

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 readings were well-chosen and quite helpful in preparation for the class.
2. The reading assignments were useful, especially the chapter on descriptive bibliography in *Book Collecting: A Modern Guide*. I didn't do any additional preparation.
3. Yes, the pre-course reading was helpful and appropriate to course content.
4. The readings were nice and short, and a good preparation for the course.
5. The pre-course reading was very useful. The instructor catered to a variety of knowledge levels, so no additional prep seemed to be necessary. I have no additional suggestions.

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. I will definitely keep the workbook handy for future reference. It's something that will continue to be valuable as a resource.
2. The class materials were excellent! I'm going to keep them as a reference source, and I know that I will consult them frequently.
3. The teaching materials distributed here will be indispensable. Thank you.
4. The handouts are great—and now covered with my notes! It helped to keep information organized; supplemented the discussion. They will be very useful in the future.
5. The handouts were quite useful in providing bibliographic information (for future reference) and space to take notes on different books presented. The content was appropriate to the class and very useful to me as someone who does not use enough print reference material. I anticipate creating a binder of the material for future use.

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

1. It's a steady pace of lecture and notetaking for most of the class periods, and less variety than some other class formats. It covers a lot of material in a short time.
2. {no response}
3. Excellent. JS packed more information into this week than I thought possible. All the while being interesting and collegial.
4. I preferred this one, but the two courses were very different. Both were great, but this one sparked more excitement and I feel inspired to use these resources in my

- work and research!
5. 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. It's already helped me think differently about some current projects I'm working on.
 2. The best aspect of the course for me was that it gave me a roadmap for finding my way out of some cataloging problems that I had previously considered unsolvable. This course will improve my rare book cataloging and make it possible for me to create much more complete and useful records.
 3. My experiences here continue to help me focus my thoughts on my next steps in the world of the book.
 4. I had only a cursory knowledge of Americana reference sources when I came into the class, and now I have a "best hits" list and know where to look for more resources—that knowledge will be invaluable. Definitely new project plans. Maybe too many!
 5. I appreciated learning about the standards of reference literature, as well as the interesting book dealers! I hope to check that my library has various items that we discussed, and to talk more about reference materials with a reference librarian at my institution.
- 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. I learned everything I hoped to and more. It lived up to the course description.
 2. Yes. This was a very thorough course, and it also gave us sufficient direction to find any reference sources on Americana that were left out. I definitely learned what I'd hoped to learn.
 3. Yes. No. Yes.
 4. Yes, we covered everything described. JS was always willing to provide information about specific topics in which the students were interested.
 5. Yes, the course was as promised. There was no way to go over everything ever published, but important works were highlighted. I learned what I hoped to learn (and more than I imagined).
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. The knowledge from this course will help me to strengthen my library's reference collection and improve my ability to consult appropriate reference sources in my work.
 2. I plan to create more accurate and complete catalog records for some of our Americana collection. Also, I have a long reading list of books to check out from my library when I get back.
 3. Well, I plan on reviewing the particular content of the course that reflects my interests. I'll learn more about these areas and winnow my collection based on better and more learned information.

4. I plan to pick up a stalled project and continue researching and writing. I also plan to use this in my career more broadly.
 5. I hope to be able to provide better answers to patrons with questions and hopefully to make others (patrons and staff) aware of these resources. I also would love to get more reference works for my institution.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. It's geared towards Americana specialists, as the title suggests. I think reference librarians, catalogers, and curators of Americana collections would benefit most.
 2. I'm a beginner in researching printed Americana, and I felt that the course was being taught at my level, but I also think more experienced librarians, collectors, and booksellers would benefit from it.
 3. I don't know enough about academic and library structures to answer this.
 4. Fairly high, but very specialized background knowledge wasn't required to keep up. Librarians, catalogers, sellers, collectors, bibliographers, and scholars of Americana topics.
 5. Anyone interested in doing research, or helping others with research, in printed Americana 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. {no response}
 2. I'm not sure about specific moments, but I often felt the excitement of new worlds of information opening up to me!
 3. Similar to previous experiences at RBS—I'm painfully aware of how shallow my knowledge of this community is. But, I'm not giving up. This class may have done more for me by being helpful in focusing my interest and endeavors more than previous classes.
 4. Eye-opening reminder of just how many phenomenal research sources there are out there, including many that aren't online. I wish we were still taught to use these sources earlier in our careers.
 5. Most important for me was the notion that printed reference works are still useful in an increasingly online-heavy age. I also appreciated finding out more about different types of resources: bibliographies, checklists, and various kinds of catalogs.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. {no response}
 2. N/A
 3. JS is so very well informed and prepared, I can't think of a specific recommendation.
 4. It was perfect.
 5. N/A

- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. I would recommend the course highly if you work in this area. There's nothing else like it.
 2. Yes; I would definitely recommend it.
 3. Yes. Yes.
 4. Absolutely, on both counts.
 5. Yes, I have learned so much and gotten a chance to meet others in the field, as well as to visit an important special collections library. I would recommend it.
- 11) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*
1. The library tour and Audubon presentation were both well worth the time.
 2. Our tour of the Lilly and the talks were great!
 3. The discussion of Audubon was fascinating and really thrilling. Excellent presenter, tools, and location.
 4. Yes. We got to tour the library, see vault items, and had a great talk on the Audubon books from an IU professor.
 5. We received an exhibition tour, which was quite enjoyable, and a stacks tour, which was informative (I appreciate learning about other libraries).
- 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 particularly enjoyed the exhibit tour on Tuesday. The evening conversation was also quite good.
 2. Yes, the evening events that I attended were a good use of time. I really enjoyed getting to know my classmates in this course.
 3. The discussion with Paul (sorry, I can't spell his last name) was an interesting "real world" conversation. It's nice to have something like this during the week that is less formal. Thanks.
 4. The exhibition tour by Rebecca Bauman was fun—she gave us some insight into how/why she made the design choices she did, what was included, and why. The dinner with the Lilly librarians was delightful.
 5. Yes, these were good learning and networking opportunities. Any networking opportunity is appreciated. There were none that I could have done without.
- 13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. Be prepared to increase your book budget after taking this class! You will want to purchase many of the titles JS covers.
 2. {no response}
 3. Be prepared to be truly, pleasantly surprised and informed.
 4. Prepare to be amazed by JS's encyclopedic knowledge! The class is a wonderful way to learn about reference sources.

5. 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. A fantastic experience that has made me want to take more RBS courses in the future.
3. Simply “thank you” to JS for sharing his unique experience and knowledge. This was a great week.
4. The entire experience was engaging, convivial, and energizing. Thank you to all involved!
5. An intense but worthwhile and enjoyable learning experience.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 5 (of 5)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 4 (80%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (20%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (20%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (60%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (20%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (40%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (40%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (20%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (20%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (80%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (20%)

Curator: 1 (20%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (20%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Book collector: 1 (20%)

Other: 1 (20%)