

### **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. I thought that the movies were great—they really helped introduce physical aspects of books relevant to rare book cataloging before the class.
2. Yes, the pre-course reading and assigned homework were very useful. It seemed like a lot, but it proved to be invaluable preparation.
3. Yes, the articles and videos were useful and informative.
4. Pre-course materials were very useful. I'm not sure how much Gaskell I retained, but it was a great primer for the course and I am sure it will be much better when I return to it.
5. The readings and viewings were incredibly helpful. I even passed some titles and video links to other catalogers for their own enrichment.
6. Readings were very practical. Loved the videos too.
7. Information on the construction of hand-pressed books was useful. Maybe more information about early modern books could be useful too.
8. Readings were useful. I just did not have enough time to complete the warm up exercises. Earlier warning and sending out of the assignments would be great for future students.
9. Helpful.
10. The reading and assignments were very useful for getting my feet wet.
11. The pre-course reading assignments were relevant, and useful for preparing for the course.
12. The assignments were all useful, especially the videos. The article on uvij was least useful/provided more context and discussion that is best understood after the course.

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 workbook was well-organized and useful. I will definitely keep using it! The toolkit is great.
2. Excellent workbook. I will keep it on my desk and consult it frequently.
3. The binder for the cataloging class was very useful and I am looking forward to being able to use it when I return to work.
4. Very helpful, and I'm sure it will become an invaluable reference source.
5. The workbook was and will be continually helpful. The examples and resources will be a great asset to my professional resource collection.
6. I will keep the workbook on my desk at work and continue to use it as a reference, I'm sure.

7. Content was useful. Will continue to use.
8. Great handouts and packages. The content is rich. Some more overview and orientation to the materials in the package will be very helpful, especially for those who don't usually handle rare materials on the day-to-day basis. Yes, the package will be used for training.
9. I will be referring to the course workbook frequently. Links, examples, and charts are very helpful.
10. Absolutely useful and will be kept for future use and continuous reference.
11. The workbook and teaching materials are going to be so valuable in my daily work. The binder will have a prominent place on my desk.
12. Content is great, and it will definitely be useful as a reference source.

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. Because this one was more of a training, I found it easier to follow along.
6. This one was the best of the two I have taken.
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. This one took better advantage of shared drive capability and the mail list to get us working on things right away and in teams.
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. I really loved all of the work we did with format and physical description, and hearing the instructor's thoughts on Bibframe and the future of the field was really thought provoking.
2. I feel that I have learned a great deal about rare book cataloging. Things which were mysteries before (signature statements, edition/issue/state questions) are now clear to me.
3. {no response}
4. The whole thing was relevant, but I think the sections on format and collation were most interesting and clarifying for me.
5. I enjoyed the process of cataloging two books throughout the week and adding on as we went. It allowed for questions to be made and other ideas to be clarified before moving on. I have some ideas that might be interesting to pitch as our institution is in the process of creating an OPAC.
6. I feel more confident in my cataloging.
7. Planning to speak to my director about what might be useful in the future and what we might want to change.
8. The exercises and practicum throughout the course was a great way to learn. I hope to work with our curators and special collections cataloger to have a

