

Deborah J. Leslie
L-30 (I): Rare Book Cataloging
4–9 June 2017

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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. All of the pre-course reading was appropriate and relevant. It was mildly annoying to buy a book for just one chapter; we also never referred to it in class even though we were told to bring it.
4. {private response}
5. Pre-course reading assignments were very thorough.
6. Yes, there were reading requirements and assignments before arrival. Admittance was based, in part, in submission of MARC records. I think additional readings/emphases on descriptive bibliography would be helpful.
7. I really appreciated the videos of printmaking, many of those processes described in Gaskell, and the other readings, but I was just so happy to see the process! It made more sense. The Belanger article was concise and very well written. Is there any way “The Anatomy of a Book” video can be digitized and posted online?
8. Pre-class reading and homework was helpful. I would have preferred to look at our pre-class cataloging exercise early in the week to compare it to an ideal record—I think that would be a useful way to preview rules/practices before we dig into them!
9. Yes, the pre-course reading assignments were useful. No, I did not prepare any other way besides doing the advance readings. I do not currently have any further suggestions.
10. Pre-course readings were very useful. Perhaps the longer Tanselle could be shortened before the course and students could read the rest later. I’m glad I read the whole thing, but it was not exactly enjoyable!
11. Yes, they were very useful!
12. Reading assignments were very helpful and got me oriented and thinking about the course. They were right on target; not too many, very focused.

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. {no response}
2. The examples are very useful. Some of the “toolkit” will be great to have.
3. Yes.
4. {private response}
5. Course workbook gave me everything I needed and I will refer to it after I leave.
6. The workbook was enormously helpful. More cataloging examples would be

welcome.

7. The workbook is brilliant! It is a treasure trove of knowledge and I have already referred back to it several times. It will be a sanity check when I get back home to the library. I especially look forward to completing all the transcription exercises in the future.
8. Yes—helpful! I do wish it had been easier to navigate. Lacked page numbers and section dividers.
9. The course workbook was very awesome, although I wish there was an easier way to locate lessons within it. The content was appropriate and useful, and it will absolutely continue to be.
10. Materials were excellent and I will definitely be relying on them after the course.
11. Slides in workbook sometimes different from those shown during lecture. Otherwise, yes, it was useful and I would certainly continue to refer to it.
12. Very helpful teaching material that I will refer to often. Content was very useful and will help me greatly once I'm back at work.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. Have not taken any courses prior to this one.
6. Like the others, it met needs I had at the time. This and "DesBib" were the most demanding.
7. I haven't taken any other courses, but I can't imagine another one like this! I really, really hope that I can take the advanced cataloging course one day!
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. N/A
12. This experience was just as wonderful as the first course, and makes me want to take more.

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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. I feel like I have a better general understanding of DCRM(B) and rare book cataloging practices/resources.
4. {private response}
5. I hope to change the workflow to allow for the cataloging of more rare books.
6. I wear many hats and I catalog, so this was extremely helpful in giving me some confidence that I can catalog rare materials. Lots of pointers about translating my knowledge of "DesBib" to a MARC record were indispensable.
7. I really appreciated DJL's willingness to not only answer questions regarding her own cataloging practice, but also policy related questions for special and rare book cataloging in general. Her common sense approach to problem solving and care

