

Joel Silver  
L-25a: Reference Sources for Researching Rare Books  
19–23 July 2021

### **Narrative Evaluations**

1) *Do you have any practical suggestions for improvements to RBS's online logistics?*

1. Online logistics were great. Would recommend a lapel mic for Joel for this particular course, as he often held books up or turned away from his computer to his bookshelf and it muffled his voice through Zoom.
2. no
3. n/a
4. {no response}
5. It all worked very well - despite my terrible internet.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. No, everything went smoothly. I think RBS adjusted well to an online environment.
9. It was run very well!
10. {no response}
11. The only thought I had was pausing rather than ending the Zoom meeting during breaks.
12. Works well, especially the information guide with all relevant links and resources arranged logically.
13. It was all really well done!
14. {no response}
15. In this course the host developed a protocol to record zoom chat and add to the dropbox and the collation of google docs list of shared links etc. Making this a formal part of the documentation would be a good thing.
16. {no response}
17. I did not have problems with RBS's online logistics and do not have practical suggestions.
18. I really didn't like Gather Town. I guess it's more appealing to those who do gaming as entertainment and I haven't done that in many years, so I didn't find it intuitive or easy to use.
19. This course was really well-organized and covered so much information. One logistical note that I would make is to suggest that Joel consider beginning the course with one or two of the sample questions that he posed on the last day. This might prime students to think more strategically about how they might use the sources.
20. Originally I wondered about requiring cameras on during class (not sure what the rights are about that), but by the end of the week, I think the 10-15 people who kept theirs on actually more recreated the feel of an RBS class than if the 38

people (!) had all had their cameras on. I did feel like I got to know the people who did, so maybe there's some "strong recommendation" to do so?

21. NO
22. Nope. It was really well done and went smoothly!
23. I can't imagine the online course could have been handled better.
24. No suggestions for improvements.
25. no
26. RBS did an amazing job! The Technology Guide and technology orientation sessions were the best I've ever seen. Practical suggestion: when sending the daily reminder with the Zoom link, copy-and-paste the "Join Zoom Meeting" link from the middle of the message to the top, so it can be found in a hurry (by default, it's after the .ics link, so if you're in a panic to find the URL in the seconds before class starts, you're liable to click the calendar link)
27. {no response}
28. None. I thought this worked very well online and I have taken MANY online courses in various fields over the past several years, including teaching online.
29. It might be nice for RBS to create calendar events that match up with the actual schedule of the course (accounting for breaks) that include the Zoom link for the course; that way, students who have reminders set up on their calendars will be reminded when they need to enter the course at the start of the day or rejoin the course after a break. I was able to put those kinds of events together manually for myself, but if there is a way for RBS to create that schedule and then send it out to all students for the course, that would be helpful!
30. I thought they did a great job trying to make social opportunities and to include everyone. Truly impressive
31. I found the days in the online classes far too long, I think it would have been more manageable spread out over 2 weeks.
32. I think the class worked well. It might be possible to cut down some of the breaks. Maybe a shorter lunch break.
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. If there's any way to pin the people with video enabled would be super helpful. I liked seeing everyone to make it feel like an in-person setting!
36. start earlier with longer breaks
37. The online logistics were great! The virtual format ran much better than expected.

2) *How would you describe your encounters with RBS staff?*

1. Great
2. excellent
3. Wonderful! Joel was a wonderful instructor and Will was a wonderful assistant!
4. Everyone is very friendly and knowledgeable
5. {no response}
6. Great, everyone has been friendly and helpful
7. Always excellent

8. Always pleasant and professional
9. Excellent and easy.
10. Very cordial and helpful!
11. All excellent.
12. Knowledgeable, helpful, respond in a timely manner.
13. Delightful and helpful!
14. Literally everyone I've encountered working at Rare Books School has been an absolute gem.
15. Excellent. Fun, Professional, Friendly
16. Rare Book School staff are all very professional and yet still warm and approachable. They are so helpful and always around when you need them.
17. My encounters with RBS staff were far less frequent in the online environment than when I've taken courses in-person, but they were engaging, congenial, and reflected RBS's overall professionalism.
18. RBS staff are usually professional/nice.
19. The RBS staff has been incredibly helpful, welcoming, and organized.
20. Absolutely nothing but helpful. Will Norton was the IT assistant for my class, and he was attentive and responsive and very helpful in gathering up links people in the class posted.
21. Very helpful; great; made my life easy
22. I only had a couple of interactions, but they were professional and kind.
23. Always wonderful. Our course assistant was terrific and all contacts with other staff have always been of the highest caliber. They have done the most amazing job of orchestrating the online environment and transferring courses to this format.
24. The RBS staff I encountered were kind, hardworking, effective, and efficient.
25. Helpful, friendly, prompt
26. In glowing terms.
27. {no response}
28. Pleasant. The RBS Staff member, Will, was very helpful and friendly.
29. RBS staff have always been extremely helpful and proactive; they're so prepared and they know their stuff!
30. I didn't ever need to reach out 1x1 because they foresaw every need or question I might have had.
31. They were very friendly and professional
32. Excellent. Helpful
33. {no response}
34. They were wonderful! Joel is so knowledgeable and a patient, generous instructor. Will Norton was always on-the-ball and coordinated. He was also so responsive and immediately actioned anything we talked about in the chat or course.
35. Fantastic and super helpful.
36. Overwhelmingly positive!
37. Always positive!

