

Narrative Course Evaluations

- 1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Did you do any additional preparation for your course? Are there any books or articles that you would like to see included in future years? Any that you might suggest removing?*
 1. Yes.
 2. Very useful. Crucial even.
 3. Pre-course work was useful. I did no other prep.
 4. Pre-course reading was extremely useful, and I would say necessary for keeping up with the course. I found the pre-course warm-up exercises particularly useful.
 5. They were useful on seeing where things needed development as the course went along. No additional prep.
 6. The pre-course reading was useful.
 7. Yes. Leave everything as is.
 8. All pre-course assignments were useful, even if the DCRM(B) is a slog and the exercises challenging. The Belanger article was especially useful.
 9. I really appreciated the pre-course readings. I felt as prepared as I could be coming into class.
 10. The pre-course readings were very helpful.
 11. The pre-course reading was useful. My mistake was not to go through it several times.
 12. Yes, I found the pre-course readings relevant and useful. The pre-course online videos were well chosen also. I feel like it was an ideal amount of prep material—neither too much, nor insubstantial.

- 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. I will take this book to the grave. Immensely useful!
 2. Very useful reference material for both class and future.
 3. I thought the content was very useful. Some of the scans could be improved.
 4. The workbook is excellent. I am sure to use it a lot in my day-to-day cataloging.
 5. The binder was necessary. Understandably the {illegible} can be out of date {illegible} apparently they are six months ahead from, but there are only slight revisions. All useful.
 6. The teaching materials were very useful, and I will use them in the workplace.
 7. It will be a tremendous resource for future work. Thank you, DJL.
 8. The teaching of cataloging requires a lot of groundwork—examples, counterexamples, resources, links, and cheat sheets—and DJL is expert in bringing everything one would need together.
 9. I thought the workbook was very helpful. It was very useful in navigating the DCRM(B).

10. The content was useful, and will continue to be so after the class. I appreciate the thoughtful charts and other materials included in the workbook.
11. Excellent. The course workbook is very valuable, a good companion at work, no doubt.
12. DJL's workbook is nearly worth the price of admission. It is filled with useful documents, suggestions for further reading/research, and material I am sure I will often return to. It is the perfect mix of information that touches on both theoretical and practical issues.

3) *If you've taken previous RBS courses, how did this one compare?*

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. Absolutely as perfect as the other two.
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. Both were excellent. This one will help me in many practical ways, not only in terms of content, but also through the interactions with other students and the instructor.
11. N/A
12. All rigorous and intellectually stimulating.

4) *Which aspects of the course were most interesting and relevant for you as an individual? Did you walk away with any new insights, ideas, or project plans?*

1. Insight into making decisions when cataloging rules are ambiguous is useful.
2. Yes. I walked away with a better understanding of what I need to do, what I don't know, and where to find out that which I don't know.
3. Overall reasoning behind cataloging decisions was helpful, and will aid me in cataloging our print history collection.
4. All aspects were interesting and relevant. I have acquired a structured and coherent view of the process of rare book cataloging. It is not just a set of rules, but a whole unified concept of rare book analysis and description.
5. Possible project plans related, but also unrelated, to the course.
6. Highly practical information about how to catalog that I can implement immediately in my work.
7. Demonstrated cataloging as a group. Instructor's insights into process were invaluable.
8. I definitely left class with a list of things to discuss and explore back at my library.
9. Signatures! I'm embarrassed to admit how difficult and confusing I thought signature statements were before this course.
10. I'm intrigued by the possibilities of the library catalog as a research tool for the rare books researcher.
11. For me, as a beginner, every aspect was interesting and relevant.
12. The walking through of various real world cataloging tasks and issues was of high

value to me. The course material will significantly impact (and improve) my day-to-day duties as a special collections cataloger.

5) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Was anything left out or undeveloped? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*

1. {no response}
2. The one thing I could suggest, which DJL already knows, is to delve deeper into the Notes area. Otherwise, super-relevant and directly applicable to my work.
3. DJL was as helpful as she was knowledgeable. She fit as much as she could have into our time.
4. I definitely did, and more. The material was presented clearly, and there was room for questions and clarifying difficult points. There was also enough practice to apply the rules and concepts.
5. Yes. Came in with no expectations, left with further {illegible}.
6. I learnt what I hoped to learn.
7. Fantastic! No better instructor than DJL.
8. Yes, all skills and info promised.
9. Yes! Though I feel like it could easily have been expanded into a two-week long course.
10. I did learn what I hoped to learn, which would be more confidence with DCRM(B) and a heightened awareness of what is important to notice when cataloging rare materials.
11. Yes. Annotating felt underdeveloped.
12. DJL is one of those few professionals that are extremely skilled and knowledgeable, yet still able to present information and educate in a down-to-earth and understanding fashion. She achieved the goals of the course and is a highly valuable asset to RBS.

6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*

1. In my daily cataloging practice.
2. Only immediately when I get back and start cataloging!
3. I'll be applying them mainly to our NYS print history collection.
4. I plan to catalog rare books in our library's special collections.
5. As part of my employment requirement/given job title.
6. I can apply them directly to my work which will benefit library users.
7. Everyday cataloging, management of library, developing rare book cataloging policy.
8. Upgrading the records of collected rare books and cataloging new acquisitions of rare books.
9. I have to be able to use DCRM(B) to catalog materials and hopefully develop some more modern special collections cataloging policies.
10. I hope to use it to create high-quality catalog records for my institution and the larger community of users.
11. This depends on my institution. It's hard to tell, but I am definitely in a better position to accommodate all the factions around me.
12. I feel much more confident in the use of the DCRM(B) standard and will employ it

with greater efficiency in my daily cataloging.

- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. Catalogers and metadata specialists new to rare materials cataloging.
 2. Someone with an understanding of resource description—not necessarily book cataloging. As the course is configured currently, knowledge of MARC is a prerequisite, though see Q9...
 3. Experienced catalogers would get the most benefit.
 4. The intellectual level was high and demanded experience in cataloging and an understanding of most concepts. Knowledge of cataloging is, I believe, a necessary prerequisite.
 5. Anyone where cataloging rare books is important or {illegible} needed work on MARC21, AACR2/RDA (subject to change).
 6. Someone willing to be engaged and be challenged intellectually.
 7. Best for experienced cataloger with at least one year of working with rare books.
 8. Course would be accessible to all professional catalogers.
 9. Probably someone who has already been cataloging for a while. Having experience with rare materials would also be very helpful.
 10. This course should be taken by someone with a solid practical background in MARC cataloging, but I think added benefit would apply to someone who is also genuinely interested.
 11. I'd say passion is as important as any amount of intellectual girth.
 12. Rigorous but not overwhelming. The structure of the course is well planned.
- 8) *If applicable, what were the most original, powerful, or otherwise noteworthy educational moments in the course? Were there any "aha!" moments you'd like to share?*
1. Discussions with instructor about their practices, and why they make the decisions they do; also hearing from classmates about their practices.
 2. {no response}
 3. N/A
 4. Plenty! I especially liked examples in advanced transcription.
 5. N/A
 6. {no response}
 7. Just hearing the instructor talk through her thoughts was a constant benefit.
 8. {no response}
 9. It's hard to say. I learned a lot, so I'm struggling to find one "aha" moment.
 10. I think I finally understand some of the rare materials note fields that have often puzzled me! Also, that what I do can have a real impact on the work of an interested researcher, and could really have an impact on a larger audience too, when catalog data can be manipulated in more diverse ways.
 11. N/A
 12. The transcription practice was tops. Very useful.

9) *How could the course have been improved?*

1. Maybe class discussion about the same book—see the different paths through an item—the Italian set idea!
2. The course assumes MARC cataloging. I'm of two minds about that, especially with BIBFRAME and other encoding options on the horizon. Perhaps it would be useful—not now, but down the line—to either incorporate them or make the course “encoding agnostic” and focus on the intellectual principles alone. Though I'll be the first to admit that I personally benefitted a great deal from the emphasis on MARC.
3. Not sure that it could in the time allowed.
4. {no response}
5. N/A
6. A few print copies of DCRM(B) on hand for those coming from abroad and couldn't bring it with them.
7. More time.
8. The course had a great balance of lecture and practice. The practice sessions could in future be taken up more by work with the practicum assignment.
9. It's a lot of information in the first few days. I would have liked more breaks, to get up and stretch and give my brain a rest for a few minutes.
10. If there were a way to streamline some of the technology, the lectures would've been smoother, but content was great!
11. N/A
12. None come to mind.

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

1. Yes on both fronts.
2. YES.
3. Yes, and yes, potentially.
4. Yes, definitely, and enthusiastically!
5. Yes, would recommend.
6. Yes.
7. Yes. Any rare book cataloger would benefit.
8. Yes.
9. Yes. Most definitely.
10. Yes, and yes.
11. Yes.
12. Yes, and yes.

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

1. Yes!
2. Yes—the editions demo was a great application of what we had discussed.
3. Our time in SC was worth it.
4. The class in SC was extremely interesting.
5. Not particularly, but at the same time yes.

6. Yes.
7. Yes. SC visit was enlightening.
8. Yes.
9. Kinda? I think it was a good lesson, but I also feel that I would have appreciated having more time in the classroom.
10. Yes.
11. Yes.
12. I enjoyed our visit with a working bibliographer to see the sort of real life usage of our cataloging records.

12) *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? Any that you could have done without?*

1. Yes, but maybe a newer film for Movie Night?
2. I LOVE the events; don't change a thing!
3. I would say half the evening events were a good use of time.
4. The video on the structure of the book was very helpful.
5. N/A
6. {no response}
7. Not that interested in evening events. Liked Movie Night.
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. {no response}
11. Most inspiring was the feature about the Bible illustrator, Barry Moser.
12. The week as a whole is well structured, and affords many opportunities to engage with classmates and faculty. The chance to form these relationships is one of the valuable aspects of RBS attendance.

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. Do all of the preliminary assignments, but don't agonize over the reading too much.
4. {no response}
5. N/A
6. {no response}
7. Learn core concepts and terms prior to attending.
8. {no response}
9. I would recommend bringing a laptop/tablet. I didn't, and while I didn't need it, it would have been helpful.
10. Yes—do the reading, be prepared to review it, and come ready to work. Laptop with access to helpful cataloging tools recommended.
11. Get prepared, read, and talk to rare book catalogers beforehand.
12. Well worth it, even if you have had previous experience with DCRM(B).

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

1. Awesome sauce.
2. Thank you all. Seriously.
3. 42.
4. Thank you. I wish I could come more often and take all (well, almost all) of your classes. A big “Thank you!” again.
5. It was fun and {illegible}.
6. A highly useful and practical course.
7. I’m sleekified!
8. The serious atmosphere, good company, and challenging tasks will re-energize the care and interest you take in your work.
9. {no response}
10. I’m very pleased with the experience and would recommend it to anyone interested.
11. Nothing will be the same, bookishly speaking.
12. {no response}

Student Data

Number of respondents: 12 (of 12)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 12 (100%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (8.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 10 (83.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (16.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 10 (83.33%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 8 (66.67%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 10 (83.33%)

Special collections librarian: 2 (16.67%)