

## Narrative Evaluations

- 1) *Do you have any practical suggestions for improvements to RBS's online logistics?*
  1. no.
  2. I'm not sure that I like Gather.town—I wonder if a more traditional setup with breakout rooms would be a better way to facilitate networking.
  3. {no response}
  4. Online logistics were smooth—no suggestions
  5. Smoother transitions; this was a little clunky between going from powerpoint to video clip to third camera. Options or scheduled time for 'camera off' acceptability - for example during video clips and/or powerpoint slides.
  6. Separate discussion periods from lecture periods during class and encourage students only to run their videos during discussion. Otherwise there is too much technical difficulty/lag with all video feeds running all day.
  7. None.
  8. {no response}
  9. RBS did a great job transitioning the program as much as possible to an online format. Hopefully you can get back to in-person classes next year!
  10. {no response}
  11. I thought it was very well run, and overall I think the format is good. Slightly longer breaks would be nice, but I understand it is a lot of content to fit into a 5-day course. I think sitting on the computer is more tiring than being able to interact in person, or have time to look at physical items. So having a bit more time that is unstructured where people could chat in the course would be good.
  12. No, although it definitely changed the nature of the course.
  13. A more central location for all course documents might make things less confusing – there was the dropbox, which was helpful, but only if you know where to find the link in your email. Maybe there is a way to integrate Dropbox into MyRBS. Having MyRBS include links to Dropbox, Gather.town, Zoom, etc., would make things easier and more user friendly.
  14. {no response}
  15. Zoom was good, but often impossible for me to see the videos. Google whiteboard option might have been helpful?
  16. Hosting the course through zoom worked well, but it would be great to have a way to refer back to the links and items shared throughout the class. An online platform like Slack that would be searchable and enable the same sharing abilities as the listserv would be great.
  17. {no response}
  
- 2) *How would you describe your encounters with RBS staff?*
  1. Fabulous
  2. Wonderful! All of the RBS staff are excellent humans.

3. Great - everyone was friendly and responsive
  4. Excellent; staff were helpful and generous.
  5. Excellent. I've interacted with Donna, Neal, and Breanna with successful troubleshooting and general chat!
  6. positive
  7. Lovely.
  8. {no response}
  9. Pleasant and efficient
  10. Extremely helpful, accommodating, and thorough!
  11. Great! Everyone I interacted with was wonderful. Intelligent, friendly, and open to discussion.
  12. Breanna was friendly, organized and attentive, and kept everything running smoothly all week.
  13. Wonderful! Very helpful, kind, understanding and smart!
  14. Wonderful. Everyone was very helpful.
  15. Friendly and helpful staff, occasionally delayed in responses.
  16. All RBS staff were very helpful, cordial and professional.
  17. Phenomenal. This was my first experience with RBS, and I will be signing up for further education in the future.
- 3) *If you attended any of our optional evening events, do you feel that they were a good use of your time? Were there any that were particularly important to your RBS experience?*
1. Absolutely
  2. I always appreciate the Tuesday evening lecture.
  3. {no response}
  4. They were a good use of time; I especially appreciated Noelani Arista's talk—it's great to hear about projects that work with communities and projects/research that expand the traditional contours of the field of book history.
  5. {no response}
  6. {no response}
  7. {no response}
  8. yes
  9. I attended the Tuesday lecture and enjoyed it.
  10. {no response}
  11. I attended the Tuesday night lecture which was very informative. It also rounded out a topic we were discussing in class about subscription publishing.
  12. I enjoyed listening to the Tuesday lecture, even if family commitments made it impossible to participate in any of the social events.
  13. {no response}
  14. Yes, I found the Tuesday night lecture to be really interesting.
  15. I enjoyed the evening lecture. I wasn't interested in Gather.town after a day of Zoom.
  16. The lecture on Tuesday was informative and interesting, and was relevant to my course.

