

## 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, the pre-course assignments were useful and informative, but I must confess that I didn't get to everything. That's not to say they weren't valuable, I just had a challenging schedule.
2. I found the reading lists rich, diverse, and relevant to our discussion. {private response}
3. I tried to read ahead of time. It would have been helpful if the syllabus were provided with the reading for each day indicated. This would have allowed more context and preparation.
4. Readings very useful.
5. The readings provided touchstones to the course discussions but they also helped carry ideas forward beyond what we could accomplish in five days.
6. I did most of the advance readings and found them to be useful.
7. Yes. Yes. The readings mentioned by Jeremy Boggs and Steven Villareal.
8. Very useful as both background information and practical information.
9. Readings were great. Just try to stay as up to date as possible with technology.
10. I probably needed more encouragement to actually read before coming. One can say that you'll read the night before the class it's for, but then it's hard to fit into the actual week.
11. Yes, they were very useful, but there may have been too many. We only managed to discuss a few of the readings.
12. The pre-course readings were extremely helpful, especially the one on zines. I would like to see more reading on feminist interface, or perhaps the work of Safiya Noble ("The Intersectional Internet").

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. The course workbook/teaching material/and content were very appropriate and useful. Yes, I will continue to reference it, as well as the reading (and intend to finish them)!
2. I found the course workbook to be useful, and will be adopting some of the strategies for visual thinking and idea generation in my own research, writing, and teaching.
3. The course workbook was fine. The schedule or "syllabus" might have been easier to deal with if full citations of the articles/books were provided. (I had downloaded the reading but my labels weren't great.)
4. Workbook an excellent repository for my thinking/sketching.

5. This course was excellently organized and facilitated in large part because of BN and AS's prepared materials. I will use these in my digitization practice.
6. N/A
7. Very useful. Yes. Yes.
8. The workbook got me to thinking about and visualizing the site I will propose. I will continue to use its format as my work progresses.
9. Very useful.
10. The reading list will be of the most long-term use.
11. The content was extremely useful, both at a theoretical level and practically, for use in planning my own project.
12. I really appreciated the thoughtful organization of the course and the utility of the workbook. I'm not really a visual thinker, but the workbook encouraged me to explore additional ways to visualize solutions.

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

1. This was the best by far.
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. Very different—mostly for personality reasons. Both very useful.
5. N/A
6. Less focused on books and bibliography, with a wider emphasis on digitizing all forms of media.
7. N/A
8. {no response}
9. N/A
10. This was the first that covered mostly unfamiliar subjects, so I didn't have as much opportunity to pontificate.
11. N/A
12. N/A

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. The digital project design was the most relevant, but other exercises (bibliographical analysis, visual thinking, &c.) were also interesting and informative.
2. Purdom Lindblad's and Jeremy Boggs's presentations were very useful in addressing aspects of my practice and research. The field trip was well timed and packed with content. It helps to see what other institutions are doing and how they cope.
3. The field trip to Culpeper (Packard LC location) was amazing. I definitely learned a great deal. There are implicit learning outcomes embedded in the course. Making them explicit on the schedule might be helpful if syllabus is provided in advance.
4. Came away with full "big picture" plan which I hope will merge with L-100: "Digital Approaches to Bibliography & Book History" to create a concrete plan for years to come.
5. The field trips really helped to make all of our more theoretical discussions

