knowledge, and skills that the course was intended to convey? Was the intellectual level of the course appropriate?*
1. Yes, the intellectual level of the course was appropriate; there are things I still do not fully understand (e.g., use of 751), but I hope to, at least one day.
  2. Yes.
  3. Yes, and yes.
  4. Yes, and yes.
  5. Absolutely!
  6. Yes—I very much enjoyed the intellectual conversation we had as a class and with our instructor. I felt I could contribute in a positive way and I learned a great deal from our discussions (even when talking outside of the classroom).

6) *What did you like best about the course?*

1. Discussions, collaboration, and checking each other's records.
2. Hands-on experience.
3. Working with others, cataloging items that are different from what's in my library.
4. I liked the materials we worked with, and the variety of them. I liked that we worked as a group and in pairs often, but also on our own.
5. The aforementioned hands-on approach and the opportunity to learn another institution's practices.
6. The hands-on approach of cataloging real materials; the small size—six people is the perfect size for a workshop like this; and the fact that everyone was here to learn and had a lot of really good questions that I would never have thought of.

7) *How could the course have been improved?*

1. {No response—RBS staff}
2. More hands-on experience with feedback.
3. Can't think of anything.
4. I wish it could have been longer!
5. Maybe more work space.
6. It would be nice to have a longer class—we were talking about adding another week to the course over lunch and that would be fantastic.

8) *Did you learn what the course description/advertisements indicated you would learn?*

1. Somewhat.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. Yes.
5. Yes and more!
6. Yes—I gathered from the course description that the class would require us to catalog material from the Folger Shakespeare Library and discuss approaches to that cataloging.

9) *How do you intend to use or apply the knowledge or skills learned in this course?*

1. Will depend on future employment. If I end up in rare book cataloging, everything I learned in this class (even the things I only partially understood) will be useful.
2. {No response—RBS staff}
3. I'm rethinking some current procedures, and have some library systems questions.
4. I intend to go back to my library and catalog as many pre-nineteenth-century backlog materials as I can get my hands on, while the knowledge of how to do so is still fresh in my mind.
5. I will apply the knowledge and skills to my daily work flow.
6. There is so much to bring back to my institution. I definitely plan to rewrite some of our cataloging policies for rare materials and to incorporate some of what is available on Folgerpedia, which will be a great teaching tool for me when I need to train our technical services staff on the rare materials cataloging in the future.

10) *If your course made any trips outside the classroom, was the time devoted to this purpose well spent?*

1. Yes, absolutely. Trip to LC was a treat!
2. Yes.
3. Loved the visit to the LC Rare Book Division—very worthwhile.
4. Yes, the trip to LC was very edifying.
5. Yes.
6. N/A.

11) *If you attended the optional evening events, were they worth attending?*

1. Yes. But they weren't really optional; nevertheless, Heather Wolfe gave us a very educational and entertaining tour of the Symbols of Honor exhibition. Lecture on Ptolemy's *Geography* and multi-spectral imaging was also very interesting.
2. Yes.
3. Yes, I attended them all and learned something each time. Evening events/lectures always make the RBS experience richer.
4. Yes, I particularly enjoyed the lecture by Chet Van Duzer on multispectral imaging of rare cartographic materials. I also enjoyed getting together with scholars for wine and cheese afterwards.
5. Yes. Very interesting!
6. Yes—it would have been nice to have more time on our evening events because everyone was so engaged, especially when we were able to see some of the rare materials at LC.

12) *We are always concerned about the physical well-being of the collections used during RBS courses. If relevant, what suggestions do you have for the improved classroom handling of the materials used in your course this week?*

1. {No response—RBS staff}
2. {No response—RBS staff}
3. We all could've used more room to spread out, but everyone has lots of experience handling rare items, so it seemed to work out okay.
4. Sometimes I was concerned that I needed more room—to spread out with some of the larger books—than the room afforded. Also having the laptop on the desk along with the books made it a little tricky.
5. {No response—RBS staff}
6. Everyone seemed to be careful with the materials we handled, and DJL added a page to our course workbook that described how to handle them. I'm sure she would have said something had any of us handled the materials improperly.

13) *Did you get your (or your institution's) money's worth? Would you recommend this course to others?*

1. Did I get my money's worth? Right now, I don't know. It will become clearer when I go back to my normal life and have time to revise and reflect on what I have learned this week. Time will tell.
2. Yes, but I wish I could have had more time.

3. Yes, and yes!
4. Yes.
5. Yes, well worth the money and I would certainly recommend it.
6. Yes, definitely. This course was very worthwhile and I can't wait to report back to my supervisor about it.

14) *Any summary thoughts about your Rare Book School experience? Any advice for those considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {No response—RBS staff}
2. {No response—RBS staff}
3. Thank you RBS and Folger for providing this experience. DJL was great!
4. This course is definitely worth it for rare book catalogers wanting to hone their skills, and for those like me who do rare book cataloging part-time and need to have an intensive experience in order to really inculcate in themselves the skills they need and the “muscle memory” of doing their work.
5. DJL and Alex did an outstanding job!
6. This course is great for students who have rare materials cataloging experience, but still feel they need improvement in their work.

### **Aggregate Statistics**

*Number of respondents: 6*

#### **Leave**

Institution gave me leave: 5 (83.33%)

I took vacation time or unpaid leave: 1 (16.67%)

#### **Tuition**

Institution paid tuition: 5 (83.33%)

Student paid tuition: 1 (16.67%)

#### **Housing**

Institution paid housing: 4 (66.67%)

I paid for my own housing: 1 (16.67%)

N/A: stayed with friends or lived at home: 1 (16.67%)

#### **Travel**

Institution paid travel: 4 (66.67%)

I paid my own travel: 1 (16.67%)

N/A: I had only local travel expenses: 1 (16.67%)

*Which one category most closely defines what you do for a living, or why you are at RBS?*

Cataloguer: 4 (66.67%)

Librarian with some rare book duties: 1 (16.67%)

Other: Postdoctoral Fellow: 1 (16.67%)