

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 found that the pre-course reading helped prepare me for terminology I would encounter in the course.
2. Yes, the pre-course assignments were extremely useful. If there were an article that summarized the core elements of a good rare book catalog record, and why they are core elements, that would have been a helpful introduction to all the detail in DCRM(B).
3. Yes, the pre-course readings and videos were very useful. Would've liked additional material for those with limited binding knowledge.
4. The pre-readings were very helpful, especially the article by TB. However, I found it nearly impossible to read DCRM(B) before it was taught in class. In fact, I read it after applicable sections were taught.
5. I appreciated the exercises we were asked to complete before arriving. It helped me synthesize the readings.
6. Pre-course readings were useful during the course. Some of it was difficult to understand just from the text (such as collation), but the concept was much better explained in class with multiple demonstrations on how to do it.
7. Very helpful.
8. Slightly. No.
9. The readings were very helpful for understanding the course content.
10. The reading on i/i/u/u was confusing without practical demonstrations, and if a layman's version exists or one with examples, it would be more useful. Other readings were informative and good preparation.
11. Yes, but I didn't get through them all. It was a lot, and I 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. Very useful—I intend to review and organize it so I can use it in my work.
2. The workbook was well-suited to the organization of the course around lectures (slides), and practica (with sample title pages). I think certain parts of it will be useful in the future, e.g., the format page showing all punctuation conventions, fields, delimiters, &c.
3. Excellent! The answer keys are very helpful for reference and continued self-learning.
4. Very useful workbook—I will use it for the rest of my career! Plus, I know I'll return to the shared folder resources as soon as I return to work!
5. I appreciate that our course workbook has a toolkit with relevant and useful

information!

6. The workbook was good. The page numbering with the table of contents was off. The examples provided and the tool kit are excellent. They will be useful when returning to my home institution.
7. I found the workbook and handouts very helpful. The toolkit in the workbook is a great reference. Having the title pages and records are very helpful to review.
8. I would rather have an electronic version.
9. The workbook was useful and relevant for the course.
10. The workbook was useful. All the examples and transcription practice were especially helpful. I will definitely refer back to my toolkit in the future.
11. Thought everything was great. I liked the workbook paired with slides and my laptop. Nice balance.

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

1. {no response}
2. I would rank this course third out of the five RBS courses I've taken.
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. 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. Working with materials, i.e., examples, in the class was the most helpful to me as a hands-on learner. I prefer a variety of teaching methods, and this course was good in that regard.
2. Watching DJL and the other students grapple with the issues in cataloging. As a newcomer to cataloging, this hands-on element was crucial. Also, seeing the catalog records take shape on the screen, and using them as models for my own work.
3. I really enjoyed lecture and non-lecture sessions. I especially enjoyed the session with Dr. Vander Meulen.
4. Witnessing DJL's workflow as she cataloged different materials was what I found most useful. The little—but integral—things no one can articulate about cataloging are probably my biggest takeaways.
5. I liked that we built records for our practicum as we talked about the various areas of description. I also appreciated our practicum exercise and the hands-on experience it gave us. I have a lot of ideas on ways to change our local practice.
6. Group cataloging was the most useful as everyone could contribute and explain why they made the choices they did.
7. It was wonderful to have a whole week to focus on rare book cataloging. It helped me to get a stronger foundation and more confidence. The course was laid out

- well.
8. {no response}
 9. The most interesting part was the lecture about signatures. I've also wondered what the letters at the bottom of the page were used for.
 10. Learning how to format fields specifically for DCRM(B); I didn't know most of the punctuation rules or how to normalize text. Transcription was especially helpful.
 11. Getting answers to questions my institution has towards standards and seeing how other institutions do their records. It was great overall.
- 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. The major points of bibliographical description and DCRM(B) were covered. I would enjoy more hands-on practice with the physical book's aspects, such as binding.
 2. Yes. No. Yes.
 3. DJL was an amazing instructor. I was very nervous when I started this course because I had no rare book cataloging experience. I leave the course feeling absolutely confident that I'm able to take on special collections cataloging.
 4. A thousand times...YES! Except for the bit about binding descriptions (but this isn't in the course description).
 5. Yes—I felt that what was delivered was what was promised!
 6. Yes. I think more time could be spent on collation as it is the most difficult thing to figure out as a newbie rare book cataloger.
 7. The instructor is excellent. I learned what I had hoped to learn.
 8. Yes.
 9. I wish that the instructor had spent more time on 500 notes, and what language to use to describe inscriptions.
 10. I learned what I hoped to learn. I feel like we covered everything as advertised.
 11. Absolutely. I wish we had more time for binding and illustration processes, but there is a lot to cover in just a week. I told my ideas to DJL.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. I plan to discuss with my library using the DCRM(B) standard in our cataloging practices!
 2. In my scholarship as a book historian of seventeenth-century France, England, and the low countries. I'm interested in digging into data in catalog records, and this course will help me identify fields to extricate.
 3. When I get back to work, I hope to utilize what I learned to catalog our 200+ item special collections backlog.
 4. I will be drafting local institutional policy for rare books cataloging, and I will be embarking on cataloging the backlog.
 5. I have a backlog of material at home that I will catalog using DCRM(B)-compliant RDA. This class has given me the knowledge and skills to do so successfully.
 6. Every time I catalog something for special collections.
 7. I will use these skills in my job.
 8. To clean up our backlog.

9. I will use what I learned to catalog my library's backlog of rare books.
10. I plan to apply these new skills to my cataloging at my home institution.
11. Honestly, every time I have an item to catalog. That's why I came.