- grounded in practice.
6. I greatly appreciated the instructors' knowledge of the field and current practices. This course has given me many ideas for using digitization to enhance my scholarship.
  7. Talking about A/V digitization. A lot of food for thought here.
  8. I came here with only a working concept and without the knowledge and skills to go forward. The class gave me the ability to make a more concrete plan and things to consider as I do so.
  9. Talking to classmates allowed me to think about new tools I could use. I enjoyed the guest lecture from Purdom Lindblad and Jeremy Boggs very much. Steven Villareal's guest lecture was too scattered to be helpful.
  10. It added quite a bit to my ability to think analytically on the subject matter.
  11. I came away with a thorough understanding of digitization as a process and practice. My favorite part was the field trip which opened my eyes to the breadth of careers available in the field.
  12. The most interesting and new insight was the critical need to perhaps step away from digitizing paper and start digitizing A/V materials.
- 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. Yes, the course was very comprehensive and the instructors did a great job covering a very complex territory in just five days.
  2. I feel like I got a better sense of my own project and where to redirect my energy. {private response}
  3. Promises were fulfilled.
  4. I think it would have been useful to discuss a bit more about the funding back end of projects (CLIR was one opportunity) though it may have ended up stifling some ideas. Hoped for more time in Scholars' Lab throughout the week.
  5. BN and AS were wonderful instructors who worked brilliantly together even when they presented opposing views. I'd love to take another class with them.
  6. Yes! Although I would have liked more focus on working with manuscripts for digitization projects.
  7. I feel I need more discussion on the technical aspects of what was discussed. I got super lost on acronyms and function.
  8. Excellent instructors. They combined lecture with eliciting of ideas and opinions, to create a good classroom community.
  9. I would like a few more brief workshops on useful tools for digitization to be implemented, but I also knew from the course description that these aspects weren't part of the course. I learned what I had hoped to learn.
  10. {no response}
  11. Yes! I wish we could have had more time for discussion, but I feel we definitely benefitted from the instructors' knowledge and advice. Seeing and contributing to other students' work helped me develop my own ideas.
  12. BN and AS are the best!
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*

1. Short term—I will use the skills/knowledge for my digital project. In the long term, I feel better prepared to do other digital projects in the future, as well as collaborating and mentoring my colleagues.
  2. Yes! Visualization and sketching out my aspirations for the project helped me clarify and focus. I'll be making changes to my process when I get back to the office.
  3. To create a digital site.
  4. Taking UI back to collaborators with clearer sense of how the end result will look/behave.
  5. To complete my proposed digitization project.
  6. N/A
  7. I will have strong recommendations for my colleagues as my project moves forward.
  8. I will continue to develop a plan for a pilot project.
  9. Towards digitization projects in digital humanities.
  10. Will certainly work on the website when time allows.
  11. I am embarking on my own digitization project immediately! I now feel confident I have the broad knowledge and specific skills to create a successful and beautiful website.
  12. The lessons that I learned throughout the week will inform all of the digitization decisions that I make moving forward in the future.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. The intellectual level of the class is along the graduate seminar level. Anyone involved in digital humanities (librarians, archivists, academics, and those in between) would benefit.
  2. Good foundational course for doctoral students, new professionals, or established librarians/archivists moving into a new position with responsibilities for digital initiatives. Will help Ph.D. candidates formulate a project that will feed into their thesis.
  3. The course seemed to meet the needs of people with little experience in digitizing material, as well as those with more background. This is a great achievement I attribute to the sensitivity of the instructors.
  4. As currently designed, it's a one-room schoolhouse. This has pros/cons—it's useful across experience/prep levels. Newbies learn a lot, folks with more knowledge get breathing room to think big picture.
  5. The course is highly intellectual but supported by a multidisciplinary conversation. We had scholars, writers, archivists, and historians.
  6. The course was geared towards archivists, scholars, and individuals working with cultural heritage materials. I found it to be a good introduction for those new to the field.
  7. Archivists will benefit the most. Difficult for those not familiar with this background.
  8. High intellectual level, appropriate for advanced students (doctoral) and professionals (librarians and faculty).
  9. Scholar-librarian.
  10. Absolutely appropriate.

11. High, but everyone's field of knowledge is different. Librarians learned from academics and vice versa.
12. Librarians, archivists, and digital humanities scholars.

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. Universal website design, generous interfaces, transparency and ethics, being a champion of small data in a big data world.
2. Trip to LC Culpeper location gave great examples for practical adjustments to my workflow. Conversations amongst fellow classmates provided connections, range of experiences.
3. There were too many to count or share. Book samples and discussion of difficulty of digitizing or collecting all metadata very key.
4. Taking time to think through UI was unexpectedly challenging and satisfying.
5. The field trips to the LC Packard Campus and the Smithsonian to see their digitization practices.
6. No, that's private.
7. Going to the Packard LC. Talking about contemporary issues in copyright law. Rate of changes to law.
8. I found Jeremy's advice about approaching a project to be very useful.
9. A/V tour; the talk by Jeremy Boggs and Purdom Lindblad.
10. The instructors frequent probing questions were an excellent reminder of the need to rethink and think deeper.
11. The mirror-book! And the whole field trip—seeing the challenges and rewards of digitizing firsthand.
12. N/A