17. Yes! Michael Suarez's talk on serialization played into a key point of discussion for my course.
- 4) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Are there any readings that you would like to see added or removed in future years?*
1. Yes, they were very useful.
  2. Gaskell—though a slog—is an important bibliographic resource. I also enjoyed Steinberg's Five Hundred Years of Printing.
  3. {no response}
  4. yes
  5. Yes, readings were useful. I would suggest starting with "Apart from the Text" which was certainly the most accessible where Gaskill is the most technical and dense.
  6. The readings were useful but difficult to access. Consider making PDF sections of certain out-of-print titles available to students in a course reader, if possible.
  7. The pre-course reading assignments were very informative and provided an excellent background for the in-person session during the RBS week.
  8. yes - I did the readings and looked up videos to better understand the content
  9. Yes - useful for preparation, and also for reference during the week and for the future.
  10. Yes, I enjoyed the pre-course reading and found it to be helpful background going into the week
  11. I thought the pre-course readings were helpful for setting up what we were learning about this week.
  12. The pre-course reading assignments were very information heavy, and the descriptions of processes provided in the lecture were much clearer than reading the same thing. Apart from that, the text was very accessible and enjoyable to read. Stineberg could probably be dropped.
  13. Somewhat. Links to some of the videos might be helpful for viewing before or after the course as well.
  14. Yes, I especially enjoyed Rota, Apart from the Text. It was not only educational but a pleasure to read. The other's were also interesting but a bit harder to get through. I'm definitely glad I read them and I think they give a good foundation for the course.
  15. The reading assignments were useful but very dense. I didn't give myself enough time to read thoughtfully through some of it and that is my own fault. I had a limited amount of time since I checked the books out through interlibrary loans.
  16. The pre-course reading assignments provided important context and different perspectives on the content covered in class, and helped me understand the content and ask better questions.
  17. {no response}
- 5) *What are your thoughts on the course workbook and/or other teaching materials distributed during class? Was the content appropriate and useful? Will it continue to be useful for you after the course?*

1. Everything was engaging and informative.
  2. The content was excellent!
  3. {no response}
  4. The content was very helpful and will be very useful to me after the course
  5. n/a
  6. The powerpoints were helpful, as were the books shared from the Grolier collection. It would have been helpful to have a list of video URLs shared in order to run videos on our respective home computers without lags or other technical difficulties.
  7. The various video clips and books shared will be valuable reference points after the course. I plan on incorporating some of this material into my instruction.
  8. No workbook???
  9. There was no workbook, but the Powerpoint presentations included many excellent illustrations and links to videos. Eric said these slides would be made available to us, which would be wonderful.
  10. Yes, content was useful in understanding the technologies and providing a broader context of the forces driving each advancement. In the future, I would love to see more discussions of women and BIPOC folks in printing history.
  11. I think the power points Eric used will be helpful.
  12. The videos and collection items will be useful on an ongoing basis.
  13. We did not receive a workbook – but since we were online, I do wish the class came with a packet of material examples of some of the things we discussed, such as a piece of metal type, samples of handmade paper, etc. Or, instructions to purchase an older (but affordable) book on our own and to prepare to discuss some of its properties with the class. Basically, something material to engage with since we were not looking at objects together in person.
  14. N/A
  15. We did not have a course workbook, although it would've been great to have one and I would've found it very useful in reviewing the collection of books at the institution I am employed at.
  16. The instructor's presentations were distributed, and those contained information that I find useful personally and would recommend to others for efficient introduction to the content.
  17. The chat feature on zoom was helpful in sharing links to collections, videos, libraries, and related information from teacher to classmate, or classmate to classmate. Personally, I saved most links we passed back and forth and will continue to revisit!
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your RBS course? Did you walk away with any “aha!” moments, new ideas, or project plans?*
1. I'm guest editing an issue of a journal on Victorian popular fictions and the information about illustration will be very useful.
  2. I will be using what I learned to further my own research into Victorian chapbooks and print ephemera. It will also help in my participation in my

workplace's instruction program, where we often must lecture to students at the undergraduate and graduate level on the history of the book.

