

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 pre-course reading was all immensely helpful (even if much of it was material I had already covered in previous book-history courses). It was particularly helpful to read the DCRM(B) Guidelines alongside the warm-up exercises: these helped me get into the right mindset for the course. For the future, however, it could be useful to include resources pertaining to topics not covered in the course (such as the history of bookbinding, etc.)
2. Yes, readings and videos were great. Especially liked the Belanger article. Not sure all the videos on headbands are needed.
3. Pre-warmup exercises were helpful in order to prepare for class and what to expect! Especially liked the transcription of sample title pages exercises! Pre-course reading was necessary. Additional prep included trying to get a working laptop. This needs to be put on course requirements!
4. Yes.
5. {no response}
6. Lots of pre-reading to provide a good foundation for the course.
7. Pre-course assignments and readings were very useful.
8. Yes, especially the article on early letter forms. Well, we shall see how RDA evolves, that might influence!
9. The reading for this course provided a good background for the material discussed without being overwhelming, very appropriate for working professionals.
10. All of the pre-course readings and assigned videos contributed to a better understanding of the course itself.
11. This is anonymous right? To be honest, I didn't start preparing until I got here. But I did find the assigned materials useful after I got caught up.
12. Assignments were very useful. If possible, to have assigned them even earlier might be beneficial for many who work full time.

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 excellent and very thorough. I have no doubt that—paired with the DCRM(B) manual—it will come in handy in the future.
2. The materials are very useful. I'll definitely refer to them in the future.
3. Notebook is exceptional and much needed. Will need to use these materials for some time because of learning curve and applying applications. Extremely useful to present to other staff.
4. Material was very useful.

5. Yes. Yes!
6. Workbook is a great tool to use all week and after the course when cataloging at home.
7. Really liked the course binder and the materials in the toolkit portion are especially thoughtful—I will definitely be using these materials as reference in the future.
8. Not overwhelming, and because I made annotations, I will refer to it frequently.
9. I thought the workbook was very useful in collecting relevant information. I look forward to having it as a resource in years to come.
10. My annotated copy will certainly help in the day-to-day functions of my work.
11. Very useful. I think I probably will keep using it.
12. Workbook was a surprise bonus that I will refer to for many years. Really useful examples.

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

1. This course is definitely more practical than other courses that I've taken previously. I think that because the course built upon a foundational knowledge of cataloging that everyone in the course already had, it felt very cogent.
2. N/A
3. {no response}
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. This course was applicable more to my current and relevant tasks, however, a previous course set my interest in cataloging print.
9. N/A
10. N/A
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 appreciate how “granular” (for lack of a better term) the course’s focus was. DJL really broke the DCRM(B) to its core components, which allowed me to develop a very sound knowledge of cataloging standards and workflows.
2. Signature statements and transcription.
3. Everything was relevant. Walked away with more confidence and knowledge to help my job as a cataloger.
4. Posing questions and getting answers.
5. Transcription practice and workshopping was very useful. Quick feedback on exercises through Google Docs files was really helpful.
6. Understanding type, gatherings. Being able to see subtle differences between editions, impressions. Learning to make better use of note fields.
7. Yes—thoughts and advice about moving forward in the cataloging community and what to do better at my home institution.
8. Most relevant: being more precise and intuitive with applying standards and