- was so thorough. There's not enough space here to say or write my appreciation.
8. I have no formal rare book cataloging experience, so this was a great and deep introduction. I appreciated that the instructor modelled the decision making and research process rather than simply telling us what was "incorrect." Cataloging is always best learned through practice/trial and error, so the hands on work was helpful!
 9. The aspects of the course that were most interesting and relevant to me as an individual were the explanations of how the Folger and other libraries did certain things and why. The sharing of our procedures and best practices gave me tons of ideas to take back home.
 10. I feel I have learned a great deal and I am definitely ready to take on more advanced cataloging. I think this course helped me realize that I want to be a full-time rare book cataloger.
 11. Applying DCRM(B) to describing "real" books...whether from the teaching collection or through surrogates (photocopies). Yes, some ideas for guiding staff at my library.
 12. The details of rare book cataloging, and working with immediate guidance and feedback was invaluable. I came away with a much better idea of rare book cataloging approaches as a whole, as an attitude, as well as a practice.
- 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. {no response}
 3. Yes. No. Yes.
 4. {private response}
 5. DJL was wonderful. Very passionate and knowledgeable about the subject. She covered everything. I believe I learned everything I came to learn.
 6. Yes. I realize that I'm just scratching the surface, but DJL has given me a firm foundation and where to go when I need additional help.
 7. Yes! I came away with what I expected and so much more. DJL is not just an amazing teacher, but she fosters the entire future of the rare book cataloging community. We owe her so much! Thank you so much for sharing this incredible experience with us!
 8. The intro on RDA-compliant DCRM(B) wasn't sustained—sometimes we addressed it, sometimes we didn't. Might have been better to table it entirely. Would have benefitted from a bit more time spent on binding types and terms with visual examples—when we got to this, it was more "tell" than let us figure it out ourselves.
 9. Yes, DJL helped me acquire the skills and information promised. Nothing comes to mind that was left out or underdeveloped.
 10. Yes, the instructor met—and exceeded—the promise of the course. I feel the course masterfully balanced between "too much" and "just enough" information. We were pushed to learn, but not too far. I learned all I hoped to learn and more.
 11. Last half of the week felt slightly rushed, but in general, yes, I got what I was expecting.
 12. Yes, all topics expected were covered, plus some additional ones I didn't expect but

greatly appreciated.

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. I expect to use them regularly and frequently.
4. I plan to do some DCRM(B) records, but I feel the things I learned will benefit all of my cataloging—non-rare materials as well.
5. {no response}
6. Catalog, catalog, and catalog. Did I say catalog?
7. I am going home with a more confident air, feeling that I can finally live up to the “Rare Book Cataloger” title on my business cards. I will never ever be the same after this experience. RBS and this class helped me find a piece of myself.
8. Catalog my organization’s rare books and develop rare book cataloging policies and procedures.
9. I plan to appropriately catalog our rare books and better advise our local practices.
10. I will be using these skills in my work daily. Also, I hope I can move my career more firmly into rare book cataloging, so I hope my future opportunities to apply these skills will only grow.
11. I plan to catalog as many of my institution’s rare books as possible and develop some policies/guidelines for staff.
12. I will be using these skills ASAP at work to catalog rare materials and review work I’ve done in the past.

7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*

1. {no response}
2. I feel the discussion was at a high level and thank goodness. I don’t like classes that are dumbed down.
3. Prior cataloging knowledge is essential.
4. {private response}
5. The course gives a good introduction to rare book cataloging. A cataloger who has or will start to catalog rare books would benefit from the course.
6. This is a demanding course and working knowledge around catalog records is important.
7. I would say that one should prepare themselves thoroughly by reading through the rules. I would say a heavy background in cataloging and metadata.
8. Someone who is comfortable with AACR2/RDA monographic cataloging.
9. A cataloger.
10. I think this course is geared to intelligent and curious catalogers. Prior cataloging experience would be extremely helpful (but not necessarily rare book cataloging experience).
11. Detail-oriented, interested in history, enjoys/interested in rules, likes intensive learning.
12. Best for catalogers. Solid intellectual level, with some experience cataloging necessary.

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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. As a cataloging newbie, I can do this!
7. I finally have figured out and feel confident on creating signatures and recording {illegible} in DCRM(B). I feel so much better about early letter transcription.
8. {no response}
9. There were so many!
10. There were several “aha” moments where we figured out where to put various parts of the title page information. Those realizations and examples will really stick with me.
11. Looking at Pope examples; DJL’s obvious commitment to our learning and growth in this area.
12. The statement and recognition that cataloging is a scholarly activity was much appreciated.

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

1. {no response}
2. {private response}
3. It would have helped if we’d had a shared Google Docs/Dropbox/something to share our MARC records set up beforehand. Not everyone had laptops; it should be recommended (if not required) to bring one.
4. {private response}
5. Bringing a laptop with all of the electronic cataloger’s tools would have been helpful. I wonder if the course should have been a day or two longer. More practice was needed. Smaller class size would be helpful. More one-on-one time with the instructor would have been helpful.
6. DJL should suggest (require?) that students bring their own laptop.
7. I really think the new structure is great. The hands-on approach is so needed—the more hands on, the better.
8. Tell students to bring pencils, laptops, and download Connex to their laptops. Pacing was a little off—felt leisurely until penultimate day and then rushed to finish practicum books. Spread out practicum time more into earlier in the week.
9. Maybe finish one book at a time and not jump around.
10. I love it the way it is. I just want another week of it, but that’s what the advanced course is for!
11. Updated slides.
12. It’s great the way it is. Maybe next time I would bring an item from work.

