

Information Guide | Washington, DC

Welcome to Rare Book School!

FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, the bibliographical community has been supported and nourished by the work of Rare Book School (RBS). From its tentative beginnings at Columbia University, the School has educated two generations of librarians, collectors, academics, conservators, and booksellers, producing a network of loyal alumni, talented faculty, and dedicated friends around the globe. In the process, it has also earned a reputation as the world's premier institution for the study of bibliography and book history. We are delighted that you will soon be a part of that distinguished tradition, and of our School's promising future. On behalf of all of us here at RBS, welcome to Washington!

This information guide should answer most of your questions about transportation, housing, and other practical matters. Upon arrival, you'll also receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* with additional information to ensure that your stay is as productive and enjoyable as possible. (N.B. Please bring the present guide with you when you come to RBS; it contains valuable information not repeated in the *Vade Mecum*.) In the meantime, we eagerly await your arrival, and look forward to another wonderful year!

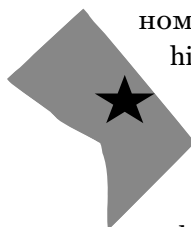
Contents

WELCOME	1
ABOUT WASHINGTON, DC	1
THE RBS WEEK	2
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE	3
TRANSPORTATION	4
ACCOMMODATIONS	4
SECURITY AT THE LIBRARY	4
ADVANCE ADVICES	5
RESTAURANT GUIDE	6

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About Washington, DC



HOME TO SOME OF THE NATION'S most distinguished historical and cultural institutions—not to mention the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government—Washington, DC, is one of America's great urban centers.

Founded and designed by Enlightenment thinkers, the nation's capital boasts a proud and storied bibliographical tradition: Within a mile's walk of the world's largest library (the Library of Congress; 101 Independence Avenue SE; 202-707-5000), book enthusiasts can tour the Folger Shakespeare Library (201 East Capitol Street SE; 202-544-4600), visit the National Archives (700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 1-866-272-6272), or examine the Asian and Middle Eastern collections housed at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery (1050 Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000).

This year, the Library of Congress hosts four Rare Book School courses: "The Eighteenth-Century Book," taught by Mark Dimunation, Chief of the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division; "Preservation Imaging: Science, Scholarship, and the Artifact," taught by Fenella France, Chief of the Preservation Research and Testing Division; "The Art & Science of Cartography, 200-1550," taught by John Hessler, Curator of the Jay I. Kislak Collection; and "Visual Materials Cataloging," taught by Helena Zinkham, Chief of the Library's Prints and Photographs Division.

The RBS Week

All RBS students are expected to be in attendance and on time for all regularly scheduled classes, labs, and field trips. This is to ensure the quality and community of RBS as a school, and we insist that participants attend all sessions of their courses, unless presented with the most extraordinary of circumstances. Practically speaking, this involves a full-time commitment of 8:30 AM–5 PM Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 AM–4 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5–7 pm **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and light refreshments in the House Banquet Room of the Holiday Inn Washington-Capitol, located at 550 C Street SW (front desk: 202-479-4000). Once there, all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge. N.B. If you plan to attend this event, RSVP by email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) no later than 23 July.

Late arrival: We strongly suggest attending the Sunday night registration, but if you are unable to make it, please email us (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) and let us know. If you do not attend, you will need to register at your course location at 8:45 AM sharp on Monday morning.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:30 am* **Arrival at Library of Congress**

To ensure that everyone has sufficient time to make it through security (see p. 5) and find his or her classroom, students should plan to arrive at the security desks of their respective Library buildings (Jefferson for H-100; Madison for all others) no later than 8:30 AM each morning.

Students attending L-40: “Visual Materials Cataloging” will meet in the front office of the Prints and Photographs Division, Room LM 337, in the James Madison Memorial Building (2nd Street SE, between Independence Avenue and East Capitol Street).

H-110: “The Art & Science of Cartography, 200–1550” meets in the Geography and Map Research Center, Room B-01, in the basement of the Madison Building.

L-105: “Preservation Imaging: Science, Scholarship, and the Artifact” meets in G21, on the ground floor of the Madison Building.