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. N/A
2. Tuesday evening's lecture was very interesting
3. n/a
4. {no response}
5. As I am in the UK i was too exhausted by Joel's fantastic lectures to attend - apologies
6. {no response}
7. Very interesting Tuesday lecture
8. LOVED the lecture this week on Lost Archives; appreciated the social gathering afterwards
9. I would have loved to be there for both!
10. {no response}
11. I attended the lecture on recycling paper in the Middle East and it was fascinating.
12. Did not attend.
13. Welcome from RBS director and staff was educational, inspirational and whetted my enthusiasm for learning in the coming week.
14. I feel as though I've benefited tremendously from attending the online RBS lectures. Even when they are not necessarily directly or immediately applicable to my particular work as a cataloguer, they expand my knowledge of the history of the book and make me a better cataloguer in the long run.
15. Wanted to, but time zone made it impossible.
16. Tuesday Evening lectures are always timely and informative on a wide variety of book-related topics and the lecturers are usually someone I've read about or read their work.
17. I attended the opening reception and Tuesday lecture online, and both were a great use of my time. The lecture was especially excellent. I'm very interested in Islamicate book history, and I've heard interviews with Marina Rustow before, and I learned so much.
18. N/A
19. {no response}
20. I recognize how hard it is to recreate the RBS in-person experience. I think the RBS staff has tried very hard to do so, and I can't fault them for people signing out and vanishing, and not making use of Gathertown as it was designed. Donna Sy has gone to heroic lengths to entice people to Gathertown--I think the basic fact is that in C'ville, people gravitate back to RBS Central and mill around by default; online it's too easy to think, "I'm exhausted" and log off. For me, at least, exhaustion and household chores were a major factor I'm not sure can be solved in the online experience. Chalk it up to the pandemic!
21. I went to Tuesday talk with apprehension, but came away energized and happy that I attended.
22. {no response}

23. The Marina Rustow lecture was one of the best I have ever been to.
24. The evening lecture was interesting and worth the time.
25. i can't say, I wasn't able to attend the first two but will attend the last one.
26. Yes! (1) I thought I was an expert user of the various online platforms, but learned some things I didn't know at the orientation session. (2) I thought the Tuesday Night lecture would be so out-of-scope for me that I wouldn't be able to follow the speaker, but she crafted her argument beautifully, spoke engagingly, and touched on issues and ideas that give food for thought to for any field.
27. {no response}
28. N/A. I was unable to attend the online events this time.
29. I was unable to attend the optional evening events due to scheduling conflicts, but they all sounded wonderful!
30. I did not have the time, but that's more reflective of my personal schedule than RBS
31. I didn't, although the content was very interesting, but I was getting horrible headaches from so many hours in front of the computer already.
32. {no response}
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. Yes they are very enlightening! Marina Rustow's course was particularly fascinating to me as I have been interested in the Cairo Genizah for a long time!
36. I was so burnt out from class that I found myself unable to attend the optional evening events
37. I think GatherTown was great in theory; but, in practice, not enough people attended to make it a worthwhile experience.

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, useful
2. yes / no
3. Yes!
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Yes, very useful!
7. Yes
8. {no response}
9. Multimedia format was good!
10. Yes, the pre-course reading assignments were useful. Especially liked the Kraus video.
11. They were great.
12. Generally useful.
13. They were very useful, and a good amount.
14. I felt as though I got good intellectual and professional use out of the readings, especially the Tanselle. For this course, I think that a good optional pre-session exercise would be to issue all enrolled students a much abbreviated list of

resources (no longer than one page in length) & encourage them to consult/review as many of these as possible so as to familiarise themselves with the varying types of reference resources (bibliography, bio-bibliography, catalogue, dictionary, etc.) that one might encounter.