3. I'm excited to "quiz myself" by looking at books in the collections I curate and seeing if I can identify more of the technical processes involved in their production. I'm also keenly interested in learning more about the raw materials used in book production, having learned a bit about the role of limestone, rubber, etc.
4. I plan to use the skills/knowledge in future courses I will teach about the history of the book and a future project on 19c books and periodicals.
5. I started working on an Illustration Process decision tree which will be super useful in my daily work! I have always found these processes difficult to understand and grasp, and this course has certainly demonstrated and explained these processes and their differentiations.
6. I've already shared information about print technology and history with other people at the MN Center for Book Arts, and I plan to use many of the print samples shared in class as inspiration for future art projects.
7. The course will impact both my instruction as well as research. The broad overview of trends during this period was useful in connecting technological innovations to socio-cultural changes. Barbara Heritage's presentation was excellent and provided a wonderful conclusion to the week.
8. I will use them in cataloging special collections books from this period
9. "I am now slightly better prepared to handle and appreciate nineteenth-century books. ""aha"" moments included realizing the richness and uniqueness of the Grolier Club's collections. "
10. Yes! Many ideas percolating at the moment...
11. I learned so, so much in this course. I think I came to it with some prior knowledge about many of the major milestones in publishing and the changing ideas about print media and books. But I learned so much more and it will be very helpful for me in finishing my History thesis, as well as my work as a librarian moving forward in knowing about how books were made in the West during the past 200 years. It also gave me a new found appreciation for Linotype and Monotype machines, oddly enough. I was also sort of romantic about hand composition, but I think there is so much to know about the technological advancements that led to books and newspapers/periodicals being such a big part of so many people's lives.
12. The information we discussed will make me a more effective curator and teacher in my collection. It has given me insights into teaching from our own holdings that will benefit the students and faculty on campus.
13. Seeing videos and examples of all the different presses and technical procedures was very helpful and the discussion of artists' books/"what is a book?" was fun.
14. This course will help me in identifying the processes that went into making the books that I work with daily. I did have many moments where I could recognize Eric's examples as similar to items I've encountered in my library.

15. After digesting this dense amount of material, I hope to review the collection for which I am a curator and hope to be able to pick out new items to highlight in exhibitions.
  16. The course provided directly relevant information and context for a project I'm working on, a recreation of an early 20th century novel for print with additional illustrations. The information on printing processes, technology and aesthetic trends can help me in all my design work. The last session on artist books, however, was downright inspirational. It was a treat to see the texts that the instructor presented, and my classmates provided so many other interesting examples.
  17. I learned a lot this week, which will continue to facilitate my growth in my own small press practices and ventures publishing. As for a fun project plan, I'm going to attempt to build a micro-press from scratch!
- 7) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*
1. Yes, I learned a lot.
  2. Yes!
  3. Yes! I feel like I will be able to do certain parts of my job with greater expertise - particularly teaching and exhibition work. In the past, I struggled to incorporate aspects of book history into these areas, but I feel much better equipped to do so now.
  4. I took this course to try to get a firm foundation in printing technologies and processes, and I am certainly taking that away. It was thorough, the instruction was clear; and I'm grateful for the crash course!
  5. Yes! Eric was great, very patient when we had technical questions about processes and was able to explain them in a way that was easy to understand.
  6. Yes, I learned even more than I expected about image reproduction technology. I would have liked more information about contemporary publishing and print technology, but I felt it was appropriate to linger on historical printing and the industrial revolution as much as possible.
  7. Yes. Eric was very open to answering questions and providing further resources. This felt like a good foundational course to take (and ideally to build on by attending additional RBS courses with more focused topics).
  8. yes
  9. On the whole, yes. The course description was very accurate.
  10. Yes. In the last year, I had attempted to teach myself much of the material covered, but I was left with many holes and misunderstandings of complex printing technologies. Eric's thorough and accessible introductions to a wide range of printing technologies helped clarify my confusions, so I'm grateful to have this proper foundation moving forward. Probably an inevitable time crunch, but would have loved to go a little more in depth into the phototypesetting era (feel like we sped through the 20th century rather quickly after a more leisurely exploration of the 1800s).

11. Yes, I think the course description explains the information and skills that the instructor taught throughout the week.
12. Yes, I did.
13. Yes, but I wish there was some sort of tactile component or "homework" assignment before or during that would give us that tactile experience.
14. Yes, I learned what I was hoping for and more!
15. As this was my first class, I came to it with no preconceived notions other than developing greater respect and understanding of books after the fine press era. I think I am a step closer in that adventure.
16. The course definitely satisfied the description. It would have been great to see the materials in person but I appreciate that the instructor and RBS did the best they could for an online class.
17. Eric is a bank of knowledge and an incredible instructor. While I still have follow up questions, the resources and connections made this week will allow me to further my knowledge even after the course's ending.

8) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*

1. Not really (other than meeting in person).
2. {no response}
3. Having all of the illustrative examples lined up in advance would have been good, so that we could spend more time with the material itself
4. It is hard to replicate the experience of working with materials on zoom, and I think the course was as good as possible given the virtual constraints. I wonder if doing some exercises in break out rooms would work—I found myself wishing I had more practice looking at materials. Again, I know zoom constraints are tough to work with.
5. {no response}
6. I was surprised to hear Eric say he wasn't familiar with chapbooks. That seems like a real blindspot, especially after lingering on fine press operations around the turn of the twentieth century. I would have liked more information about contemporary fine art printing, and perhaps other artist book print technology such as risographs.
7. {deleted response}
8. more examples
9. "Future editions of this course will hopefully be able to return to an in-person format, including excursions and interactive exercises. In any format, perhaps more time should be spent examining individual artifacts (in small groups or as a class), and less time watching videos - some of these (especially the longer ones) could be assigned as homework."
10. For future online sessions, it would be great to troubleshoot video quality...many videos were quite choppy when shown via screenshare. Not sure if this is something that can be improved or is just a side effect of Zoom, but it would be very useful to see them in a smoother manner.

11. I wish it could be in person, but it was very well-done for an online course. I thought Eric offered a good mix of slides, videos, and looking at books from the Grolier Club collection.
12. If the online option is going to continue, it would be good to develop some hands-on activities using digital objects to provide some variety to the lessons.
13. Sending a packet of related course materials to each student (piece of metal type, paper samples, etc.) Also, more time for class discussion/engagement.
14. I only wish that it could have been in person.
15. to have a helper for the professor so he could focus on the delivery of the material instead of the time to get the camera to work for Zoom or the videos queued up.
16. {no response}
17. I wish we had more time!

9) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*

1. Anyone interested in books!
2. Working librarians and archivists
3. {no response}
4. People with interests in the history of the book; printing; illustration processes; and typography.
5. Anyone working with 19th and 20th century printed collections.
6. Library staff working with special collections, artists, teaching artists, book collectors
7. Anyone interested in a general overview of book history, especially technologies, in the post 1800 period. This course provides a great starting point for studying book history in this period.
8. Someone teaching a course about these books
9. Anyone with a genuine interest in modern printing and book history. At least some initial familiarity with material aspects of books might help in order not to become overwhelmed and/or bored.
10. Librarians, design historians, type designers, book designers, etc
11. Library professionals, artists, letterpress printers. I think a wide array of educators could take this course, especially English/literature.
12. Someone who regularly works in other periods of book history, or other disciplines in the 19th century.
13. Anyone interested in the history of printing, especially anyone who would like more modern printing techniques to be demystified!
14. Anyone who is interested in the history of the book but doesn't have formal training on it.
15. Anyone looking to understand the history of bookmaking, book presses, paper, type, illustration etc. after 1800.
16. This course would be great for students of bookmaking, in addition to the archivists and library audience it currently serves.
17. Anyone with an interest in the printed history and/or fine press movements throughout time. Bibliophiles, art historians, librarians, cataloguers, antiquarian booksellers... the list goes on!

10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth?*

1. Yes.
2. Absolutely!
3. Yes
4. yes
5. Yes!
6. yes
7. Yes.
8. yes
9. Yes.
10. Yes
11. I got a scholarship, but I would not hesitate paying for a class with the Rare Book School in the future.
12. Yes.
13. {no response}
14. Yes!
15. {deleted response}
16. It was a worthwhile experience, but I do think that it may have been worthwhile to offer the courses at a slightly lower cost since they are online.
17. Absolutely.

