

### Detailed Course Evaluation

- 1) *How useful were the pre-course readings? Did you do any additional preparations in advance of the course?*
  1. Readings were most useful. No other prep.
  2. The suggested readings were somewhat redundant, so including some titles from the additional readings section would be a good idea in the future.
  3. They were very good. I read almost everything, which was hard because of my work duties, but I am glad I did.
  4. Course readings are nicely selected and very useful. They were not used in a very integrative way in the course itself, but were helpful in grounding and informing the conversations.
  5. Very useful. Reading were well targeted to course topics, but not excessive.
  6. Some of the pre-course readings were helpful, particularly those directed to more lay audiences. I think some of the readings will make more sense to me now that the course is concluded.
  7. Very useful.
  8. Incredibly useful. The reading list is excellent and provides a depth of background and knowledge on the current state of the field.
  9. The advanced readings were quite helpful. We discussed the Galey article in class.
  10. Amazingly useful and engaging. Will probably revisit.
  11. Useful. Additional preparations were downloading BitCurator/VirtualBox.
  
- 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.
  2. Yes, they will be useful when I return.
  3. Yes.
  4. Yes, grateful to have done the work we did with BitCurator, and glad to be leaving with it on my machine.
  5. Very helpful: a wonderful stash of materials for reference and teaching.
  6. Yes!! I even ordered the *Digital Forensics* textbook.
  7. Yes.
  8. Yes, very useful.
  9. Yes! The course materials were fantastic. I'm especially glad to have BitCurator to use, as well as the extra files with which to experiment. And it was great to have access to the instructors' slides.
  10. Yes. Exercises, files, slides, and readings will all continue to be useful.
  11. Yes, very much so.

3) *Have you taken one or more RBS courses before? If so, how did this course compare with your previous coursework?*

1. No.
2. I've taken two in the past, and this one seems to have prepared me the best to approach the challenges in a comprehensive fashion.
3. No, this is my first class.
4. Yes. I've taken "Digitizing the Historical Record" and "Introduction to the Principles of Bibliographic Description." Interestingly, this course drew on material and experiences in both of those classes.
5. This course was very well organized and clearly taught. Having two faculty increased the richness of the materials and methodologies offered. It might have been paced slightly faster.
6. N/A.
7. No.
8. No.
9. I've taken more than ten RBS courses, and this one was excellent: very organized, informative, and challenging. The time allotted to lecture and discussion was just right, and the exercises were most helpful.
10. No.
11. No.

4) *What aspects of the course content were of the greatest interest or relevance for your purposes?*

1. Donor management.
2. Probably the introduction to BitCurator. That was very helpful.
3. I like the holistic blend of theory and practice. I liked learning technical skills hands-on, but I also appreciated the very relevant case studies. It is a very good blend of the academic and the practical. I feel equipped to plan a workflow at my institution.
4. Utilizing BitCurator and thinking through the case studies.
5. The first lecture on digital materiality was phenomenal, as were descriptions of individual case studies. I would have liked to spend more time (perhaps one more session) working with the BitCurator imaging and analysis software.
6. Learning to use BitCurator was amazing. It's an incredible tool. NN's lectures on collecting, curating, and archiving digital materials were incredibly informative and helpful.
7. BitCurator, web archiving sources.
8. I loved learning more about the case studies and the real-life experiences other institutions have had working with and making accessible born digital materials.
9. MK's opening lecture on digital materiality was fantastic, as it put theoretical concepts in dialogue with ongoing practices in forensic analysis. The exercises using BitCurator were also most helpful. The hands-on lab with vintage machines also stands out!
10. All of it?
11. The case studies and the explanations of imaging materials.

