

Naomi Nelson
L-50: Special Collections Leadership Seminar
10–15 June 2018

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. Generally helpful, accessible readings—some were skimable.
2. NN helpfully added suggested readings throughout the course to Dropbox for further reading.
3. The readings were all appropriate—I did not leave enough time to do them, however!
4. Readings were very helpful. It would be great to get the daily syllabus ahead of time.
5. The pre-course assignments were very helpful for focusing my thoughts on the course topics. The additional readings during the course answered questions that came up during the week.
6. Course readings were plentiful and appropriate but I would have appreciated knowing which readings accompanied individual days and sessions.
7. The pre-course materials related greatly to the course discussion points and were utilized during the course to support case studies and discussion.
8. They were helpful, although not completely necessary to complete the course as few were actually referred to.
9. Yes!
10. The readings were good and not too long. It would have been nice to have the list in the order in which it would be introduced, so I could've been better prepared on the first day.

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 good.
2. Case studies were most helpful.
3. Notes all provided electronically, which is my preference. This makes them easy to consult again.
4. All teaching materials were on point! Case study exercises were especially helpful in developing practical application skills.
5. Many of the materials that were distributed during the week I will keep as reference materials for my work.
6. Extremely useful and I will continue to refer to the matrix method to aid me in development and implementation of strategies, projects, and other ideas.
7. It's great! I am able to have a source to look upon once I return to my institution.
8. Very appropriate and useful. The case studies were very helpful. I will definitely use the competencies matrix as I develop my skill set and plan for my unit.

9. All materials provided were useful. The worksheets I plan to copy and complete once I am home.
10. Case study model was excellent. I am glad that materials will be available digitally, and that there is a listserv for future contact.

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

1. Average.
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. This was the first one without collection materials and a specific book history topic. But this one, I felt, prepared me with the most applicable new skills.
5. This experience was very different. The other course was a survey, and this was a seminar with a cohort.
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. {no response}

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. Picked up some good ideas for fundraising; general ideas for understanding how administrators think, what they worry about, &c.
2. All of them.
3. Creating a plan for actions to take in the next year is incredibly useful—I have a list of actionable items ready to go.
4. I really appreciated the instructor's candor about real life situations, along with my fellow students' engagement with all discussions.
5. The days "Vision in Context" and "Strategic Decision-Making" were the most relevant to my current work and where I hope to grow in the next year.
6. Assessment methodologies. I enjoyed the guest speakers.
7. The leadership characteristic strengths, budget information, and fundraising and grant writing were most interesting. I am walking away with so many ideas and ways to organize and implement ideas.
8. As I'm new to special collections librarianship, it was all interesting and useful. I came away with a much better understanding of the needs of my unit and how I might realize those needs.
9. We had honest discussions about our workplaces. I felt heard and understood. I also felt in good company. I now have a group to refer to when problems arise or if I just want to share.
10. It was all valuable. Conversations with the instructor and other participants provided good context. I appreciated the variety of institutions represented in terms of size and type. Good time to reflect on team building and management.

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. {no response}
2. All was covered—a lot of information.
3. Yes, more specifics on management rather than the broad overview would have been helpful.
4. Yes! NN is an incredible instructor and this course surpassed my expectations.
5. Yes, the instructor covered all of the material in the class description, and more. We were allowed to propose topics that were discussed at the end of the session.
6. NN epitomizes leadership. She was thorough, succinct, and always left room for dialog. This is the best professional seminar/workshop that I have taken.
7. Yes, I learned exactly what I thought I would learn, and then some. NN offered perspective and knowledge.
8. I learned all I hoped to learn.
9. Yes, nothing was left out. I learned what I need to know to lead effectively.
10. I might have liked a little bit more on specifics of special collections management generally. Maybe a list of main responsibility areas and an overview of different structures and functions of special collections.

6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*

1. Fundraising, grant writing, outreach to donors.
2. To better develop leadership skills as I contemplate career advancement.
3. To grow my department and to help put me on an upward professional path.
4. Every day going forward!
5. I hope to use what I have learned in the coming year to implement a project and to advocate for my department and staff.
6. {no response}
7. I plan to utilize information by improving and adjusting my special collection department's policies and procedures, as well as developing my team.
8. I will use the skills and knowledge acquired here in the development and implementation of a strategic plan for special collections.
9. I will begin using these skills Monday morning when I return to work. I am inspired to be a better leader.
10. They will help me to move forward as I develop my new department.