- construction (i.e., formulation of extent).
9. The practical application of rules and standards was the most interesting, and DJL talking them through helped to understand the structure, issues, and philosophy behind the rules.
 10. Certainly the information on the relationship and printing technology to the book as artifact broadened my understanding of hand-press process.
 11. This course helped me put a lot of knowledge that I had sort of picked up informally together and see it as a whole discipline. I look forward to applying it to my institution's collections.
 12. Discussion of signatures, format, and bindings was not only interesting but also incredibly useful for future professional goals.
- 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. Absolutely. The course taught me everything I had hoped to learn (which was essentially the skills listed in the description), plus some extra tips and tricks that make me feel much more confident about my cataloging abilities than before.
 2. Yes.
 3. No, not everything, but it is because of the nature of the field, not the fault of the course. The instructor was very helpful to encourage and contribute to extended knowledge. Yes, and yes.
 4. She was very helpful. I have expanded my knowledge.
 5. Yes. Yes.
 6. I came to RBS to get a good foundational understanding about rare books and how to catalog them. I can happily say that I have achieved this goal.
 7. Yes.
 8. We didn't talk too much about copy cataloging in conjunction with original, or in tandem, but I think I'm confident enough to go forward with applying DCRM(B).
 9. I did learn what I had hoped to, and more.
 10. Yes. The instructor met all of my expectations.
 11. I feel like the professor delivered on what was promised. I would have loved to have talked more about non-monographic materials, but that was not part of the course as advertised.
 12. Cannot sing DJL's praises highly enough. Extremely thorough, approachable, patient and, of course, her expertise left me in awe many times. Would love to take the "Advanced Rare Book Cataloging Workshop" at some point in the future.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. I hope I will be able to use the skills learned in this course to create fuller records that are readable to both machines and humans.
 2. Immediately start applying skills to a rare book cataloging project.
 3. Create a presentation for other staff, give training, and hope to change some protocol.
 4. I have to review my notes and apply them.
 5. More confident and timely cataloging for our hand press books.
 6. I plan to take back to my institution as much as possible of what I have learned

- about DCRM(B) and to put it into practice.
7. I will be using my new skills.
 8. Actually requesting to do DCRM(B) + RDA on records! Expand my horizons!
 9. I plan to advocate for rare materials in my institution, helping to highlight what makes special collections special.
 10. I will incorporate many of the skills learned this week in my daily work going forward.
 11. Catalog a bunch of stuff. Bring more insight into the idea of books as artifacts to my shop. Be able to develop cataloging policies for our special collections.
 12. First, to shave a bit off the cataloging backlog at my institution, but, of greater personal importance, to take my career in a direction that focuses more on cataloging special collections and rare books. (Hopefully.)
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. Anyone who knows how to catalog but wants to become more sound in their application of DCRM(B) classic guidelines.
 2. Someone with cataloging experience, but not with rare books.
 3. Higher level experienced cataloger.
 4. The course level is between basic and advanced course.
 5. People who are already competent catalogers (was met this term). Requires creative thinking.
 6. A person with a good sound knowledge of MARC and RDA, who is an original cataloger.
 7. Knowledge of cataloging standards to a high degree.
 8. Novice—more foundation, specifics. Experienced—how DCRM(B) works to improve records, unique.
 9. Someone with some knowledge of rare books and a solid cataloging background who is interested in making more detailed and historically precise records.
 10. Catalogers and technical services librarians would benefit from the material presented. It was very much focused on the MARC format.
 11. You need to have some exposure to “regular” cataloging. Things like headings and authorities are only briefly discussed, as the focus is on description.
 12. Someone who is willing to put in the necessary time and enjoys being challenged. Frustration will happen but perseverance and patience with oneself are essential. Excited to learn!
- 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 enjoyed learning how to trace provenance in the absence of established name authority records. It marked the end of what was a long, emotional struggle for me.
 2. {no response}
 3. Yes, signatures! Gatherings.
 4. Yes. Identifying chain lines, &c.
 5. {no response}

6. {no response}
7. The whole course!
8. Signatures. Seems obvious, but true. Think the math is not so difficult for the right brain.
9. {no response}
10. I really appreciated the discussions of comparative bibliographic description, and determining print/edition histories for the hand-press period.
11. The video we watched on format, combined with the lesson on signatures was enlightening as I had heard of all these terms but until then didn't really see how they fit together.
12. I remember feeling this way several times (though didn't trust it every time!) but when I finally "got" the basic idea of signatures (thank you T.B.), I actually wrote in the margin "AHA!"

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

1. It might have been helpful to have more in-class time to practice our cataloging, but there was so much material to cover that it couldn't be helped (and, ultimately, given the after class practice sessions allotted to us, this is a minor problem).
2. Maybe jump into the tricky stuff earlier?
3. A little more planning for events interfering with homework time.
4. I would teach from the screen—most of the time.
5. Connections to both camera and laptop (PowerPoint presentation, notes, live cataloging). More live cataloging demonstrations.
6. When working through practicum books learning about each section of workbook example. Publication area, do the lecture, and show examples. The get the class to do that part of their practicum books before moving on.
7. To have open classroom hours on a free night, not on Booksellers' Night.
8. Collaborative cataloging.
9. {no response}
10. An accommodation for a brief afternoon nap.
11. I would have loved it if we could have spent more time with pre-eighteenth century books or even perhaps incunables.
12. Nothing to do with instructor, but the technology got in her way at times. Make it "sleeker" for her!