Finally, students attending H-100: “The Eighteenth-Century Book” should meet in the Rosenwald Room, located directly across from the Rare Book and Special Collections Reading Room (LJ 239), on the second floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building (101 Independence Avenue SE).

* *Required activities are noted by asterisk*

8:45 am* **Final Registration**

Morning registration for those unable to attend Sunday night's reception. (*Monday only.*)

9–10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30–11 am **Morning Break**

Join your fellow students for coffee and tea, served in the Library's West Dining Room (LM 621), located on the sixth floor of the Madison Building.

11 am–12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30–1:30 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. Although students are free to eat wherever they choose, the close proximity of the Madison Cafeteria (sixth floor) makes it an attractive—perhaps necessary—option for those in a hurry.

1:30–3:30 pm* **Third Period**

3–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

The West Dining Room (LM 621) will be open to RBS students, with refreshments available in the cafeteria.

3:30–5 pm* **Fourth Period**

Weekday Evening Activities

During the week, there are optional evening activities for those interested in taking advantage of them. For details, see the *Student's Vade Mecum*. N.B. These events are not open to the general public.

Monday 5:30 pm **Evening Lecture**

Room LM-642, on the sixth floor of the Madison Building.

Tuesday 5:30–7 pm **Museum Night**

Room LM-337, on the third floor of the Madison Building.

Wednesday 5:30 pm **Evening Lecture**

Room LM-337, on the third floor of the Madison Building.

The RBS Week (continued)

FRIDAY

8:30 am* **Arrival at Library of Congress**

9-10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30-11 am **Morning Break**

Coffee and tea in the West Dining Room (LM 621).

11 am-12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30-1:30 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch.

1:30-3:30 pm* **Third Period**

3:30-4 pm* **Course Evaluations**

Students receive course completion certificates, and fill out RBS course evaluations.

4-6 pm **Farewell Reception**

Join your fellow students for light snacks, refreshments, and a festive farewell in the West Dining Hall (LM 621).

** Required activities are noted by asterisk*

Before you arrive

Reading Lists

Most RBS courses have advance reading lists or assignments that RBS instructors expect their students to complete before they arrive; these are outlined at www.rarebookschool.org/course-descriptions/reading/. (N.B. H-100 does not have an advance reading list.)

Students should come to class prepared. Those who have trouble locating required readings might try obtaining them through interlibrary loan (ILL), from used or antiquarian booksellers through the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA), or online via sites such as www.bookfinder.com or www.vialibri.net.

Arrival & Departure Logistics

When thinking about your transportation arrangements, please remember that staying over Friday night after the last day of class can be an excellent idea, if you can swing it. Early-evening ground and air travel is seldom much fun anywhere, but it can be especially difficult in a major city like Washington. Arriving a day early may also be a good idea, as it can provide opportunities to settle in, overcome jet lag, &c. RBS first-timers are often surprised by the intensity of the experience, so be sure to get some sleep before classes start!

Problems

Please let one of us know if you encounter any problems on any front. If such problems occur before you arrive, email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) or telephone us (434-924-8851, 8:30 AM-5 PM; voicemail after hours). If you encounter issues with tuition payments, contact RBS Accounting Specialist Michael Taylor at 434-243-2920, or by email: michael.taylor@virginia.edu.

Should any difficulties arise during the course, please bring your concerns to a faculty member or to an RBS staff member. Just look for a red or blue ribbon on the nametag—we're always happy to help!

Transportation

Air Travel

Three major airports serve the greater Washington, DC, area: Washington Dulles International (IAD; 703-572-2700), located about thirty miles west of the city; Ronald Reagan National (DCA; 703-417-8000), just across the Potomac River; and Baltimore/Washington International (BWI; 410-859-7111), in Maryland, about thirty miles to the northeast.

While DCA is conveniently located for RBS students, it offers fewer flight options compared to the other two airports; on the other hand, getting to the city from IAD or BWI takes extra time, planning, and expense. Please take these details into consideration when arranging your flights!