15. The reading assignments were useful and interesting. It was good to have a course that didn't require an investment in texts before starting...although the outcome of the course will be a huge spend on research texts in the future!
16. Pre-course readings were excellent -- the HP Kraus video was terrific
17. The pre-course readings were very helpful and allowed me to start familiarizing myself with some of the course material before starting, which is helpful to have some background because Joel moves at a quick pace at times to get through everything. The readings also introduced me to a lot of useful reference resources that weren't covered during the week.
18. The pre-course reading assignments were useful.
19. I had encountered the reading in a different context before, but I appreciated having it as a frame for the course.
20. {no response}
21. All readings/videos are useful. I particularly enjoyed the H.P. Kraus video and recommended it to a few colleagues.
22. Yes!
23. All of the reading assignments were very useful, even those I have read before were good to revisit. The video visit to the sale of H.P Kraus's reference collection was excellent.
24. The preparatory materials were very well suited to this course. This is probably the only RBS course I have taken for which I have been able to get through 100% of the preparatory work.
25. All useful. Please don't remove anything!
26. I wasn't able to find the Tanselle, so can't speak to that, but I found the short articles useful for giving everyone a chance to know the baseline vocabulary that would be used in the class. None of it was new to me, but because they were short, that wasn't a problem. Reading them gave me a helpful "Okay, good, I've got that" feeling of reassurance rather than an annoying "I can't believe I just spent time reading something I already know" feeling of irritation.
27. {no response}
28. Yes. I would also have been fine with more suggested readings with some required and others optional for the course. That said, the materials we covered during the class will provide me with many years worth of reading and researching on my own, and I'm grateful for the direction.
29. The pre-course reading assignments were very useful and packed in a lot of helpful introductory content into what tended to be brief and readable resources. I think that the article on censuses was less directly relevant to the course (as I don't think we discussed censuses much, if at all), but it was still a great read!
30. They were interesting and good introduction to the type of material we talked about in class.
31. {no response}

32. Yes, they were.
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. Yes they were very useful.
36. {no response}
37. {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. Very useful
2. very useful
3. I thought they were great! An excellent resource that I can keep and reference after this class.
4. {no response}
5. Comprehensive is an understatement
6. Very good workbook and teaching materials. So useful to have samples of many of the various sources we were discussing. I am certain I will be consulting these workbooks and materials for my work.
7. The course materials are excellent and I will be referring to them frequently in the future. I have so much reading to do!
8. The course workbooks were instrumental in effectively delivering this class. JS presented everything smoothly online, and these workbooks helped with that delivery.
9. All items and materials were absolutely relevant and useful. I printed everything out in order to write on it directly. The compilation of these materials is now my very own "JS Reference Book."
10. YES. I made my own copy and have added my own notes, links, shelflists in my own institutional library, etc.
11. The teaching materials were well-prepared and easy to follow, with helpful examples throughout.
12. Helpful, relevant, appropriate for an online environment.
13. Workbook content very much appropriate and useful, and I foresee it continuing to be so in my work after the course. Can't wait to dive into the reference sources!
14. The course workbook has been saved as a PDF file & I quite assure you that I will be consulting it regularly in my work moving forward.
15. The content was excellent and well designed. I was able to take copious notes and use a dual screen and keep up the whole time. One small comment: when printing the materials the pagination changed for me as I am outside the US and use A4 not letter as the default. Occasionally when resuming or cross referencing I was confused.
16. The course workbooks Joel provided will be a dog-eared three ring binder full of annotations 20 years from now. It will be a go-to reference resource for me until the day I retire. (Especially Wkbk 1)