- cataloging policy for rare materials, and hope to be able to use {illegible} in our records in the future.
9. Everything. Our rare book cataloging section (me) currently has no procedures. The class has given me a few ideas regarding where to start. I've been inspired and feel a little bit of hope!
  10. The ubiquitous referral to the "rule books" and "train of reasoning" was extremely helpful so I can use them to correct my past mistakes, and correctly create new records in the future.
  11. Every single day was as useful and relevant as the last. I'm walking away not only a better, "sleeker" cataloger, but an inspired one as well!
  12. I have many new insights into how to deal with cataloging materials that are not straightforward, ideal examples. I appreciated the hands-on work in class, and the opportunity to receive feedback throughout, not just on the finished product.
- 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. Some minutiae and complexities are still well beyond me, but I feel much more comfortable than I did before the course.
  2. Yes. I don't feel that I am now an expert, but I am well equipped to further develop my skills. I would have liked to learn more about bindings and how to describe them, but I understand that is a separate course.
  3. I learned so much in this class, and I can't think of anything that was left out.
  4. I think we covered all the bases and then some.
  5. She did help me to acquire what was stated in the course description, and I learned what I hoped to.
  6. Yes. 99% at least.
  7. Yes. More work on note fields might be useful.
  8. Yes. If you can provide more examples in RDA when you discuss each element, that will be great. I learned a lot. Thank you!
  9. This is just the beginning for me, and it's a good start. The instructor was helpful with walking me through a step, and getting me to the point of understanding.
  10. Yes, yes, and yes.
  11. The instructor is a natural! She provided consistent, but gentle revisions and allowed the class to debate and work out problems together. I feel armed with the knowledge I needed and confident that I'll be able to put it all into practice immediately.
  12. Yes, all information and skills were as promised. Nothing was left out. Somewhat increased presentation of unusual examples and exceptions could be useful for those with more experience.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. At work! We have to reduce our backlog!
  2. I plan to upgrade cataloging for selected rare materials to DCRM(B) level. I also plan to revisit our overall special collections cataloging policies in consultation with my colleagues.
  3. I look forward to using the knowledge acquired here to help create local cataloging

- policies for my institution, so our rare materials are more accessible to patrons.
4. I plan to apply them to my daily work as a rare materials cataloger, and to begin discussions about clarifying and enhancing our local cataloging policy.
  5. I am hoping to not only work with our other rare book cataloger in implementing this, but hope to influence our systems librarian into allowing for more information to be displayed while we are planning for a new catalog.
  6. I will use this skill at work literally every day.
  7. Will consult with director and other catalogers about possible improvements.
  8. I hope to apply DCRM(B) in our cataloging more than currently practiced. I'll work with the curators on cataloging policies for rare books based in DCRM(B).
  9. I have more information to offer now concerning how to make certain things stand out in bibliographical records.
  10. First I need to go back and fix my mistakes, then I need to go through and re-catalog other key items that would be better represented by DCRM(B) records.
  11. I will be cataloging according to DCRM(B) when the situation is appropriate, and I look forward to engaging with the rare materials cataloging community.
  12. To create better records in the future than I have 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. Any library professional who works with rare materials. I think even non-catalogers would benefit.
  2. The intellectual level was quite high. Only very experienced catalogers who have worked with rare materials would benefit.
  3. It's definitely not for beginners/non-catalogers. People who already catalog at their institutions would benefit the most.
  4. I believe it was a good sort of advanced introduction to rare materials cataloging. A solid understanding of some aspects was definitely helpful, and I believe this class is good for developing/enhancing cataloging practices. Building good habits.
  5. Catalogers, systems librarians, and anyone else who has to work directly with the cataloger.
  6. Professional book catalogers.
  7. {no response}
  8. Advanced catalogers.
  9. A person at a higher level than myself, but I am taking a lot with me.
  10. Anyone with a B.A. (or B.S.) or higher would understand the intellectual level of the course, but the terminology used is highly job-specific, so cataloging experience would be necessary.
  11. A cataloger who finds themselves faced with the task of cataloging rare materials.
  12. Someone with some experience to know what questions they have.
- 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 really loved how the instructor called out imposter syndrome early, on the first day.
  2. Understanding signature statements was important for me. Also learning more

- about the history of book production.
3. {no response}
  4. The Pope books presentation was essential for illustrating the edition/issue/state ideas.
  5. When we discussed transcription, I think I realized there is a lot more I can do with my cataloging.
  6. {no response}
  7. {no response}
  8. The signature and the formats are quite complicated to teach myself. The course helped me understand how to work and describe these two aspects. I am so happy now that I understand these two, plus other aspects too, of course. But these are my major learning curve.
  9. I had difficulty with signatures. But there were two “aha!” moments when DJL was able to walk me through the process.
  10. “This course is not just a class, but a welcome into a community of practice populated by some amazing people.”
  11. {no response}
  12. Improving my understanding of format, and the differences between edition, impression, issue, and state.