Taking the Train

If you are arriving from a nearby state, Amtrak (www.amtrak.com; 1-800-872-7245) may offer the most convenient and affordable means of getting to the capital: the centrally located Union Station (50 Massachusetts Avenue NE; 202-289-1908) is only about a fifteen-minute walk from the Library of Congress.

Driving to Washington

The main north-south route into the city is Interstate 95, one of the nation's busiest, and potentially most frustrating, highways. Getting to Washington from points west will usually involve a combination of either I-70/I-270 (from the northwest) or I-81/I-66 (from the southwest). No matter what route you take, know that rush-hour traffic can be intense, and parking spaces near the Library hard to come by.

Accommodations

Of the several hotels located within walking distance of the National Mall and Capitol Hill, Hotel Harrington (436 11th Street NW; 202-628-8140; www.hotel-harrington.com;) offers some of the lowest rates; that said, the accommodations are very basic, and students should read reviews carefully before making a reservation.

A solid choice for students taking courses at the Library of Congress is the Capitol Hill Hotel (200 C Street SE; 202-543-6000; capitolhillhotel-dc.com), where RBS sets aside a discounted block of rooms. Another option is to stay at Club Quarters (839 17th Street NW; 202-463-6400; clubquarters.com/washington-dc), located just northwest of the White House; for advice on how to secure their RBS corporate rate, contact programs staff at rbsprograms@virginia.edu, or call 434-924-8851.

Security at the Library

The Library of Congress requires all patrons and guests to move through airport-style security before entering any of its three main buildings, and to submit to package, purse, and backpack searches before leaving. Dangerous items (e.g., firearms, knives, box-cutters, razors) are not permitted. Please plan accordingly, and arrive early enough to make it through in time for all course events.

N.B. You should plan to carry some form of photo ID on your person at all times while visiting the Library.

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. July in Washington can feel almost tropical, with high temperatures and legendary humidity; that said, the rooms we use at the Library of Congress tend to maintain a cool temperature. It's a good idea to pack for both extremes and to bring a sweater, especially if you chill easily under air-conditioning. In general, a light rain jacket or umbrella is also a good idea.

RBS participants are encouraged to come to class prepared, and are required to be on time. Bring a watch. If you wish to take notes, plan accordingly. Pencils, paper, and other supplies are available at nearby convenience stores, but it can be difficult to exit and re-enter the Library in a timely fashion.

Before leaving home, check the course description website and the reading list for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.) Other inside tips on what to bring can be found in the previous year's course evaluations, also available on the course website.

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

For RBS students at the Library of Congress, the nearest pharmacy will probably be Grubb's Pharmacy (326 East Capitol Street NE; 202-543-4400), a Capitol Hill institution that dates back to the Johnson administration (Andrew, not Lyndon). The store is open M–F, 8:30 AM–6 PM; Sa, 9 AM–3 PM.

If you need something on Sunday, your best bet will be the CVS at 661 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (202-543-3305). Their pharmacy hours are M–F, 8 AM–10 PM; Sa, 9 AM–6 PM; Su, 10 AM–6 PM.

The most convenient emergency room is at the George Washington University Hospital, 900 23rd Street NW, about three miles northwest of the Library. The hospital's emergency department can be reached at 202-715-4911. (If you need immediate help, dial 911.)

Guests

Given Library security protocols (see p. 5), RBS will *not* be able to accommodate guests at evening lectures, Museum Night, or during class breaks.

Lost & Found

If you lose something within the Library, contact the Lost & Found Office, located in room LM G12, on the ground floor of the James Madison Memorial Building. The office is administered by the U.S. Capitol Police (202-707-1000), who will do all they can to help you locate your items.

Privacy

RBS publishes a list of its participating students in the *Student's Vade Mecum*. If you do not want your name, work information, or email address to appear there, please indicate this in your myRBS profile.



The Library's Jefferson Building

PHOTO: U.S. ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Washington Restaurant Guide

Washington, DC, is home to a vibrant restaurant culture, as well as a lively fleet of food trucks (which you can track at foodtruckfiesta.com). The short list below—which focuses on the Capitol Hill neighborhood just east of the Library of Congress—should give you some ideas to get you started.