17. Joel Silver put together a very useful set of workbooks so that we were able to go through a list of reference resources, annotate each item as he lectured (it helped to do this in the word document rather than a print-out), and look at selected pages from some of the more important resources. The document I created is something I can see myself keeping, adding to, and using for the rest of my career.
18. I found the course workbook useful because I could take notes within the pre-organized document. This will make it easier to refer back to later.
19. JS has amassed a generous and capacious list of bibliographies and catalogues. I will be using these resources for years to come.
20. {no response}
21. The course workbooks were extremely useful, and I will find Workbook I a starter bibliography to use in the future. Workbook II, parts 1-2 helpful to view the item contained and how the information is laid out in the item. Mr. Silver introduced old and newly published items and online resources when available (online resources sometimes with the assistance of students who found links).
22. So helpful and useful! I can't wait to sit down and work my way through all of the titles that were provided for research.
23. The course workbook is essential. There are listings of everything we learned about with space for notes which was really useful. I will refer to this often.
24. All the workbook materials were great. If this class is going to remain online, I wonder whether some exterior shots of the reference book bindings/spines could be added in (as perhaps a 3rd workbook?). When taking notes, sometimes I was frantically typing and looking at the workbook and missed the moments in which the books were shown.
25. I will use Joel's list for the rest of my life probably!
26. YES!!! The workbooks were essential to the class, and I really appreciated having Workbook I as an editable document so that I could take as much space as I needed to take notes (and could take them by typing, so they'd be legible afterwards). This is the first time I've been in a situation where that was possible, and I actually considered printing the whole thing out so that I could make handwritten notes instead, since that's what I'm used to. I'm glad I didn't: now I've got a keyword-searchable version of my notes, and no writer's cramp.
27. {no response}
28. I liked the format. I enjoyed seeing the books that Mr. Silver had in his own collection. It was easy to move from the list of items we were covering (which I printed out) to the Workbook pages (which I kept up on my laptop). I thought the format worked well and allowed me to take notes by hand easily while chatting with students and viewing the course online.
29. The workbooks for this course contain a truly impressive amount of information! They were both appropriate and useful and served as the backbone of the course's content (working our way through the list of reference sources with background information about how they were assembled, what they include, and why they matter; looking at some examples of how those reference sources are formatted; and discussing some of those resources in more detail or asking questions about

them if the need arose). I will definitely be referring back to all of the workbooks after this course!

30. The material was incredibly useful, just amazingly thorough.
31. I look forward to using the resources provided in my work
32. The content was very useful. I liked the examples he shared. It is a lot of information and in a very straight forward format.
33. {no response}
34. This course was hugely useful. We essentially annotated an extensive bibliography together as a joyful, engaged group, led by an erudite, generous, and experienced instructor.
35. The workbooks were extremely helpful and will be used for as long I am in the rare book community!
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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 a cataloger, so I'll use it when identifying obscure rare materials
2. ?
3. This was my first intro to reference sources for rare books. I am intimidated, inspired, and ready to take on new reference questions at my institution.
4. {no response}
5. Once my brain recovers - Joel is an extraordinary resource
6. Gave me exactly what I was hoping for - many sources and exposure to the key elements related to researching rare books. I'm new to the role of special collections and this will help guide me when I can get into the collection and begin learning about it as well as responding to a number of donations requests.
7. As a cataloger, I plan on using all this useful information I now have to help me research the books I am cataloging so that I can improve description for our users. And make my job even more fun!
8. I found this class to be extremely helpful, particularly in understanding common citations in dealer descriptions. I will use this information to help broaden my understanding of particular texts. Am so thankful I took this class!
9. For collection development in both circulating and special collections. The resources contained (and not) will help shape our approach to our never before "weeded" circulating non-fiction collection.
10. YES! I have dozens of catalogues to consult for planning exhibitions of my library's rare books, resources for helping undergraduate researchers locate primary source materials on a variety of topics, and methods for chasing down provenance of some of our rare books. I'm thrilled.
11. To be honest, the vast majority of the information was outside of my area of specialty. But that was not the course's fault. Proctor classification of incunabula. Moebes and other sources. Printing and the Mind of Man and Grolier 100 series on various topics.

12. I plan to develop a reference collection "wall" in our department to better serve patrons and to assist in department librarians to develop the collections.
13. To be perfectly honest, I felt as though I didn't really have an "aha!" moment until the very end of the course, when we reviewed the sample questions (note: big fan of these, they were extremely helpful) & I realised that if I couldn't quite remember all the individual titles that I might consult in answering the questions posed, I certainly had a good idea of where I'd go to look. But most immediately speaking, I hope to use this information in my work in the form of making more extensive citation notes.
14. The course was amazing. The information provided will immediately improve my entire bookselling approach to cataloguing and research. There were many 'aha' moments and my shopping list for reference books is now quite large.
15. I learned so much about the acronyms I always see in my dealer descriptions but more importantly I will be able to research bindings, editions, printings, printers, publishers, and authors much more effectively and efficiently in the future.
16. I plan to use everything I learned and the guide to reference resources that came out of the course in my daily work as a special collections librarian with everything from reference questions to exhibition planning.
17. I walked away from the course with ideas about the subject areas I would like to focus on. At the start of the class I really didn't have any idea where I should begin but I know what our researchers request the most in the library. So, once the subjects came up in class, I was able to highlight those specific areas for deeper evaluation.
18. I have been thinking about African American bibliography in a theoretical context, and what I learned in class will help me to get a better handle on black bibliography as it has already been practiced by scholars, librarians, curators, and collectors, and it will help me to see where I fit into that tradition.
19. {no response}
20. I know I will use the bibliography list when I catalog rare materials, especially for the reference section in catalog records. I will use also the bibliography items to help find these resources and to ascertain the book-i-hand is the same as described in sources.
21. For possible research questions, but mostly for my own knowledge.
22. JS made some of these reference books sound so interesting that I plan to look them up and read their introductions for the information they impart, even subject specific ones that I already have.
23. This course will serve as grounding knowledge for all sorts of future work.
24. lots of aha and armed with reference resources for planned projects
25. "As expected, I learned a ton of information that will help me directly in my work. But I learned so much more. Resources that I thought I knew well had aspects I hadn't noticed on my own, resources I thought were obsolete turned out to have useful information not available elsewhere, resources that were completely irrelevant to my field were filled with fascinating details, and JS's dry sense of humor made the time fly by.