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

1. Have a warmer classroom! Seriously, that's it. The class was a truly wonderful and informative experience.
2. {private response}
3. Syllabus provided well ahead of time—I was on the road the week before when it was emailed.
4. More lab time throughout (?) = if Jeremy Boggs was available longer. {private response}
5. N/A
6. See Q5.
7. Stage timing for our case studies.
8. {no response}
9. Remove Steven Villareal's talk; remove data linked, open, otherwise. Add an afternoon workshop on tools.
10. {no response}
11. More time for discussion, as I mentioned (Q5). We could have had an additional visit to a UVA site. Also, we could have worked harder to bridge the divide between archivists and profs.
12. The course was wonderful.

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

1. Yes, I definitely got my money's worth and will recommend it to others.
2. Yes.
3. Yes. Yes.
4. Yes. Yes.
5. Absolutely—one of the best conference-like experiences I've ever had.
6. Yes! I certainly recommend the course to professionals looking for innovative approaches to cultural heritage materials.
7. No comment. Yes.
8. Yes. Very recommendable.
9. Yes, and yes.
10. Absolutely.
11. Yes! I recommend it.
12. Absolutely!

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

1. Yes, the trips were fascinating and reinforced points made in the teaching, reading, and discussion.
2. Yes!
3. Yes. Absolutely.
4. Yes—Washington, DC was incredibly rich and local visits useful (digitizing, &c.)
5. One of the most integral parts!
6. Our field trip to the LC, Smithsonian, and CLIR was certainly a highlight of the week.
7. Very much yes!
8. The visit to the Digital Lab gave me a good grasp of equipment and its capabilities. The DC trip was great, if very long. Both stops were educational as well as thought-provoking.
9. Yes! Loved it.
10. The field trip to DC was wonderful.
11. See Q4. The field trips were fabulous! I saw things I couldn't have seen by myself.
12. The trip to Culpeper, VA, and DC was extremely well planned. Kudos to BN and AS!

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. No comment.
2. {private response}
3. I wish I had been less tired and able to attend everything. Some lunches and dinners and collegiality were important and I managed some.
4. I wouldn't cancel any—opening night always most useful.
5. N/A

6. N/A
7. N/A
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. Loved the guided tour. Didn't participate in movies. Loved dinners with fellow students.
11. Yes—I enjoyed Booksellers' Night. The lecture wasn't very well structured (Amy Landau).
12. N/A

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

1. {no response}
2. {private response}
3. Arrive a bit early so you can be well rested at the start.
4. Think of this as the “blue sky” stage of a project.
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. Larger discussion of A/V aspects of digitization.
8. Bring a warm sweater or jacket. The very cold room is a major distraction.
9. Great course.
10. {no response}
11. It is equally theoretical and practical.
12. N/A

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

1. Thank you for reminding me why I got into the profession in the first place. The digital realm is no different—my values, ethics, and passion are welcome here.  
Thank you!
2. Networking, conversation, support, shared learning.
3. Illuminating.
4. {private response}
5. I felt like my digitization project became more concrete even while I had a better “big picture” understanding too.
6. N/A
7. More. More. More.
8. Woo-hoo!
9. Digitizing with  
Andy and Bethany is  
More fun than money
10. {no response}
11. What are books when they  
Are no longer on the page?  
Something new and strange
12. Fantastic course, knowledgeable and personable instructors, and friendly, intelligent and helpful classmates.

## 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: 3 (25%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 1 (8.33%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (8.33%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 5 (41.67%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (8.33%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

I paid 100% myself: 5 (41.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 3 (25%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 3 (25%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 5 (41.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (25%)

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

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 3 (25%)

*Who paid your RBS travel expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 9 (75%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (16.67%)

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

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

**Library disciplines:**

Archivist: 3 (25%)

**Student working toward a/n:**

Ph.D./D.Phil: 1 (8.33%)

**Professional educator:**

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (8.33%)  
Assistant professor: 2 (16.67%)  
Associate professor: 1 (8.33%)  
Full professor: 1 (8.33%)

**Book trades:**

Book artist, artisan or printer: 1 (8.33%)  
Publisher: 1 (8.33%)

**No Response:** 1 (8.33%)