

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. N/A. I reviewed the course website to learn about the course schedule and what to expect. Hand-outs were thorough and well-organized. Will refer to them on the job.
2. N/A
3. We didn't have any! It took me a while to figure that out. I only knew from last year's evaluations!
4. N/A
5. There were no pre-course assignments. It might help structure the course to have a reading or two, though I do not have a suggestion on what.
6. N/A
7. There were no pre-course reading assignments. Contact info of teachers would have been useful.
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A

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! Creative and applicable. Please provide a folder for transport to/from class and field trip(s).
2. Loved the teaching materials and handouts, especially of the post-Carter ABC. Even asked for an extra to take home. Very helpful.
3. The handouts and booklets they handed out were great! Especially as it covered modern things that are less well documented. I shall share these with our cataloger.
4. Almost worth the tuition cost. Very helpful.
5. The handouts by the faculty on finding and evaluating potential collection material were good and I could see consulting them in the future, particularly "Beyond Carter."
6. They were great! However, I don't think it's necessary to go through page by page in class. They were basically read to us, which seemed unnecessary.
7. Too many 'zines. Do normal people really collect this crap?
8. This class was very appropriate and useful for my job and will resonate for a long time in my work.
9. Teaching materials were very helpful and will be useful in the future at work. I even asked for an extra copy to share with library staff in my unit.

10. Yes, the handouts will join the other RBS handouts I have on my “ready reference” shelf in my office.

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

1. N/A. Looking forward to the next course!
2. This ranked very high. Loved the sense of camaraderie amongst the instructors and students.
3. This is my first! So I would say the class is much better than not being in a class.
4. Not quite as content rich, but still good.
5. N/A
6. Very different from DesBib! Apples and oranges, different objective.
7. N/A
8. The class was of high caliber.
9. In comparison to other RBS classes, this class was absolutely a top favorite. Only Sue Allen's publishers' bindings course {B-90: *Publishers' Bookbindings, 1830-1910* -RBS staff} topped this one.
10. Comparable to previous classes.

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. I enjoyed learning about trends in collecting, dealing with donors, and networking/professional development insights. Developing collections does not have to be an intimidating or worrisome project.
2. Learning about the book trade (archives) directly from dealers. I really appreciated the ability to ask freely any question and feel OK with it. I felt like everyone on the faculty was open and up front about the various aspects of working with dealers, donors, &c..
3. The talk on 'zines was very helpful and convincing. As a 'zine is really a publication style that could really cover anything, I think my library should look into them more. Hearing booksellers' views on topics was helpful to know their mindset.
4. Hands on assignments were outstanding. Forward-thinking habits about collecting also important.
5. I am new to curatorial work, so it was interesting to hear the various perspectives...from TC as a dealer and from the students, who came from a variety of different institutions.
6. I always appreciate learning from colleagues. I may reassess how I manage future projects based on conversations I had at RBS.
7. I'm a donor and collector. I know so much more now about the profession of librarians, about their budgets, about what they can or cannot do.
8. The conversations were very insightful.
9. This class was an eye-opener! I learned many things about 'zines, methods, collections, &c. that will definitely influence my curatorial approach to our collections in the future.
10. I loved the mix of instructors with different viewpoints on the topic when round-table questions were asked. This was most valuable to seeing all sides of a question.

- 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. I particularly enjoyed the field trip because it offered “live” insight into archival storage, organization, and processing techniques. Guest speakers were interesting and entertaining and seemed interested in sharing professional insight and tips.
 2. I learned more than I anticipated, particularly around ‘zines and post-WWII literature. It opened my eyes to new ways of collecting and thinking about how to build relevant and intellectually stimulating research collections.
 3. I think they did and gave us much to think about. I even got bonus ‘zine info, so it was like two classes in one.
 4. Wished for more honest talk about dealer negotiations on price.
 5. I learned what I hoped, but also that there is a lot of serendipity involved in building collections.
 6. Yes. No. Yes.
 7. Yes, indeed I did.
 8. I learned what I had hoped to learn, and feel prepared to apply the concepts to my job.
 9. The instructors provided great information and I thought all three of them, working from three different, yet complimentary perspectives, were all essential to this course and helped bring the topics full circle with their contributions.
 10. Yes.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. Expanding responsibilities to include receiving rare items for special collections.
 2. I’m already looking at how to assess what’s in my collection. What to consider when purchasing or deciding to develop new directions. I have a better appreciation for pop culture/counter-culture materials.
 3. I will talk to our library head about new avenues for collecting and places we might look for material.
 4. Expanding our collections in innovative ways.
 5. {no response}
 6. {no response}
 7. I will establish a very positive relationship between my family foundation and the special collections department at the university of my choice.
 8. Collections development, developing a collections plan, acquisitions.
 9. I was already planning to reassess our rare books collecting policy and this course has influenced how I will address this revision. I will also be sharing the information with colleagues and discussing how we can incorporate the information I bring back with me.
 10. I feel more confident about future experiences interacting with booksellers, dealers, and donors.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*

1. Professional level.
2. Librarians, archivists, historians, academics, scholars. People who are “out there” on both sides of the equation (collectors/buyers) should take the class. Dealers? I’m not so sure??
3. People who want to learn about ephemeral modern materials or want to learn about the booksellers’ viewpoint.
4. Donors, librarians, booksellers. Not good for library school students or undergrads or humanities Ph.Ds.
5. I thought that the class was perhaps a bit basic, so it might have benefited from some more specific discussion of the issues.
6. Appropriate. Any special collections professional or dealer.
7. Any college librarian, anyone contemplating a donor relationship with a library, and anyone seeking to enter the profession.
8. Practical information, presented in a smart way. Librarians, booksellers, curators, and private collectors will benefit from this class.
9. The intellectual content was high and at the appropriate level. I think it is most suitable for librarians, collectors, and booksellers, but others would also enjoy it.
10. The content of the class was heavily geared towards helping librarians understand the other side of the trade...booksellers, dealers, donors.

