

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. None offered. Would have liked a reading list before and another after.
2. There were no pre-course assignments, which was fine.
3. We did not have any pre-course reading which was a shame.
4. I would find an advance reading list especially helpful, if only to bolster and frame discussions throughout the week.
5. No pre-course assignments. Maybe that would have been useful. Maybe forwarding some common websites—Abe Books, &c.—to set the stage for everyone in class.
6. No required reading for this course.
7. The lack of reading assignments are welcome especially with having a full-time job in addition to the course.
8. There were no pre-course readings.
9. None for this class.

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. All useful.
2. All of the materials were terrific and very fitting. It would have been nice to have access (physical and/or electronic) to the instructors' and guest lecturers' PowerPoint presentations.
3. The teaching materials came from the instructors' personal archives, and were amazing to handle. It would have been nice to have more variety in subject area, though.
4. Yes, the practical guides on formats, &c., that were distributed are quite helpful and will no doubt be useful reference aids.
5. Very light on this type of material.
6. N/A
7. The handouts were very useful and I have already distributed to my staff upon my return.
8. Yes, the reference materials compiled by the instructors were very useful.
9. There weren't a lot of workbooks, &c., but the glossaries were helpful.

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

1. {no response}
2. This is my first RBS course and it set the bar very high!

3. N/A
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. 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. Dozens of to-do's; further exploration for own goals and general knowledge.
2. Everything was very interesting and relevant. I'm much better prepared to work with booksellers and donors to improve my library's special collections.
3. Plenty! It was fantastic to gain knowledge from the perspectives of a book dealer, librarian/curator, and collector (sometimes overlapping).
4. Discussions of non-traditional formats, vocabularies and descriptive guides to twentieth-century printing processes.
5. Hearing and learning about different perspectives on collecting was very interesting—other institutions, collectors, dealers, &c. There was a lot of discussion about subject areas, at first blush, not relevant to my work. However, after listening a while I began to see a connection and appreciate new angles. New appreciation and interest for collecting resulted.
6. The practical workshops—mystery boxes gave opportunities and insights.
7. Working with dealers and donors were both especially useful. The discussion of alternative media types was also helpful. I have especially appreciated ideas for my findings and fostering would-be donors.
8. Making connections with booksellers, and having the opportunity to pepper them with questions in order to demystify the book trade, was tremendously helpful. This course helped me put some vague collection development plans into action.
9. It was good to see JK's space because it's important to contextualize objects within the work environment, to see them mid-process, being worked upon.

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. Would have liked a more specific exchange later in the course with fellow students. Their experience at work, especially Yale, Harvard...their own case study as students could offer scenarios for discussion.
2. The instructors couldn't have been better and I learned much more than I expected. The only change I would have hoped for was more insight from KR's work and experience in academic libraries.
3. Yes, and no. I certainly came away with a LOT of information/insight, but as it wasn't rigidly structured, I need some time to process it all.
4. Yes, the course description adequately reflects the course content.
5. Given the location in New York City, I'm surprised we didn't visit more dealer shops/locations. Most of the guests were from outside New York.
6. Perhaps underdeveloped were strategies in deaccessioning and formulating

- collecting missions; fostering scholarship and academic interest in institutional collections; making existing and new acquisitions collections pay the rent and be relevant to the teaching mission.
7. Very pleased with the course.
 8. {no response}
 9. They exceeded my high expectations. They created a casual atmosphere in which professionals could just talk about what they do, which is more informative than a lecture that would need to hit major points. Those “major points” could be inferred from their comments. One of the best educational experiences I’ve ever had.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. {no response}
 2. I plan to use what I learned for developing my library’s special collections and to pursue future careers.
 3. It will give me a better handle on (and sources of) archival materials and the relationships involved in building collections.
 4. On the job, straightaway.
 5. Definitely will inform a revision to policy for collections that is upcoming in the next few months.
 6. Deep revisions of collection policy of my institution; to engender discussions and budgetary allowance for non-traditional materials from the Hip Hop and post-Hip Hop genres.
 7. I am much more knowledgeable about the trade and special collections which will directly translate into developing and managing my library’s own special collections.
 8. To continue to refine my institution’s collection development practices.
 9. I have to develop the rare book section of my bookstore, and this has helped me get a sense of how I need to organize my collection.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. Curious, engaged students.
 2. This course is most beneficial for those working in academic libraries or training to work in them. It is a great introduction.
 3. Established librarians and curators. There seemed to be a strong “networking” undercurrent to it.
 4. {private response}
 5. Newbie would gain the most, but anyone, at any stage of his/her career, could gain new ideas or perspectives.
 6. The course was practical, not theoretical, and therefore graduate education levels plus experience are satisfactory for this course.
 7. Not sure what you mean by “intellectual level”—college level? For particularly astute people? People new to the field of special collections or managing one would best benefit. I anticipate people who have been in the field for years would not find a lot new.
 8. I was surprised that there weren’t more booksellers in the cohort. I think they