11) *On a scale of 1–10 with 10 being most likely, how likely are you to recommend this course to others?*

1. 10
2. 10
3. 8
4. 8
5. 9
6. 10
7. 8
8. 8
9. 6
10. 10
11. 10
12. 7
13. 6
14. 10
15. 9
16. 8
17. 10

12) *If your course had any virtual field trips or guest speakers, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. {no response}

2. {no response}
3. Yes - the guest speaker in this class made a wonderful presentation and I learned a lot from it
4. n/a
5. Barbara was wonderful! I wish we had had more time with her!
6. yes
7. Dr. Barbara Heritage is AMAZING! I learned so much from her!
8. yes
9. Yes - Barbara Heritage gave a wonderful presentation on her work around "Jane Eyre" - very rich and clear. No virtual field trips unfortunately, other than many videos and glimpses of the Grolier Club's collections.
10. Jane Eyre discussion was interesting, and I'm sure is especially fun in person in normal years
11. Barbara Heritage gave an excellent talk about the publishing history of Jane Eyre! Barbara was incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the subject material, and really gave an extensive overview of how to think about bibliographic history. Especially as it relates to one author and piece of literature. There were so many angles to the talk and it really helped with thinking about ways to approach book history.
12. Yes, Barbara Heritage's talk on Jane Eyre was great to see, for the subject and for thinking about collections that cross areas and genres.
13. Barbara Heritage's presentation was phenomenal!
14. Absolutely. Barbara Heritage's talk on her work with Jane Eyre was definitely a highlight.
15. Yes, I have a great passion for the Bronte sister's novels, so it was a thrilling hour of information about Barbara's adventures in research.
16. The guest speaker in the morning course on Friday was great, a perfect fit for course content and a great overview of what the publishing process looks like for a specific book.
17. Without giving too much away, our guest speaker, Barbara Heritage was certainly well spent.

13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {deleted response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. This course provides a broad, informative overview, with a particular focus on technology and illustration.
10. {no response}

11. Do it! You will love taking a class with RBS!
12. {no response}
13. If online, try to have examples of different types of books and printing/illustration handy so you can follow along with what's shown on screen (or be prepared to make a trip to your local special collections library to look at some examples in person afterward).
14. Don't stress about understanding the technical processes from the readings. Eric will go over them in class with video demonstrations and everything will become clear!
15. It's a great class about the development of presses, paper, and some key players in the post- fine press era of printing. You will look at your book collections in a new light.
16. {no response}
17. Come ready to learn, and ask as many questions as you can.

14) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*

1. Highly recommend.
2. Absolutely magnificent!
3. So much new information and so excited to put it to use!
4. {no response}
5. Looking forward to my next class!
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. Io. Grolieri et Amicorum
10. Info-packed week with a thoughtful group and engaging instructor...excited for more RBS courses to come.
11. Fascinating!
12. Very informative.
13. Enjoyed the opportunity and learned a lot but looking forward to RBS in person!
14. Jam-packed!
15. The printed book course / Presses, paper, typesetting / Irony on Zoom
16. Tremendously helpful, occasionally entertaining and historically fascinating.
17. I'll be back for more!

## **Student Data**

*Number of Respondents: 17 (of 17)*

*How did you arrange for time off to attend this course?*

1. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
2. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
3. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.

4. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
5. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
6. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
7. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
8. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
9. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
10. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
11. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
12. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
13. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
14. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
15. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
16. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
17. My situation does not fit any of the options above.

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

1. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
2. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
3. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
4. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
5. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
6. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
7. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
8. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
9. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
10. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part of my tuition expenses; my employer paid the rest.
11. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
12. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
13. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
14. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
15. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
16. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
17. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.

*Not including this year, how many RBS courses have you attended?*

1. This is my first course.
2. 1
3. This is my first course.
4. 1

5. 1
6. This is my first course.
7. 2
8. 1
9. 2
10. 1
11. This is my first course.
12. This is my first course.
13. This is my first course.
14. This is my first course.
15. This is my first course.
16. This is my first course.
17. This is my first course.

*Which of the following best describes your current occupation?*

1. Professional educator: Lecturer/adjunct
2. Library discipline: Archivist
3. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
4. Professional educator: Associate professor
5. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
6. Student working towards a/an: M.L.I.S./M.L.S.
7. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
8. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
9. Professional educator: Associate professor
10. Book Trades: Other
11. Library discipline: Library assistant/clerk
12. Library discipline: Curator
13. Library discipline: Curator
14. Library discipline: Library assistant/clerk
15. Library discipline: Other
16. Other Occupations/Vocations: Other
17. Book Trades: Antiquarian bookseller