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

1. Someone who had cataloged for some time prior; otherwise, it would be challenging to follow the content of the course.
2. Just right. This course really challenged me as the material was totally new to me, but I was able to swim (not sink).
3. A very engaging and stimulating course. The assignments piqued my interest on the subject matter. Catalogers with some original cataloging experience will be able to meet the demands of the course and the pace.
4. You definitely need higher-ed experience—as a student or instructor. However, experienced and new catalogers would benefit from this course.
5. I think it would be beneficial for people with experience in cataloging, though not necessarily specific experience in rare book cataloging.
6. Someone with experience with cataloging, but not necessarily rare books.
7. Catalogers of rare materials.
8. {no response}
9. I've created original catalog records for five years and I felt like this course was on par with my skill level.
10. This course is best suited to people with prior cataloging experience.
11. Everyone and anyone. Everyone here was on a different level. I'm one of the more experienced catalogers, and I definitely learned a lot. Plus, the connections you make are invaluable, another reason why I came.

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 finally have a gateway to understanding signatures and format! The help/handouts provided were very useful.
2. No, but that is not a criticism.
3. Too many to write here! DJL's love for rare book cataloging is infectious. She's helped me to become a confident rare book cataloger after this course!
4. Watching everyone's workflow was my biggest takeaway.
5. When I got the signature statement and pagination math to be equal, I yelled "I did it!"
6. Finally understanding collation statements and how they work!
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. No.
10. I really learned a lot from the lectures on cancellations and transcriptions.
11. Seeing DJL in her raw form, sharing a bottle of wine at lunch and letting loose. She's one of the most brilliant people in the field; it was nice to get past that and on a personal level.

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

1. More hands-on examples would be great, although we had many. Seeing examples of cataloging is always beneficial to me.
2. Can't think of anything at the moment.
3. More examples and exercises for signature statements, weird pagination, binding statements, &c. These were my weak areas coming into this course.
4. More on binding descriptions, but probably not enough time in a week-long course.
5. I don't think it could!
6. More group cataloging and group collation statements.
7. Not sure.
8. Electronic documents.
9. More lecture, less group activities.
10. I wish we had more time to work on actual books, but we barely had enough time to learn everything as is! Without making this a two-week course, I see no way to remedy this....
11. I think it's great; intense, but great.

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

1. I would recommend to others who work with rare books.
2. Yes. Yes.
3. Absolutely! Thank you to RBS for awarding me a Directors' Scholarship to attend this course.
4. Yes! Yes!
5. Yes!
6. Yes, definitely!
7. Yes.
8. Yes. Some.
9. Yes. Yes.
10. Most definitely to both questions!
11. Yes, and yes!

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

1. Yes. I enjoyed the trip to SC, and the activities presented there.
2. N/A
3. Yes, one session in SC.
4. The visit to SC gave me insight on what rare books users are looking for in catalog records. I find good cataloging should always start here, so it was a very useful "field trip."
5. N/A
6. Yes. Trying to put machine press books in publication order is virtually impossible.
7. {no response}
8. No, it felt repetitive, and the book arrangement was fixed since we didn't have all the info.

9. The trip to SC was useful for learning about binding.
 10. Our trip to SC was useful for the viewing of the various printings of the rare book, but the exercise in ordering the Babbit's seemed unuseful; there was a lot of extra information we would have needed to do it right.
 11. N/A
- 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 enjoyed the opportunity for printing with woodblocks, as a fun, hands-on, educational activity.
 2. N/A
 3. Absolutely enjoyed the woodblock printing workshop! Would love to see more of these in the future!
 4. N/A
 5. I enjoyed both of the evening lectures.
 6. Not the "Materiality of Maps" lecture; it was too specific to a group of academics, and not easily accessible to a general audience.
 7. I enjoyed the lectures and demonstration of printmaking.
 8. N/A
 9. N/A
 10. The lecture on Ukiyo-e was fantastic! Very interesting and informative. Had fun at the woodblock printing, too. They made the week more enjoyable by allowing me to learn more than just my class information.
 11. I thought Monday's lecture was a little too specialized. I would like to see lectures that go with the week's courses a bit more. Or anything with David Vander Meulen.
- 13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. Prepare ahead, and be ready to challenge yourself.
 2. No.
 3. Be brave enough to push yourself to take the course if you're interested in special collections cataloging!
 4. Don't sweat it; you are not an impostor!!
 5. I appreciated how generous DJL was with sharing what she knows. I feel lucky to have worked with her.
 6. Watch the videos, explore various controlled vocabularies. Bring Connexion with you on a laptop, and a notebook and pencils!
 7. {no response}
 8. {no response}
 9. I would tell them to make sure that they know cataloging basics before taking this course.
 10. Even though DJL has provided a lovely workbook, I recommend typing up notes during class—much easier to "Control+F" to find the exact {illegible} you need to reference.
 11. Thank you for having a class that actually teaches cataloging and is so relevant for

professionals. Also, I love the wittiness that peeks through on some of these choices. Well done.

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

1. Lots of learning (LOL).
2. The Haiku Always Stumps Me!!!!
3. I have confidence in myself and my cataloging skills thanks to this course!
4. The most efficient week of learning in my life!
5. Transformative!
6. Intensely rewarding.
7. It was a great experience.
8. {no response}
9. Stay in a hotel.
10. RBS is just like going back to college: lots of work, but also lots of fun!
11. Hopefully my institution pays for a hotel next time, but otherwise, I can't wait for the next course!

Student Data

Number of respondents: 11 (of 11)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 10 (90.90%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (9.09%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 8 (72.72%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (9.09%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (81.81%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (18.18%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (63.63%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (18.18%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 8 (72.72%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (9.09%)

Other: 1 (9.09%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Post-doctoral fellow/researcher/scholar: 1 (9.09%)