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

1. {no response}
2. Yes. {private response}
3. Yes.
4. Yes!
5. I think the course was money well spent and I would recommend it to others.
6. Yes, and yes.
7. Yes! I would absolutely recommend this course to others. We need to foster and create the catalogers of tomorrow.
8. Yes.
9. Yes, and yes.
10. Yes, it's worth every penny, and yes, I will recommend it to others.
11. Yes, if there's a specific need in their work/hobby for this content.
12. Definitely yes. Yes, I'd recommend it highly.

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

1. {no response}
2. Yes, we met with a bibliographer and that was interesting.
3. Yes.
4. {no response}
5. Looking over the Pope and *Babbitt* books was very useful.
6. David Vander Meulen is excellent. Great to watch a bibliographer do his craft.
7. Yes. I especially loved the afternoon we spent immersed in bibliography of the Pope and *Babbitt* books. It opened my eyes to what bibliographers and advanced researchers are looking for in a catalog record.
8. Yes! SC "field trip" was hands-on and useful.
9. Absolutely. We learned a lot about editions, issues, and states at SC.
10. Yes. Our visit to SC was incredibly valuable—especially learning the lesson of how information outside the item in hand is really important.
11. Yes, the period with DVM was great!
12. Yes, absolutely; very helpful.

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 response}
2. Absolutely loved the speaker Monday night! {private response}
3. One of the bookstores (Daedelus) was closed on Booksellers' Night. Not RBS's fault, obviously, but maybe there needs to be more communication with the booksellers on the night of the event!
4. {no response}
5. The optional events were a good diversion.
6. The Monday night lecture was fascinating.
7. Yes! The evening events are a must. I would encourage any future students to attend them even if your brain is fried from cataloging. The networking opportunities are so important.
8. I enjoyed all I attended for the social aspect, though I would've still been happy

- with my level of learning without them.
9. Yes, especially the Faulkner exhibition.
 10. N/A
 11. I enjoyed the ones I attended (lecture, video).
 12. Yes. Very interesting.

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

1. {no response}
2. Come prepared. Do your reading. Things move fast.
3. No.
4. {no response}
5. They should make sure to do all of the pre-course readings.
6. Learn some “DesBib” before you come.
7. Study. Don’t skimp on the prep work. Come with questions, come with problems. Come with an open mind and prepare to be totally amazed and blown away.
8. {no response}
9. I highly recommend it. The knowledge gained here is valuable.
10. Computers should be required. It was obvious some people were disappointed that they didn’t bring one. Also, some employers won’t give an employee a laptop for travel unless it is clearly required. Only the confirmed Luddites should be excused from bringing a computer.
11. It’s intensive (as promised); take good care of yourself, enjoy the surroundings, don’t feel pressured to spend all the breaks and breakfasts socializing if you need time to yourself. Strongly recommend bringing a tablet or laptop.
12. It is worth the time, money, travel, and effort. Do it.

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. Important training that will make a difference to my whole library.
3. Way more fun than NACE training.
4. {no response}
5. Eye opening!
6. DJL is an excellent teacher and the experience was very rewarding.
7. DJL is the exemplar of the perfect rare book cataloger. I am very proud to be part of her cataloging lineage. She is building up the profession and a legacy! Thank you so much!
8. It was a time to really pay attention to, and think about, cataloging!
9. Valuable.
10. This was the most fun a cataloger can have with their clothes on.
11. C’ville sun outside—
Much erudition indoors.
Emerge all learne’d.
12. Thank you for being here. I love Rare Book School.

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: 11 (91.67%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:
1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (16.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (75%)

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

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (8.33%)

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

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

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (16.67%)

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

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

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

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 10 (83.33%)

Public services librarian: 1 (8.33%)

No Response: 1 (8.33%)