26. New projects: update the ""Useful Reference Resources"" page on our staff wiki; make a pitch to get some books that are buried in the stacks moved to ready-reference; find second-hand copies of things for my home library, including books that are only of entertainment value to me."
  27. {no response}
  28. It will take me some time to process what I learned. I immediately ordered several of the books suggested by Mr. that were in my fields of interest. I intended to read through them and think about how I could use these resources as a collector, but also for my own research interests. I do not yet have a "project plan" but this class inspired me to look at what I'm doing in a new, and I think more productive, way. I had several "aha!" moments and I'm hoping to keep that momentum going as I process what I've learned over the last week. I took a lot of notes. :)
  29. I will definitely be referring back to the lists in the workbooks from this course as I research the rare books at my institution! Now that I have such a comprehensive list of potential reference sources to choose from, my first step will be to work through the list to determine which relevant reference sources my institution already owns and which new resources might be helpful to acquire.
  30. I will definitely be looking into many of the reference works we talked about in class and I'm sure they will help other librarians and scholars at my institution as well.
  31. This course helped me realise that our rare book collection needs a direction and that is something I am going to look more into
  32. Yes! I understand how these bibliographies and sources can actually help me for collection development. I don't think I really realized how this all came together until this class.
  33. {no response}
  34. {no response}
  35. I will use the information from this course to better identify the edition and printing of the books in my care. The information of how a publishing house signals what edition and printing with the use of letters was definitely an aha moment!
  36. {no response}
  37. {no response}
- 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!
  2. yes
  3. Absolutely! A ton of new resources! I'm amazed at the amount of knowledge over this subject that Joe has!
  4. {no response}
  5. Yes.. he also guided me on my (very) specific interest
  6. yes! I got exactly what I was expecting out of it.
  7. Absolutely

8. yes, definitely. The course exceeded my expectations. JS's knowledge of this field is phenomenal; he made it interesting, fun, and relevant. I highly recommend it to others.
9. Absolutely. Above and beyond.
10. YES! And so much more. JS reminded me the thrill of being a librarian in the know. I graduated library school in the past 6 years, and only a few instructors drilled home the importance of print reference books. Now I have a whole list to help answer "reference questions" that may not come from an in-person reference desk, but will CERTAINLY help develop students' research questions and projects and enliven my own research.
11. Yes, instruction was excellent.
12. Lived up to my expectations.
13. Yes, absolutely!
14. Without a doubt, yes. JS was exceedingly knowledgeable, & an informative & engaging speaker.
15. Yes. The course over delivered. I was sad to see it end
16. I absolutely feel I learned even more than I expected. I never felt comfortable using the wall of reference books in our cataloging department before but now I can't wait to dive in!
17. JS taught me everything I had hoped and more, because the course leaves you with the tools you need to keep learning and discovering new reference resources. One of the best things JS taught us were the important indexes and features of certain reference books that you wouldn't immediately notice unless you spent some time with them.
18. Yes, I learned quite a lot and will be learning more with the information gained from this course.
19. Yes. I can't speak more highly of JS's performance as an instructor.
20. JS was amazing. The workbooks for this week all by themselves will be a reference work for me.
21. Yes, and I learned more than I thought.
22. Yes and yes!
23. I learned more than I could have anticipated. JS has so much knowledge that it is just amazing. The other students also have a lot of expertise which they contributed.
24. This course was exactly as advertised. In addition to our wonderful instructor, my classmates were also fantastic contributors.
25. absolutely!
26. I learned so much more than I could have imagined. This was a true master class. And on top of everything, JS kept perfectly to the schedule, but never seemed rushed.
27. {no response}
28. Yes. I did learn what I had hoped to learn.
29. JS definitely accomplished everything promised in the course description and more! He has such a deep understanding of the subject, which he was able to share in a clear, comprehensive, and engaging way, and he could answer any

question you could throw at him. He also has a massive collection of the reference sources discussed in the course, and he always seemed to be able to pull the right book off the shelf at the right time! I learned everything that I had hoped to learn, plus some extra tidbits that I wasn't expecting but were helpful and fascinating!