- would benefit as much as librarians and collectors, but perhaps the young booksellers who would benefit most are priced out.
9. I have no background in this, and it wasn't over my head. But professionals were clearly engaged and learning.
- 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. Eye-opening on value of "ordinary"/non-famous individual archives.
 2. There were so many of both it's hard to list them.
 3. Seeing in even more vivid detail just how entangled career paths in this field are!
 4. {private response}
 5. {no response}
 6. The importance of the vernacular: vernacular manuscript and photographic collections; the importance of the ordinary as a teaching tool.
 7. {no response}
 8. {no response}
 9. JK's collection overlaps a bit with mine, so it made me recognize the wealth of material that comes my way.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. Compression, at times. Always welcome more stories, samples. Great guest speakers.
 2. Some of the professionals and titles were mentioned and discussed as if everyone already knew them and I did not. Perhaps a brief list on connections of these sources and people would help out.
 3. I think the time allocated to the research exercise could definitely have been cut down. More printed materials/readings/resources would have been great, too!
 4. {private response}
 5. I would like to see some time spent with traditional rare books and learning about a dealer or collector in this field. Super interesting to compare to the non-traditional materials mostly discussed.
 6. Sources for used books.
 7. Very happy with the course. We were asked multiple times if something was missed that we wanted covered.
 8. I didn't mind the focus on the twentieth century, but I think others in the audience may have appreciated a broader focus.
 9. It's not clear to me that it needed to be held at The Grolier Club. It's not a good space for this since we're not really engaging with their holdings. The rooms are too small, and it was hard for people to get up the stairs and move around.
- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes.
 2. Yes on both questions.
 3. It's hard to assess this. I would definitely recommend the course to others.

4. Yes. It is otherwise impossible to get this kind of specialized training.
5. Yes. Yes.
6. Absolutely. This is the best school, the only school, which can teach such highly specialized and theoretical material and concerns.
7. Yes. Yes.
8. Yes to both.
9. I absolutely got my money's worth and I would be willing to take the same class again just to engage with a new batch of classmates, and to hear the other guests that came in. They were especially valuable.

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

1. Yes—could have had another afternoon with choices of visits with three instructors, to bookstores/library at institution {illegible} academic or art.
2. The class trip was helpful to see how an archive seller works.
3. Yes! It was great to see JK's workplace (though we didn't get the sense of a 'typical workday.')
4. Yes, as were the guest lectures which helped introduce different voices and diverse perspectives.
5. Yes, interesting to get insight. Maybe would like one or two more of different types of operations and/or to hear from major institution development officer that works to facilitate acquisitions/library staff.
6. Yes.
7. Definitely enjoyed the trip to Boo-Hooray to explore modern materials outside of the "fine, rare" book trade.
8. Yes, we visited JK's shop, and it was useful to observe a book/archive dealer in action.
9. We went to Boo-Hooray. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

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. Wonderful to experience collector Carolyn Schimel, and her environment. Very late evening event invitations—did not anticipate and had plans other evenings.
2. All three evening events were great. Having events close to a subway stop was good and were a great supplement.
3. I didn't get a lot out of the stenciled book lecture, to be honest. But Meghan Constantinou was lovely.
4. The opening reception is crucial. The evening events less so.
5. {no response}
6. These events enhanced the whole experience of the course, and should be continued.
7. Yes, it provided a good opportunity to network and meet colleagues. Very important.
8. The social events were an important part of the week, and I said yes to everything I could.
9. I could only make the dinner, and it was nice to engage with KR and TC socially

before meeting them in the class.

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

1. {no response}
2. This course is amazing and definitely worth the investment if you work with acquiring or selling rare books and/or archives.
3. The course is surprisingly informal in structure. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions of the (always generous, expert) instructors to get the info you need!
4. Make certain you are interested in modern materials. This course revolves around them and offers its best insights on untraditional formats.
5. {no response}
6. Take it! Take others.
7. Bring a laptop.
8. {no response}
9. Apply for a scholarship so you can go to every session without having the cost in the back of your head. But if you don't get a scholarship, go anyway.

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

1. Generous souls. Insider opportunity. Extremely generous, knowledgeable people, unusually present for students—not at all self-important.
2. This is the best introduction to rare book and archives collections development you'll ever find!
3. Say oops upside your head say oops upside your head, pay attention now.
4. {no response}
5. Excellent intellectual “retreat” to consider ideas for work that often I don't get to ponder because of daily obligations.
6. One of the best professional experiences ever for me and I do hope I may participate in more. There were many “ha-ha” moments, and gratifying confirmations of ideas I have held and practices undertaken.
7. Much learned, much enjoyed.
8. {no response}
9. I don't understand why I wouldn't enroll every single session.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 9 (of 10)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 7 (77.77%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:
1 (11.11%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (11.11%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (22.22%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (44.44%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 3 (33.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (33.33%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (33.33%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (11.11%)
I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 2 (22.22%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (44.44%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (33.33%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (11.11%)
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (11.11%)

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

Library disciplines:

Curator: 2 (22.22%)
Library administrator: 3 (33.33%)
Public services librarian: 1 (11.11%)

Student working toward a/n:

M.L.I.S./M.L.S.: 1 (11.11%)
Ph.D./D.Phil: 1 (11.11%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Book collector: 1 (11.11%)