

Deborah J. Leslie
L-30 Rare Book Cataloging
5–10 June

Narrative Course Evaluations

1) *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 helpful.
2. Excellent preparation for the course.
3. Yes they were useful.
4. Yes, they were useful. No.
5. {private response}
6. They were useful and gave a good foundation to the course.
7. Yes, though I'm sure only a small percentage was retained.
8. The pre-course readings were quite helpful. The videos even more so. As a practicing cataloger, the blog posts about the basics of cataloging weren't necessary but I understand why they were included.
9. They were a very useful preparation for the course.
10. Pre-course readings were very useful! Do give yourself time to complete readings and assignments.
11. They were great.
12. The reading assignments were a nice way to be introduced to the topics/themes of the course. The videos were especially helpful to understand the reality of processes that the readings described.

2) *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. Excellent. Yes. Yes. I also like the Google Drive access and the updating options.
2. Teaching materials were excellent and will be a useful tool in my work.
3. Yes, very appropriate! Yes, it will be a wonderful resource for me.
4. Very useful. Yes, I will continue to use them as a source of reference.
5. The workbook and lecture materials are excellent. I have no doubt that I will continue to refer to materials prepared by the instructor as I continue as a working librarian.
6. I appreciate the workbook and the corrected practicum. Yes, the workbook will help and also the online resources.
7. Workbook was useful and appropriate. The books for the practicum seemed to be of a

- variety of content and usefulness.
8. The workbook was very good. I will continue to refer to it.
 9. Very well organized. I will hang onto the workbook for my future work with rare books.
 10. The workbook is a great reference, and I like that everything is on our shared course Google folder as well. I will certainly use it at my home institution.
 11. The workbook was/is excellent. I expect to keep it in my desk drawer for the duration of my cataloging career.
 12. The course workbook was very useful in class and I am sure will be very well-used when I return to my normal life.
- 3) *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 will use these skills and this knowledge in my daily work.
 2. Rare book cataloging has become much clearer and less scary.
 3. Yes I did have “aha” moments. I will utilize my new knowledge with local policy decisions. I will be using the knowledge I acquired on our inventory project at our own special collections library.
 4. I will use them immediately upon my return to work, cataloging rare books and special collections books. I learned many things that I wasn’t able to previously.
 5. The instruction I received cleared up a lot of questions about things such as format and signatures. It made me think hard about local policies and decisions, and ways in which I may need to work with public-facing colleagues.
 6. I plan on “bettering” my bibliographical records. Six months rule! I came in wanting practical work and learning from the instructor(s) and I received those things!
 7. Skills and knowledge will enable me to explain special/rare cataloging needs and differences to colleagues. It will improve my cataloging skills applied to my daily work.
 8. I will begin cataloging new acquisitions of rare materials in my library. I will also be able to assist in an ongoing project cataloging rare sources.
 9. I will base my future policy setting and rare book cataloging on this course.
 10. I think this will prove very helpful in planning work and advocating for staff. My biggest “aha” moments were in understanding needs unique to rare materials and how I can use that information in policy decisions, such as selecting a new LSP.
 11. I will be using what I’ve learned immediately. I have much more confidence in my ability to do my job well.
 12. I am hoping that my coworker and I can create or revise a list of policies and cataloging priorities for our Special Collections Department.
- 4) *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. Yes—I feel confident about applying DCRM(B) to cataloging practice.
2. Excellent teacher; fulfilled my expectation.
3. Yes to both. Many of my questions were answered and I am a lot more comfortable with hand press materials.
4. Yes. I did learn all that was promised.
5. Yes. No question. Everything was covered in great detail and in ways that made sense. I think I am leaving this course with a very firm foundation that I can build on.
6. I learned the one thing I came here for.
7. Yes.
8. Yes, they did. I feel that I am leaving with the skills and knowledge I expected to have.
9. The course was very well structured, the instructors knowledgeable and helpful.
10. Yes! The course was very much as advertised, with fabulous instructors. I'm so glad I was finally able to attend.
11. Yes.
12. The instructors were very knowledgeable and kind. I was mainly self-taught, so having someone tell me exactly what to do and why is extremely valuable.

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

1. {no response}
2. Not that I can think of.
3. I can't think of anything right now.
4. More space, but I understand the room issues due to library renovations.
5. {private response}
6. The room could be better.
7. While the pre-course readings were helpful, it may not be necessary to bring to [the] course. It's a lot to manage books and laptop, travel back and forth from hotel to classroom.
8. {no response}
9. It's hard to fit everything in one week, the instructors did their best.
10. {no response}
11. Only if it were longer, but work probably wouldn't have let me attend if it had been.
12. {no response}

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

1. Catalogers who will be working with rare books and/or special collections.
2. Catalogers, especially rare book catalogers.
3. Anyone working with rare materials.
4. Metadata/catalog specialists who work with rare materials.

5. Active catalogers who may not have the training to work with rare materials but whose work demands it, or catalogers at an institution who want to raise the quality of rare material cataloging.
6. Catalogers, metadata librarians, or rare book librarians.
7. Special collection catalogers; rare book librarians and catalogers.
8. Anyone cataloging rare or unique materials.
9. Rare book/special collections curators and catalogers.
10. Benefit the most... probably folks who have experience with cataloging but are new to rare materials? But lots of people would benefit!
11. All rare book catalogers who haven't taken this kind of course. Also, my supervisor.
12. {no response}

7) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*

1. Yes and yes.
2. Yes, yes.
3. Yes! Yes!
4. Yes. I would recommend.
5. Yes to both.
6. Yes. Yes.
7. Yes, yes.
8. Yes and yes.
9. Definitely.
10. Yes, and I would absolutely recommend. I hope to send some of my team in the future.
11. Yes.
12. I do feel like the experience was worth it and would recommend it to others.

8) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. Yes—we visited SC to look at examples that explicated concealed editions and different issues from the same type or plates which helped in understanding these concepts.
2. Visit to SC was very useful, would have liked more time there.
3. Yes, the field trip was fun and informative.
4. Yes.
5. Yes—the trip to SC was excellent. Being able to examine specimens and think through the associated questions really helped.
6. Yes.
7. Yes, visit to SC was very good.
8. Yes. The experience of seeing and examining rare books was useful.

9. Yes.
10. Yes! The SC trip was great. It was good to experience how bibliographers work.
11. Yes.
12. Seeing SC at UVA and doing the book dating exercise was quite fun. Seeing the various versions of Pope was enlightening.

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

1. If you are cataloging rare books or special collections you should take this course.
2. Course is really designed for working catalogers. Do the readings!
3. I would say go for it!
4. Take it and learn everything you can. Take advantage of lectures, field trips, and extra class times.
5. {no response}
6. Start early in your advance reading.
7. Very helpful, interaction with instructors and classmates was great. Wished I had taken the course years ago.
8. {no response}
9. Did recommend it.
10. {no response}
11. DJL is just as smart as she seems but nowhere near as intimidating as she seems.
12. {no response}

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

1. Practice, practice, practice.
2. Very pleasant and rewarding.
3. As Tony the Tiger would say, it was Grrreat!
4. Great people, great location, amazing learning opportunity!
5. Intellectually and professionally satisfying.
6. "It's worth the hype!"
7. Great experience.
8. Come as a novice / Work hard to learn so very much / Leave ready to try
9. I am very grateful to the instructors for their hard work and genuine engagement with the students.
10. Needing to transpose? / Leslie says to always add / a note. Them's the rules!
11. Worth it.
12. It was a week filled with lots of new information and comradery.