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

1. Absolutely—a hundred times over.
2. Yes.
3. YES, and yes.
4. Yes.
5. Yes. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. Yes!
8. Absolutely. I have already!
9. Yes, I would, as the course is rigorous but accomplishes a lot in the time allowed.
10. Yes. It was very valuable training, one that I would recommend to others.

11. Yes, and yes.
12. Yes! Yes!

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

1. Our field trip was fantastic, fun, and instructive. The exercise where we had to place a series of books (undated) in their order of publication was illuminating for everyone.
2. Yes, it was useful to see the various examples, although I did find the handouts received at the field trip to be confusing.
3. Very much so, really enjoyed the trip to SC.
4. The presentation at SC library was very helpful.
5. I would have liked to have seen a larger array of items, but the Pope volumes were useful. I don't feel the Sinclair exercise was terribly useful—not enough context was given.
6. I really enjoyed the field trip learning about the different printings of Pope's works. The hands-on exercise was also fun!
7. Yes! Time was very well-spent. It helped to reinforce the ideas we were learning in class. The group activity was fun and challenging. Discussing texts "on the fly" was exciting as well. I appreciated DVM's handouts as well!
8. Yes. A hands-on demo is always beneficial. Would like another visit to SC (time permitting).
9. Yes, I found the field trip interesting in that it was active and tied to specific course interest, instead of a general tour.
10. Yes, our visit to the SC library was an excellent lecture.
11. Our field trip was interesting, and showed how good cataloging can help bibliographers do their work.
12. Absolutely—thoroughly enjoyed the SC visit.

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. They definitely were. They helped me get to know Charlottesville (which is beautiful), and to start forming meaningful connections with other participants.
2. Ornament Night was great. Could have done without Booksellers' Night.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. Lecture, though depressing, was good/time well-spent.
6. Loved setting type!! The lecture was a bit over my head, but would have been better perhaps pointed around a special collection and the different aspects discussed.
7. I attended the type ornament class which was great, though felt we should have signed or wrote names on back for those items going to the archive. The lecture was useful as well, and helped me think of the larger context of what we were learning in class.
8. Perhaps a SC evening tour in the stacks?
9. I thought that the Ornament Night was a great way to give those of us in more

academic courses a chance to work with the tools of the trade.

10. N/A

11. I loved the print ornament demonstration.

12. All but the booksellers' evening—lecture was my least favorite, though interesting in some ways.

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

1. Do the warm-up exercises and read the DCRM(B) in advance!!!

2. I would say if you already have some experience with DCRM(B) you might not get as much out of the course than someone who doesn't, although you'll still get the opportunity to get tricky questions addressed.

3. {no response}

4. {no response}

5. {no response}

6. {No response}

7. DJL was a great instructor!

8. Don't worry about making mistakes. Be present, be mindful, trust your intuition. Be proud of your work; it's a great privilege to be here.

9. Be sure that you can commit to it, and that you have an interest in analysis and critical thinking.

10. Enjoy your time in Charlottesville.

11. Do the pre-course reading!

12. If you love cataloging/rare books, and can swing the cost, do it.

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

1. It was a wonderful, unparalleled experience in every particular.

2. No haikus today

But I did enjoy the course

Thanks for a good time

3. Delightful and well spent!!

4. It is an interesting and unique institution.

5. Cataloging

My brain is full

Coffee, please.

6. Full-on week of learning—but worth it!

7. Yes, again please.

8. If you don't go, you won't know. Take risks. Question. Collaborate. Re-learn.

9. It was such a lovely time

In the verdant green campus

Books aplenty!

10. Intellectually refreshing.

11. Books published before 1830

May seem to be just old, and dirty,

Look closer—you'll find

Watermarked and chain-lined

They actually all are quite purty.
12. Exhilarating!

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: 8 (66.67%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days:
2 (16.67%)

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

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (16.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (50%)

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

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 2 (16.67%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (33.33%)

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

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 5 (41.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (50%)

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: 11 (91.67%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Independent scholar: 1 (8.33%)