Near the Library of Congress

BARREL. 613 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. (202-543-3622). High-end gastropub featuring an extensive bourbon list. M–F, 4 PM–2 AM; Su–Sa, 10:30 AM–2 AM. Entrees \$10–20.

CAFE BERLIN. 322 Massachusetts Avenue (202-543-7656). Traditional German food with traditional German beer. *Lunch/brunch:* M–F, 11:30 AM–3 PM; Su, 11 AM–3 PM. *Dinner:* Su–Th, 3–10 PM; F, 3–11 PM; Sa 11:30 AM–11 PM.

* **CAFE RECESS.** 209 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (202-544-3049). An interesting mix of classic American deli sandwiches and Vietnamese bánh mì. M–Sa, 7 AM–4 PM. Closed Sunday.

* **DIRKSEN SENATE CAFETERIA.** Basement Level, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Constitution Avenue NE at 1st Street NE. Straightforward cafeteria food, including sandwiches, grill specials, and a salad bar. M–F, 7:30 AM–3 PM, during regular legislative sessions. \$8–10.

* **FIREHOOK BAKERY-CAPITOL HILL.** 215 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (703-519-8020). Coffee, desserts, omelets, bagel sandwiches. M–F, 6:30 AM–7 PM; Sa–Su, 7 AM–5 PM.

* *Closed Sunday evenings*

* **GOOD STUFF EATERY.** 303 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (202-543-8222). Socially aware burger joint, featuring artisanal burgers, shakes, and french fries. M–Sa, 11 AM–10 PM. Under \$10.

LA LOMA MEXICAN RESTAURANT. 316 Massachusetts Avenue NE (202-548-2550). Standard Tex-Mex options, with an abundance of beans, cheese, rice. M–Th, 11:30 AM–3 PM & 5–10 PM; F, 11:30 AM–3 PM & 4–11 PM; Sa, 11:30 AM–11 PM; Su, 11:30 AM–10 PM. \$10–15.

TORTILLA COAST. 400 1st Street SE (202-546-6768). Tex-Mex specialties, including quesadillas, burritos, enchiladas, and salads. M–W, 11 AM–10 PM; Th–F, 11:30 AM–11 PM; Sa, 11 AM–10 PM; Su, 11 AM–9 PM. \$10–15.

* **SUSHI CAPITOL.** 325 Pennsylvania Avenue (202-627-0325). Well reviewed, if a bit pricey. M–F, 12–2:30 PM & 5–9:30 PM; Sa, 5–9:30 PM. Closed Sunday. \$15–30. *Reservations recommended.*

* **WE, THE PIZZA.** 305 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (202-544-4008). Classic pizza, salads, and lunch specials, served with a side of social responsibility. M–Sa, 11 AM–11 PM. Closed Sunday. Large pizzas are \$20, regardless of toppings.

Near Eastern Market

Located at 225 7th Street SE (about a fifteen minute walk from the Library; 202-698-5253), this lively food and arts market hosts a number of indoor vendors serving fresh food at reasonable prices. Tu–F, 7 AM–7 PM, Sa 7 AM–6 PM; Su, 9 AM–5 PM. Closed Monday.

DISTRICT TACO. 656 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (202-735-5649). Yucatán-inspired Mexican food; ask about gluten-free options. M–F, 8 AM–10 PM; Sa–Su, 9 AM–10 PM. Under \$10.

MONTMARTRE. 327 7th Street SE, (202-544-1244). Upscale French bistro. Lunch/brunch hours: Tu–F, 11:30 AM–2:30 PM; Su–Sa, 10:30 AM–3 PM. Dinner: Tu–Th, 5:30–10 PM; F–Sa, 5:30–10:30 PM; Su, 5:30–9 PM. Entrees \$20–30. *Reservations recommended.*

SEVENTH HILL PIZZA. 327 7th Street SE (202-544-1911). Pizzas, sandwiches, Nutella calzones. Tu–F, Sa, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Su, 12–9 PM. Pizzas \$10–17.

TORTILLA CAFE. 210 7th Street SE, directly across the street from the Market (202-547-5700). Mexican and Salvadoran specialties. M–F, 9 AM–7 PM; Sa–Su, 8 AM–7 PM. Under \$10.