- 5) *Did the instructors 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.
  2. Yes, the course was a good mix of lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities. I think that the visit to SC could probably be omitted in the future, though. I did not find that particularly effective considering the amount of time we spent there.
  3. Yes, the instructors were excellent. They complement one another very well. I found the intellectual level about right.
  4. Yes, tone was instructive and collegial at the same time. Nicely balanced.
  5. Yes.
  6. Yes! MK was particularly helpful in troubleshooting issues with the software.
  7. The intellectual level was appropriate. While still slightly nervous about getting started, I am in a much better place intellectually to start handling digital content.
  8. It was excellent.
  9. YES! The intellectual level was totally appropriate—challenging in the best of ways.
  10. Yes. Great conversations.
  11. Yes, very helpful.
- 6) *What did you like best about the course?*
1. The discussions.
  2. Having the two instructors with their varied experiences (technical and library) helped to make the course balanced.
  3. I was thrilled to have such knowledgeable teachers. They really made the class. It was a rare opportunity to work with the very people making advances in this field.
  4. Hands-on demos.
  5. The wonderful intellectual play between MK and NN: they really open up the black box of this digital-archival world.
  6. BitCurator, and archiving lectures.
  7. Hands-on labs.
  8. I loved the dynamic, hands-on nature of the course. It was a terrific balance of lecture, exercise, and activity
  9. Hard to say. Almost every session was wonderful. I suppose the course's great strength was the comprehensiveness of the lectures, and the opportunity, at the end of each, to ask lots of questions and to hear the thoughts of my fellow students and colleagues! Also, the hands-on nature of the course was very effective.
  10. The diversity of the group of students (professionally, at least). The level of discussion and everyone's curiosity was really excellent.
  11. The hands-on work with older technology.
- 7) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. Deeper dive into readings. Not sure how to do that without replacing useful discussion and demos during class.

2. There was some problem with getting the email out about setting up the BitCurator software ahead of time, and that caused some confusion once we were in the classroom because of students needing extensive technical help.
3. I wonder about having everyone bring a laptop. The installation of the virtual machine and BitCurator caused a myriad of minor technical issues that people had to work through. I wonder if class time should be allocated right at the beginning to get everyone set up. If I were a philanthropist, I would help fund a computer lab for the class's use so we would all be able to work on pre-set up machines. However, the point of the software is also to learn how to set it up and work with it in your own computing environment. Perhaps I take back my suggestion!
4. In "Digitizing the Historical Record," we developed a project that we built on throughout the week. I wonder if a similar experience would be useful and interesting in this class; something that could grow throughout the week and bring in all the elements we explored.
5. See above.
6. I think that having the Virtual Machine and extension installed before class is a good idea. However, I think the BitCurator should be installed in class, and there should be an hour or so trouble shooting period to ensure everyone can be on the same page or at least mentally prepared to follow along with another student.
7. More hands-on labs!
8. Perhaps we could have all installed BitCurator together. It's a great tool, but a little challenging to use when you're not acquainted with it
9. Perhaps include a bit more on pedagogy with born-digital materials, as well as digital poetics. These were covered in the Q&A held on the last day. Otherwise, I can see little room for any improvement. This really was a fantastic course.
10. {No response—RBS staff}
11. I thought it worked well as it was.

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

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. Yes.
8. Yes.
9. Yes.
10. Yes.
11. Yes.

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

1. Working with clients to prepare them to donate collections.
2. Processing born-digital materials.
3. I intend to apply my skills as soon as possible. I can't wait to talk to my supervisor and my colleagues about how we can be more confident and forward-moving with

- regard to born-digital archives. I have a sense of what resources may be required, and now I can make a compelling case for them.
4. I hope to use it very directly for our digital collections building.
  5. I will certainly use some of the more theoretical aspects in my research, but also leave with valuable new ways of thinking about archives and the digital humanities.
  6. Going to practice BitCuration on my laptop at home, and I intend to ask my special collections department if there are any media I can work on.
  7. Establishing workflows and platforms in my institution.
  8. This course will give me the knowledge and vocabulary to help shape practice at my institution, and will be useful when I work with donors and colleagues.
  9. Curating collections of legacy machines. Collecting born-digital texts. Academic research and teaching.
  10. Many of the archival processes/workflows will be useful in non-archives projects. Pretty much all of it is relevant to library school.... Generally hard to anticipate exactly how I'll need to use it, but I'm confident a need will arise.
  11. In my archival work, and to experiment with it to master skills.