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. I liked the stories shared by each instructor about collections they have worked on. As mentioned, field trip was great!
2. Looking at post-WWII printed materials as objects, i.e. not removing staples, analyzing trends around the publication. Who else (in the genre) would’ve been involved at the time?
3. It was good to have new collecting ideas presented, and to be challenged to “dig where we stand.” It was good to think about how material creators don’t really worry about your catalog problems.
4. {no response}
5. The case studies session was very useful. Just to hear how different people approach common collection issues.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. The hands-on collection work was very useful.
9. Each of the guest speakers added an “aha” moment, but one of the best comments came from a guest speaker who said, basically, the classics are already in every library...where will you take your collection? JK’s “dig where you stand” is good, too.
10. Thinking outside the box not so much in terms of type of material as subject of material.

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

1. N/A

2. It would've been nice to have a sink (basin) nearby to wash our hands. There is a water closet on the floor, but it was often occupied. The bathrooms were few and far between, but it's an old building!
3. Maybe a little more from the library perspective? Or an activity to practice using booksellers' catalogs?
4. {private response}
5. Some of the sessions were a bit repetitive. Two ideas: 1) Field trip to local book dealer/shop (Boo-Hooray was cool, but proper shop); 2) More on donors and cultivating them. The one donor interview was good but more on donors.
6. I did feel that, while informative at first, too much emphasis was placed on 'zines. I would've liked to hear more from KR also.
7. The large screen in the room could have been used.
8. {no response}
9. Improved only in early logistics—it would have been more helpful to know where the course would be held prior to a week before for travel planning.
10. A visit to a booksellers' establishment would have been nice, rather than just bringing in guest lecturers who are booksellers or donors.

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

1. Yes. Yes.
2. Yes, definitely.
3. Yes, it was very good!
4. For course, yes. New York City too expensive, though.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. Yes, and yes. I would recommend RBS generally to many people.
8. Yes, I would highly recommend this class.
9. Absolutely on both counts!
10. 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! Loved the field trip to Boo-Hooray.
3. It was very neat to go to Boo-Hooray! Cool to see a working shop and to do the activity.
4. Hands-on time at Boo-Hooray was useful.
5. {no response}
6. N/A
7. {no response}
8. Yes! Very well spent.
9. None.
10. Yes, one field trip to JK's business to tour and get hands-on time to help start processing an archive, to see the beginnings of the process.

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. N/A
2. Yes. The lecture of African American bibliography was fascinating. It was very nice to actually talk with the lecturer afterward at the reception. Superb!
3. I went to the Grolier lecture. It was interesting to think about bibliography like that. I skipped the Bible lecture as I had been on the field trip.
4. Monday evening lecture was so-so. Also, registration dinner was overpriced and not well organized.
5. There were two evening talks. The one I attended on African-American bibliography was quite interesting.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. The Monday lecture was great.
9. I attended the lecture at the Grolier Club. It was great and so well timed as I am collecting in that area and found many of the speaker's comments useful. Also enjoyed the opportunity to talk with her afterwards.
10. Sadly, did not attend any this time.

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

1. Please include in course description if a laptop or tablet should be brought to the course.
2. Relax and have fun. I think the atmosphere of the exclusive Grolier Club can be intimidating, but once the course begins, I felt more at home and comfortable.
3. It's a good one! Gives you much to think about! The guest speakers were great!
4. {no response}
5. If you are trying to figure out a direction for your collection, this course is for you.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. Take it. The camaraderie among the instructors is well worth it.
9. I think it is difficult for people to attend RBS in New York due to the expense, but I also thought it was an exceptional experience and well worth the expense.
10. Come ready to be immersed in the world of counter-cultures. The discussion of developing collections is conducted around these types of materials.

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

1. Great course in the Big Apple! Bravo!
2. It's like a magical mystery tour to enjoy and savor!
3. Fun and educational! Will get you excited!
4. Compelling, informative, exhausting.
5. Collect with a plan.
6. Loved it!
7. Great students, weird, but fascinating instructors.

8. "Dig in where you stand."
9. Fabulous!
10. I look forward to RBS every year, whether waiting for the course list to come out, or anticipation for the class to be attended.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 10 (of 10)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 9 (90%)
I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (10%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (10%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (70%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; my institution/employer paid the rest: 1 (10%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (30%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (30%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest: 1 (10%)
I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 2 (20%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (20%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (40%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (10%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest: 1 (10%)
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (10%)

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

Library disciplines:

Curator: 2 (20%)

Special collections librarian: 3 (30%)

Professional educator:

Associate professor: 1 (10%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (10%)