30. I did!
31. yes
32. Yes. Absolutely.
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. Yes I was very happy with the course description. The advanced readings were super helpful.
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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

1. No
2. ?
3. n/a
4. {deleted response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. Perhaps some examples of some of the books described within certain reference books.
10. ha. improve? what?
11. None that I can think of. It's so much information, but there's not much you can do about that.
12. Bibliographic references in areas I collect such as microscopy books.
13. Hands-on homework assignments in the form of reference questions special collections librarians may receive, using the resources covered on a given day.
14. I got a lot of value out of the sample questions JS posed to us, & in retrospect, I think that this would be worthwhile to incorporate as a daily exercise.
15. The course was the perfect length for the amount of information provided over the week. It could easily be made larger by adding more materials and reference books to consider; or by investigating certain subjects more deeply but that would be difficult to do in the time and format available. Perhaps more time for discussion or worked examples could be useful for people new to the area but again it would change the course.
16. The only way the course would be improved would be to have some homework assignments or even one complex question we each had to research using the materials we learned about. I realize that due to the pandemic most of us didn't have regular access to our collections, so I'm sure that is something that could happen when this course is taught in person.

17. I think the course could only be improved with more time! With more than a week, it would be fun to have exercises that get us using the reference sources we're learning about. JS did work this in a little bit with a set of questions that we discussed in the last few minutes of the course.
18. I had a little trouble keeping up with transitions between the sources but for the most part everything else was great. The instructor is very kind.
19. {no response}
20. {no response}
21. I'm not sure as a lot of the material was new to me. From Chat comments, it seemed many liked it. The instructor was always open to questions.
22. {no response}
23. I think JS did an amazing job of migrating this course to the online format, talking and showing everything he wanted to show, and keeping perfectly to the schedule. It is probably great to have this course in person but he did the best one could ever expect.
24. Just perhaps having images of the bindings.
25. {no response}
26. Not sure if this counts, but keeping the course as an online course, even after the pandemic, would be great. We would have covered so much less if we'd met in person: passing the books around takes too long, and interrupts things. It's enough to have the examples in Workbook II and to see JS hold up the volume itself to give us an idea of the size and color. At first I thought it was an odd choice not to use slides or a document camera, since it meant JS was on camera the whole time, with nowhere to hide, but he was up to the challenge, and kept us engaged.
27. {no response}
28. Not that I can think of.
29. My one note is that it would be nice to sprinkle sample reference questions throughout the course so we could think about how to answer those kinds of questions using the reference sources we were discussing over the course of the week. We quickly went through a bunch of those questions on the last day of the course, which was also great, but it would be helpful to spread those questions out a bit too!
30. I don't know if it needs to be improved, but for me it was really difficult to sit at a computer screen for that long every day. It was far more challenging than I'd anticipated and I really struggled. I thought this course would be well suited to the online format, but for me I think it actually made it harder because there weren't really any opportunities to engage with the material or other students (during the class time at least). But I think these issues are probably more about my learning style than the teaching itself.
31. The online days are too much, it isn't possible to socialise more online after an entire day in front of a screen
32. It is hard because it is almost all straight lecture, but I don't know how that can be helped.
33. {no response}

34. {no response}
35. {no response}
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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

1. Collectors and booksellers
2. ?
3. anyone with an interest in rare book
4. Catalogers and book purchasers.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. Anyone who has interest in rare books and book history that would like more context into what they are looking at.
8. Collectors (of any type--for personal or institutional); historians interested in the field
9. Collection development librarians, rare book dealers, researchers, historians, English majors, cataloguing librarians.
10. Special collections librarians, booksellers, collectors, bibliographers, students of book history--I really don't know who WOULDN'T benefit.
11. Research librarians and book collectors, as well as book dealers.
12. Reference librarians, bibliographers, rare book dealers, collectors.
13. Librarians who deal with rare books, collectors, and new book dealers.
14. Anyone who wants to expand their knowledge of reference literature for the rare books field, especially newcomers to the world of rare books librarianship.
15. Everyone. Whether a beginner or an experienced antiquarian bookseller or librarian - there was something valuable for everyone
16. The wide range of folks who took this class with me was astounding. As a rare book cataloger and acquisitions specialist, this class was vital to my daily work. Book collectors, and small book dealers will also benefit greatly.
17. Anyone who works with rare books seriously will benefit because this course gives you the tools - reference books - that you need to discover and learn more about any and every aspect of rare books in any and every way.
18. I think that those who have reference and acquisitions responsibilities in rare books would benefit from taking the course. But I am a special collections librarian, so there could be many other groups who would benefit.
19. It seems that this course is most beneficial for librarians, curators, and collectors, but I really enjoyed my time as an interloper.
20. Big research university librarians, special collections, booksellers
21. Librarians, Special Collections staff, booksellers, anyone beginning in rare books or cataloging rare materials (don't be overwhelmed with the amount of material, it's only the tip of the iceberg).
22. Rare book sellers, dealers, librarians, bibliographers, collectors.