10) *If your course left its classroom, was the time devoted to this purpose well spent?*

1. Yes.
2. Not as much as it could have been. See above.
3. Yes, we saw the FRED machine in SC, and we saw some relevant items from SC. Very helpful to see a unit in operation.
4. Yes.
5. Yes. The discussion of art books was particularly nice in anticipation of the presentation on Agrippa.
6. It was nice to see FRED.
7. Yes.
8. Yes, our trip to SC was wonderful.
9. Yes, the visit to SC was useful. It would be great to see a demo of FRED in the future!
10. SC trip was really interesting—only wish we could have seen more books.
11. N/A.

11) *If you attended the evening events (e.g., RBS Lecture, Video Night, RBS Forum, Booksellers' Night), were they worth attending?*

1. Yes.
2. Yes, both lectures were interesting.
3. Yes, I went to both lectures and thoroughly enjoyed them! I was tired, but it was worth it.
4. Went to the lectures and yes, they were worth attending.
5. MK's lecture was a wonderful complement to the course.
6. N/A.
7. Yes. However, most of the book stores were closed on Booksellers' Night.
8. The lectures were outstanding, especially MK's.

9. The lectures were both very stimulating. It was great to hear about Jan Radway's work in the context of this course—and MK's talk on Updike provided an important case study dead relevant to our work.

10. Yes.

11. Yes.

12) *We are always concerned about the physical well-being both of the RBS teaching collections and of materials owned by UVA's Special Collections. If relevant, what suggestions do you have for the improved classroom handling of such materials used in your course this week?*

1. N/A.

2. None.

3. N/A.

4. N/A.

5. N/A.

6. N/A.

7. None.

8. The collections were appropriately handled and cared for.

9. Yes.

10. {No response—RBS staff}

11. I don't.

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

1. Yes, it was worthwhile. Not sure whom to recommend it to in my office.

2. Yes, and yes.

3. Oh yes! I would heartily recommend to a couple of my colleagues to come here. No hesitation.

4. Yes, and have.

5. Yes, and yes.

6. YES!!

7. Yes, I feel the money was well sent and yes, I would recommend it.

8. ABSOLUTELY!

9. Yes—my institution totally got its money's worth. This class is a great deal. Go for it.

10. Yes, but I do regret not applying for RBS scholarships or other outside funding.

11. Yes, I would recommend this class.

14) *Any final or summary thoughts, or advice for other persons considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {No response—RBS staff}

2. No.

3. MK and NN have done an amazing job developing this course. I hope this course continues.

4. {No response—RBS staff}

5. {No response—RBS staff}

6. N/A.
7. {No response—RBS staff}.
8. The whole experience was wonderful. Thank you for having this program.
9. I had a fantastic week. Thanks to MK, NN, and my classmates for a memorable and enriching educational experience.
10. {No response—RBS staff}
11. There should be a “part two” in which there are presentations about other institutions’ digital collections and more old computers.

### **Aggregate Statistics**

*Number of respondents: 11*

#### **Leave**

Institution gave me leave: 7 (63.63%)  
 I took vacation time or unpaid leave: 2 (18.18%)  
 N/A: student, retired, or had summers off: 2 (18.18%)

#### **Tuition**

Institution paid tuition: 5 (45.45%)  
 Institution and student shared cost: 1 (9.09%)  
 I paid tuition: 3 (27.27%)  
 Scholarship from RBS: 1 (9.09%)  
 Fellowship from RBS: 1 (9.09%)

#### **Housing**

Institution paid housing: 4 (36.36%)  
 Institution and student shared cost: 1 (9.09%)  
 I paid for my own housing: 3 (27.27%)  
 Fellowship from RBS: 1 (9.09%)  
 N/A: stayed with friends or lived at home: 2 (18.18%)

#### **Travel**

Institution paid travel: 5 (45.45%)  
 I paid my own travel: 4 (36.36%)  
 N/A: I had only local travel expenses: 1 (9.09%)  
 Other: 1 (9.09%)

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

Archivist: 2 (18.18%)  
 Curator: 2 (18.18%)  
 M.L.I.S. student: 3 (27.27%)  
 Ph.D. student (humanities): 1 (9.09%)  
 Library/University Administrator: 2 (18.18%)  
 Teacher or professor: University: assistant professor: 1 (9.09%)