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

1. Mid-career librarians.
2. We had a wide range of experience among the students and I think we all benefitted.
3. Practical rather than overly academic—those interested in administrative positions.
4. Appropriate intellectual level. You have to want to think things through a bit. All special collections career administrators should be required to take this course.
5. The course was quite intelligent. I feel it is best for early to mid-career librarians with some knowledge of special collections issues.
6. Most library professionals and scholars.
7. Highly intellectual. New librarian, or someone interested in moving up in an

institution.

8. Although I don't have a library degree, I did not feel out of place in this course. As a trained archivist, I felt it was quite appropriate. Aspiring and established leaders in libraries and archives would benefit from taking the course.
 9. It is a middle-to-high intellectual level course. An engaged person, passionate about special collections, would make the best student.
 10. The level of the course is high.
- 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. Understanding "what keeps university presidents up at night"—tying library needs to those concerns.
 2. Tying personal strengths to goals.
 3. Permission to care for myself in order to be a better employee/leader, and strategies for doing so.
 4. The leadership strengths rubric was spot on and really helped filter out extraneous noise so you could focus on strengths and weaknesses.
 5. There were many "aha" moments. I learned a great deal from the instructor and from my colleagues in the course.
 6. {no response}
 7. Aha moment: team building exercise. Educational moments: hearing from the University Librarian.
 8. My highlights were developing competencies and a plan to build upon them.
 9. Visiting UVA's SC was inspirational! Working through case studies and learning that these situations were real was fantastic.
 10. {no response}
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. Would be interesting to ask students to have a prepared scenario from their institution so the group could offer advice on how to overcome it, move it forward, &c.
 2. {no response}
 3. Perhaps having a speaker for two hours after the scheduled 8:30–5:00 day was too much for one day.
 4. Water.... I feel that NN put great effort into choosing the readings and organizing the course for us—hard to find room for improvement!
 5. Held in a room without materials.
 6. Could have been held in a non-collection room so we could have water during class.
 7. N/A
 8. The course could benefit from a more international viewpoint. The content is heavily oriented towards American examples and practice.
 9. Classroom where we could drink hot tea to stay warm.
 10. Maybe less about self-care. This part could've been condensed a bit.
- 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.
4. Yes, and definitely yes!
5. Yes to both.
6. Absolutely on both.
7. Yes, and yes.
8. Yes!
9. Yes. I would recommend this course to others.
10. Yes, and yes.

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

1. Tour of SC unhelpful to me personally, but many class members benefitted from it.
2. Yes.
3. Tour of UVA SC was excellent.
4. Yes, we toured SC next door.
5. Very much so. The tour of SC especially.
6. Yes.
7. Yes, we loved it!
8. All trips outside the classroom were greatly appreciated. They provided an opportunity to “recharge” our minds.
9. Absolutely! And I visited SC again on my own.
10. Yes. Outside speakers were great. The tour of SC was phenomenal.

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. {no response}
2. The class dinner was lovely and we enjoyed Booksellers’ Night together. Wine and cheese with Brenda Gunn was also very helpful.
3. I did not feel they applied directly, but were interesting.
4. Yes, the lecture and exhibition opening were enlightening.
5. I attended all of the evening events and thought they were all equally useful.
6. {no response}
7. All were interesting and nice.
8. The optional evening events did not appeal to me, especially following intensive days of learning. I appreciated the mental breaks in the evenings.
9. Yes, excellent use of my time!
10. The lecture was very specific so was not as interesting to me. Group dinner was really nice for building collegial relationships.

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

1. {no response}
2. I look forward to keeping in touch with this cohort.
3. No need to arrive on Saturday; Sunday afternoon is fine.
4. Just do it—it will make you a better and more thoughtful leader, colleague, and person.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. Do it and be open to new possibilities.
8. No.
9. {no response}
10. It's a great opportunity.

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. This was an important class for a mid-career “tune-up” and reflection.
3. Immersive.
4. “One bright sun with ten revolving planets.”
5. A wonderful experience with many positive takeaways, and with a very good instructor and cohort.
6. Inspiring.
7. RBS is for you.
8. A wonderful experience.
9. A jolly time was had by all.
10. The past week has been both intense and rejuvenating, and I look forward to bringing this positive energy back to my home institution.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 10 (of 10)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 10 (100%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (10%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (70%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 2 (20%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (10%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (70%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (10%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

My institution/employer paid 100%: 8 (80%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (10%)

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

Library disciplines:

Archivist: 2 (20%)

Special collections librarian: 7 (70%)

Professional educator:

Associate professor: 1 (10%)