23. Librarians and cataloguers would benefit the most but as a collector, I can also use this information. It exposed me to so many fields of interest besides my own so it broadened my general knowledge.
24. EVERYONE!
25. everyone dealing with rare books but curators in particular
26. Special collections librarians with old-style Anglo-American/European collections (but if your collection goes way beyond this, take the course anyway: it gives you the tools to know what sorts of resources are out there, and hands you the Anglo-American/European ones on a platter so you don't have to waste time finding them for yourself); people working in the book trade; collectors. If you answer reference questions and/or need to write blurbs about published book, you need to take this course.
27. {no response}
28. I thought it was useful for me as a collector, but I also believe any good bookseller that I work with should have this information.
29. Anyone who works with rare books and wants to understand them better would benefit from taking this RBS course! I can see how it would be useful for collectors who need to parse the list of references in a bookseller's catalog description, but also for librarians answering reference questions or cataloging rare books.
30. Librarians, collectors, and scholars
31. {no response}
32. I think anyone in a field that relates to books, rather rare or not. We covered such a wide variety of materials...even some maps.
33. {no response}
34. This course would be most useful to library and book trades professionals who catalog and/or use these reference book on a near-daily basis. It would be less useful for PhD students and scholars with specific interests in rare books studies.
35. Anyone interested in the rare book field. It is also a great beginning as an introduction to rare books in general.
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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

1. Yes
2. I did not pay for this course
3. absolutely!
4. {no response}
5. yes
6. Absolutely.
7. Completely worth it
8. Absolutely.
9. 100%
10. I certainly got my institution's money's worth B)
11. Yes.

12. Yes.
13. Absolutely.
14. Yes!
15. Yes
16. Well Michael Suarez's talk at the opening of RBS is always worth at least \$250. Meeting the folks from all over the world who were in my class was worth another \$250. Learning from JS and receiving his comprehensive workbook 1 reference list is definitely worth the remainder and more! YES!
17. Yes, I got my money's worth.
18. Yes, this course is worth the expense.
19. N/A
20. Definitely. I miss the in-person aspect, but I look forward to when we can do this all vaccinated and in the new RBS quarters!
21. More!
22. Absolutely.
23. Absolutely.
24. Yes
25. yes!
26. Definitely.
27. {no response}
28. Yes.
29. Absolutely! The list of reference sources, combined with JS insights into those sources, will be incredibly helpful going forward in my career!
30. Absolutely, I got an overwhelming amount of information
31. {no response}
32. Yes!
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. Most definitely.
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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

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

12. 8
13. 10
14. 10
15. 10
16. 10
17. 10
18. 8
19. 10
20. 9
21. 10
22. 10
23. 10
24. 10
25. 10
26. 10
27. 10
28. 10
29. 10
30. 8
31. 6
32. 10
33. {no response}
34. 10
35. 10
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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. n/a
3. n/a
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. About to find out. But I'm sure the answer will be yes.
10. {no response}
11. We did not have any guests or field trips.
12. No guest speakers.
13. N/A
14. N/A
15. NA
16. n/a

17. {no response}
18. N/A
19. N/A
20. {no response}
21. N/A
22. {no response}
23. N/A
24. N/A
25. N/A
26. n/a
27. {no response}
28. I was unable to attend the online events outside of class.
29. N/A
30. {no response}
31. {no response}
32. {no response}
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. Yes, Marina Rustow's lecture on Islamic Manuscripts and the history of the archives from the Ben Azzai Synagogue was fascinating.
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. no
3. n/a
4. {deleted response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. Just to tell them to take it.
10. Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your career with books, this course is essential. Not everything is online, and for those sources that ARE online, this course provides the background and key players that shaped its existence today. JS shares the methodology and backstories of the creation of these reference sources, which can go a long way to explain their affordances and constraints.
11. I do not!
12. Good course to take. Have reference questions.
13. Take it!
14. {no response}
15. Just do it!
16. {no response}