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

1. I wish it were two weeks. We covered a lot and it would’ve been great to have more time for reinforcement.
2. I would have liked to do more hands-on cataloging. More group exercises like comparing different editions of machine press books would be great.
3. {no response}
4. Occasionally felt a little off-script, but this made for a lot of good, organic teaching moments.
5. N/A
6. Holding the class in a room with desktop computers and OCLC connection would be more convenient, and also would more closely resemble our real-life work environment.
7. {no response}
8. More RDA examples with more definitive answers on how RDA would be applied.
9. I really don’t think it could’ve been any better. I love DJL! Enthusiastic and sleek.
10. I can’t think of a thing outside of better network/internet access.
11. If we had been in a computer lab the class would have been more streamlined.
12. A class event earlier in the week perhaps, to jump start getting to know each other.

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

1. Yes.
2. Yes. Yes.
3. Yes, and yes! I wish I could afford to take more courses myself!
4. Yes.
5. Yes, and yes.
6. Well, I’m so grateful to have received a full scholarship, but it was certainly worth

- the time and money I did have to spend.
7. Yes.
  8. Yes, and yes!
  9. I already have recommended the course to somebody struggling on the Facebook group "Troubled Catalogers."
  10. Yes. Yes.
  11. I definitely got my money's worth, and I will be recommending this course to every cataloger I know who works with rare materials.
  12. 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 visit to SC was interesting and useful.
  3. We went to SC and yes, it was very informative and also fun.
  4. Yes.
  5. Yes.
  6. N/A
  7. Trip to SC was interesting and informative.
  8. Yes, definitely. The SC visit to learn hands-on about formats, edition, issues, &c., was certainly worth it!
  9. Yes.
  10. We did have a guest lecturer whose presentation really helped demonstrate some of the issues we are working with.
  11. Our field trip to SC was very enlightening and relevant.
  12. Yes, to see different editions/issues.
- 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. I liked them all, but was disappointed that some of the booksellers closed around 7:00 p.m.
  2. Ornament Night was a lot of fun. The group dinner sign-up on the first night was also a nice way to meet people. I skipped Movie Night and Booksellers' Night.
  3. {no response}
  4. I really enjoyed the lecture on Monday, and Ornament Night.
  5. {no response}
  6. I actually skipped most of them.
  7. I was not terribly impressed with the Monday lecture. It felt like the speaker didn't really have a lot to say.
  8. Yes! I love the type ornament nights to have some experience with printing with letterpress and have my hands on designing!
  9. Movie Night. The last movie wasn't a good movie to end on.
  10. I really enjoyed the guest lecture on Monday night.
  11. The lecture on Monday night was great. As an introvert, the amount of mingling done throughout the week did feel exhausting, but everyone was so nice and interesting that I managed through it. It felt good to be around "my people."

12. Yes. Ornament Night was a great complement to the educational experience—really helped me understand the process. On Booksellers' Night, at least two did not remain open until 8 p.m.

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

1. Do all of the readings!
2. Do all the advance homework very carefully and try to carve out some downtime to relax during the week.
3. {no response}
4. Definitely familiarize yourself with DCRM(B) in advance.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. Read and do assignments before taking the course for sure.
9. {no response}
10. If you stay in a AirBnB or hotel by yourself, definitely sign up for restaurant nights.
11. Don't be intimidated!
12. Really make the most of everything, ask questions, and take part in optional learning experiences.

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

1. Go forth and be brave!
2. Intense.
3. Book-nerdtastic.
4. Great job! Thanks.
5. Worth it.
6. Take rare book cataloging at RBS. It's extremely practical and informative if you want to be a rare book cataloger.
7. {no response}
8. Love it. Learned a lot. And thank you so much! And I love your smile and enthusiasm!
9. Awesome.
10. Bad news: I now know how lost I have been. Good news: I now know where I need to be going.
11. {no response}
12. Sleek!

### **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: 10 (83.33%)

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%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

I paid 100% myself: 1 (8.33%)

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

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (16.67%)

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

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)

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

*Who paid your RBS travel expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 2 (16.67%)

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

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

**Library disciplines:**

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 11 (91.67%)

Curator: 1 (8.33%)