

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. The course was well designed. But a slightly more tailored reading list could be helpful.
2. I had done all the required readings in prior years and was lazy about refreshing, though I recommend more diligence and look forward to working through the optional list. {private response}
3. Pre-course reading assignments were definitely useful. If you can't get to them all, I especially thought it was important to be familiar with MacKenzie's *Printers of the Mind* and Vander Meulen's *Writings on the Dunciad*. (And Bowers and Gaskell, of course.)
4. Yes, the readings were useful. I reviewed Bowers and Gaskell carefully.
5. The readings were very useful. Unfortunately, I didn't have the time to do any additional prep.
6. Yes, reviewing Bowers and Gaskell was extremely helpful—and necessary. The suggested readings helped round out the pre-course readings.
7. Very useful, though not much discussed. Please add Greg's *Formulary of the Collation* (1934)!

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. It was as I hoped: great. I will use these skills forever.
2. We didn't directly use most of the materials in the workbook, but were referred to some of them. The table of contents seems to me inadequate for making good use of these materials later.
3. I will definitely use the course workbook materials. The Index to Bowers, sample descriptions, and collation tables were essential.
4. It was highly useful, and I will save it as a reference source.
5. The workbook was quite helpful, especially the Index to Bowers, and table of leaf counts. I will continue to use these as reference sources.
6. I did not use the workbook much during the week, but its contents will prove useful in the future.
7. Useful refresher, though not much used in class.

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

1. Same = great.
2. Excellent as usual. I enjoyed this a vast deal more than "DesBib"—smaller group

- leads to more collegiality. As always, tension between lecture/discussion and lab time.
3. The same high level of vigor that I experienced in “DesBib.” I liked that a lot was expected of us—that we were expected to work and think hard.
 4. It was well-aligned with the “DesBib” experience.
 5. This is the third of three excellent courses, all well taught, and supported with valuable materials.
 6. This was one of the more rigorous courses I’ve taken which makes sense given its place on the “DesBib” track.
 7. Most comparable to “DesBib,” obviously. Makes a good pair with “Analytical Bibliography.”
- 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. Having the chance to use the collator was wonderful. I enjoyed the bibliography project and presentations.
 2. Hearing RN’s stories of his experiences and opinions on practices, procedures, and ethics. Labs were also excellent, especially James Ascher’s socratic methods. I find the catalogers’ perspectives remarkably helpful for future research plans and how I intend to write them up.
 3. This course helped me think critically about the decisions I am making on a particular bibliographical project, and also in a larger sense about why we do this work.
 4. I loved RN’s lectures! I have all sorts of new ideas for my work.
 5. This course reinforced what I learned in “DesBib” in 2016. Both of these courses have given me the skills and concepts I need to catalog our rare book collection more effectively. Insight: I need to pay better attention to cancels!
 6. I was most interested in engaging with more complex collations, and feel my skills are much sharper as a result. I plan to apply these skills in my work.
 7. Labs and discussion of homework.
- 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. As promised.
 2. Yes. No. Yes.
 3. {no response}
 4. All the curricular goals were met. I got what I wanted.
 5. Yes, the instructors did exactly what the course description suggested they’d do.
 6. Yes, RN was an excellent instructor, and really helped me take my skills to the next level.
 7. Yes, as advertised. I hate to say we could have done more homework, but we could have!
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. I will keep collating.

2. Approaching books more confidently as I try to read structure and content in tandem. Considering audiences for my research and how to present it accordingly.
3. In cataloging and on a personal project.
4. I have all sorts of new ideas for my dissertation project!
5. Produce better, richer records for pre-twenty-first-century imprints. Clean up and improve our Edna St. Vincent Millay catalog records.
6. I plan to incorporate what I've learned into my work as a cataloger.
7. In my work and scholarship.

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

1. Good. Hard work, but rewarding. Not for the lazy.
2. High—swift, fun, uncompromising. Academics, and especially rare book catalogers.
3. This course is best taken by someone who wants to work hard, who is comfortable having mistakes pointed out in their work, and who has intellectual curiosity.
4. This course is best for a person with a fair bit of background in writing collation formulae.
5. Experienced rare book catalogers, book history scholars, and experienced book collectors.
6. I would absolutely recommend that someone take “DesBib” first. Librarians and collectors would benefit equally, should this course match their needs.
7. High. Many individuals would benefit.

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. Too many to list.
2. Thinking at many levels about the generation, preservation, and risk of loss of information in physical and digital environments.
3. {no response}
4. As I said, I loved listening to RN reminisce on his work as a cataloger.
5. Just listening to RN entertainingly impart a long careers worth of knowledge and experience. Too many “aha” moments to list.
6. I finally felt comfortable making inferences about format and collation.
7. The class is sort of structured around “aha” moments!

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

1. N/A
2. More lecture time (and discussion)! More labs! (Mutually incompatible.)
3. {no response}
4. N/A
5. {no response}
6. Nothing I can think of.
7. Would have enjoyed more formal/prepared lectures during non-lab sessions.

- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes.
 2. YES.
 3. Yes, and yes.
 4. Yes, on both counts!
 5. Yes!!
 6. Absolutely. This course sharpened my descriptive bibliography skills.
 7. Yes.
- 11) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*
1. Yes.
 2. David Vander Meulen on collators and Pope fantastic!
 3. Yes.
 4. N/A
 5. Yes, demonstration of collators was very interesting.
 6. Learning to use the Hinman Collator was a real highlight.
 7. Yes! David Vander Meulen is always a pleasure to learn from.
- 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. Lecture, amazing. Tour, excellent. Booksellers' Night, always fun.
 3. {no response}
 4. I didn't have time for these really, because of homework.
 5. N/A
 6. The Monday lecture is always wonderful, and helps expose me to new topics.
 7. Monday lecture was excellent!
- 13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. Take it in order to sharpen collating skills.
 2. Be prepared for an intensive and exhilarating experience. Have a thick skin and be willing to experiment. Much less isolating and exhausting than "DesBib."
 3. Do as much preparation as possible, and really commit to the experience while you're here.
 4. Be prepared to work very hard, but you will be amply rewarded!
 5. {no response}
 6. Be sure to do the readings!
 7. N/A
- 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. Aim high, work hard, fast
Be wrong and right (see Kipling)
Enjoy; Be very smart!
3. I want more!
4. Rare Book School—a place for intellectual enlightenment, scholarly camaraderie,
and happy new memory-making!
5. Bibliomaniacal!
6. Oh dear RBS
Why can't you be all year long?
A man can dream, no?
7. Ad hic, ad hoc, and quid pro quo
So much to read, so much to know

Student Data

Number of respondents: 7 (of 8)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 4 (57.14%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:
3 (42.86%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (28.57%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (42.86%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (14.29%)

I had an RBS course tuition credit from a previous year: 1 (14.29%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (57.14%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (14.29%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 2 (28.57%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (57.14%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (14.29%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (14.29%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (14.29%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (14.29%)

Curator: 1 (14.29%)

Special collections librarian: 2 (28.57%)

Student working toward a/n:

Ph.D./D.Phil: 2 (28.57%)

Professional educator:

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (14.29%)