17. If you plan to take this course, identify a good reference library where you can play around once you've finished, because you'll want to.
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. {no response}
21. Take it!
22. {no response}
23. {no response}
24. It really helps to have an external monitor to display both the workbooks, plus a browser window...
25. {no response}
26. Do it.
27. {no response}
28. None.
29. If you have any interest in rare books, you're going to want to take this course! If you take the course, you're going to go through a lot of material in the course of the week, so you need to be prepared to take lots of good notes if you want to retain that information (but those notes will be so helpful in the future)!
30. {no response}
31. {no response}
32. I think this is an essential course for anyone interested in rare book's toolbox. There was something for everyone in it.
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. The advanced reading list will give you a good picture of what this class covers.
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. Thank you.
3. A game-changer!
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. My brain is the best kind of full after a Rare Book School class.
8. Always a privilege to be able to attend and participate in scholarly discussions with amazing people.
9. Packed, like the best reference book.
10. Awesome. / Books are cool, /RBS people are cooler, / This is not a haiku, / You belong here.
11. We talked about so / many bibliographies. / A churning sea.
12. Comprehensive, JS knows the relevant and inside history of many of the compilers.

13. Faculty had an amazing amount of knowledge, were down-to-earth, and was generous to share.
14. Enriching.
15. {no response}
16. Superb learning experience
17. When is JS next course?
18. {no response}
19. Honestly, my brain is too full to be clever or concise.
20. It's so good to be among my people again.
21. The week flew by, but I miss the serendipity of in-person breaks/meet-ups..
22. "We're looking at Wayne's Basement, but that isn't Wayne's basement..." It was exhausting and fun and SO informational. Loved it.
23. RBS is a book lover's dream.
24. JS's course feels like the secret key to all other RBS courses.
25. {no response}
26. Exhausting, but well worth it.
27. {no response}
28. I am grateful to Mr. for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for bibliographies.
29. Basking in the glow of JS in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of reference sources for rare books (and his magic bookshelf of all the reference sources ever) is a truly illuminating way to spend a week!
30. {no response}
31. {no response}
32. Every RBS class I take makes my brain feel fuller.
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. Wonderful and illuminating!
36. {no response}
37. {no response}

## **Student Data**

*Number of Respondents: 37 (of 37)*

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

1. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
2. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
3. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
4. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
5. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
6. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
7. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
8. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.

9. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
10. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
11. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
12. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
13. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
14. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
15. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
16. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
17. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
18. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
19. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
20. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
21. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
22. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
23. I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule.
24. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
25. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
26. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
27. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
28. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
29. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
30. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
31. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
32. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
33. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
34. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
35. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
36. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
37. My situation does not fit any of the options above.

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

1. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
2. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
3. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
4. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
5. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
6. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
7. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
8. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
9. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
10. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.

11. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
12. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
13. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
14. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
15. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
16. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
17. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
18. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
19. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
20. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
21. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
22. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
23. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
24. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
25. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
26. I exchanged goods or services in lieu of tuition.
27. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
28. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
29. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
30. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
31. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
32. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
33. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
34. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
35. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
36. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
37. 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. 4
3. This is my first course.
4. This is my first course.
5. 2
6. This is my first course.
7. 1
8. 6
9. This is my first course.
10. 1
11. This is my first course.
12. 2
13. This is my first course.
14. 2
15. This is my first course.
16. 4

17. 3
18. 1
19. This is my first course.
20. 1
21. 2
22. This is my first course.
23. 8
24. 10+
25. This is my first course.
26. 10+
27. This is my first course.
28. This is my first course.
29. 1
30. This is my first course.
31. This is my first course.
32. 1
33. This is my first course.
34. This is my first course.
35. This is my first course.
36. This is my first course.
37. 1

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

1. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
2. Professional educator: Full professor
3. Library discipline: Public services librarian
4. Library discipline: Public services librarian
5. Other Occupations/Vocations: Book collector
6. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
7. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
8. Library discipline: Library administrator
9. Library discipline: Library administrator
10. Library discipline: Public services librarian
11. Book Trades: Antiquarian bookseller
12. Professional educator: Lecturer/adjunct
13. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
14. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
15. Book Trades: Antiquarian bookseller
16. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
17. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
18. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
19. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
20. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
21. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
22. Library discipline: Other

23. Professional educator: Other
24. Other Occupations/Vocations: Book collector
25. Library discipline: Curator
26. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
27. Student working towards a/an: M.A./M.S.
28. Other Occupations/Vocations: Book collector
29. Library discipline: Other
30. Library discipline: Other
31. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
32. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
33. Student working towards a/an: M.A./M.S.
34. Book Trades: Other
35. Book Trades: Antiquarian bookseller
36. Other Occupations/Vocations: Other
37. Library discipline: Special collections librarian