

Deborah J. Leslie
L-30: Rare Book Cataloging
2-7 June 2019

Narrative Course Evaluations

- 1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Are there any readings that you would like to see added or removed in future years?*
 1. They were very useful.
 2. Yes, they helped me to get into the right mindset and explore beyond the assigned reading list.
 3. Super helpful. I did them all in advance, even though we perhaps did not directly use them (like *Book Collecting: A Modern Guide*).
 4. The pre-course readings were very useful, as were the videos. I would certainly not remove any of the reading assignments.
 5. Yes.
 6. Pre-course readings were useful, but the **i/j u/v** paper was not the easiest introduction to the **i/j u/v** problem.
 7. Yes, I felt the pre-course reading was useful. I would like the video we watched in class to also be part of the pre-course reading.
 8. Yes, the assignments were useful; even though some were more technical, it helped to be familiar with them.
 9. Yes.
 10. Yes, definitely. It especially helped to read the Belanger article about bibliographical formats and collation.
 11. Yes.
 12. Yes! The binding videos were especially useful. It might have been nice to have some more videos on illustration processes.

- 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 appropriate. Yes, it will! I plan to expand it as well.
 2. The binder organized for the class was a useful reference source that helped the class go smoothly. I will definitely keep the binder of notes for reference at my job.
 3. This will be a long-term tool. Glad we got all the examples, sample cataloging, and tool kit.
 4. The course workbook was extremely helpful. It was well organized so we could follow along with the lectures, and it provided ample examples, class exercises, and other useful materials. This workbook will continue to be useful to me and inform my future cataloging decisions.
 5. Excellent resources—will be very useful in the future.
 6. Teaching materials were very useful and will be helpful going forward. I recommend that future students spiral bind DCRM(B) rather than put it in a binder. You'll need as much space as possible during the practicum.
 7. {no response}

8. The workbook was extremely helpful. Some of the illustrations of the book titles in the lectures were small on the workbook pages, so I had to go into the slides on the drive to enlarge them.
9. Yes, indeed—particularly the charts and tables cheat sheets.
10. Very helpful—I will keep it and use it at my job.
11. Workbook was very helpful and great to take notes/keep all my work together. Will definitely take it to work to reference.
12. The workbook was really good to have; the toolkit was also helpful to get before the class. It'll be a great reference point for me going forward.

3) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your RBS course? Did you walk away with any “aha!” moments, new ideas, or project plans?*

1. Just a lot of new knowledge. The conversations with other catalogers were also very productive.
2. I thought we would be mostly discussing MARC fields and rules, but I was very excited about the history of the book and the bookmaking process. I want to learn more about binding and illustration techniques. I will use the skills I learned to create better, more precise records for the rare book collection.
3. Loads—this class opened up the patience angle a lot to me. I want to get started on some rare books right off.
4. I plan to use what I have learned to make my catalog records more detailed, thorough, and accurate. I also plan to bring back this knowledge to my institution and share it with other catalogers. I have new ideas for slight changes in cataloging workflows to make sure our rare materials are cataloged to the best level they can be.
5. Hope to apply DCRM(B) principles to cataloging and enhance records.
6. I have some rare books waiting for me, so I'm glad I will be able to use my new skills right away.
7. No new projects, but I will be able to start on the rare book backlog.
8. I plan to be able to catalog a rare book more confidently using the rules that I have learned.
9. Will directly apply it at work.
10. I am now motivated to go back and do better rare book cataloging documentation! I will also feel much more confident in doing original cataloging of rare books, and will now start to do true DCRM(B) cataloging.
11. So many, I don't even know where to start! I feel like I now have a better understanding of why the rules are the way they are and why I make certain decisions—I definitely feel more confident and “sleek.”
12. I'll use them to catalog in DCRM(B).

4) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*

1. I think so.
2. The instructor's depth of knowledge on this subject was impressive. I learned much more than I anticipated and am excited to do more research on new topics that the course introduced, such as book provenance.
3. Oh yeah, and then some. By processing through the record by area—top to

- bottom—starting with transcription and was able to build a lot around it.
4. DJL helped me acquire all the skills and information promised and more. She was incredibly knowledgeable and explained things in an engaging, easy-to-understand manner. I learned more than I had hoped to learn.
 5. Yes.
 6. Yes, I learned what I hoped to learn.
 7. I feel the course's content matched its description. {private response}
 8. Yes and yes.
 9. Yes.
 10. Yes! I especially wanted and needed to learn about signatures and transcriptions, and I now feel more knowledgeable and confident about both. I also have a better understanding of the DCRM(B) rules.
 11. Yes, and more!
 12. Absolutely! 100%

5) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*

1. A little bit more of practice. At least one extra evening class to work on our books.
2. It would have been helpful to get the warm-up exercises sooner to help focus study of DCRM(B).
3. Slightly easier plug use for laptops.
4. The course was great. I might say adding a few foreign language books to the practicum might be nice for people who do a lot of that type of cataloging.
5. I only wish we had more time.
6. Perhaps viewing more examples of correct cataloging would help build skills more gradually. We moved quickly (naturally), and at times I felt I had not absorbed enough to be able to understand the next concept.
7. I wish there was more than the one evening session to work on our practicums.
8. I'm not sure if there is a way to add more working examples of signatures.
9. Perhaps more focus on the essentials and more hands-on practice with them—then only later looking at other matters.
10. It would be nice to be able to spend some additional time on historical binding, but I realize it would probably be hard to fit that in.
11. More examples of records—I would have actually liked to see more cataloging.
12. More examples would have been good, especially foreign language examples.

6) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*

1. Catalogers, cataloging librarians, cataloging technicians, special collections librarians with knowledge of cataloging.
2. I think this course is most helpful for rare book catalogers, but also for art/museum librarians.
3. Honestly, catalogers of course, but I think this course could be helpful to anyone investigating rare materials.
4. Any catalogers or people who have cataloging as a primary part of their job duties. It would also be helpful for graduate students.
5. Catalogers with some DCRM(B) exposure who are looking to gain more practical experience.
6. Experienced catalogers who need to expand their skills.

7. Anyone who works with rare books professionally.
8. Anyone who is interested in creating more descriptive catalog records for their rare book collection.
9. Catalogers of rare books.
10. Anyone who has at least some cataloging knowledge and experience and who needs to know more specifically about rare book cataloging.
11. Early career rare book catalogers—it was so beneficial to me to have a good knowledge of MARC as well.
12. Catalogers or those with cataloging duties.

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

1. The course is quite expensive, and I'm not sure if maybe using that money to take many other rare book cataloging courses would be more cost effective or not. However, the experience was incredible, and that is what I take home! 😊
2. I definitely felt the quality and practicality of the class matched the cost. I would recommend this class to any cataloger who wants to sharpen their skills. I wish all my cataloging colleagues could take this class. They would greatly enjoy it and find it useful.
3. Yes, yes.
4. I do feel like I got my money's worth. I would absolutely recommend this course to others. I learned so much.
5. Yes.
6. Yes, definitely worth the cost, and I would enthusiastically recommend to my colleagues.
7. Yes, I feel I got my money's worth and would recommend this course to others.
8. Yes and yes.
9. Sure.
10. Yes to both!
11. Yes and yes.
12. Yes (to both)!

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

1. Incredibly well spent. The field trip to SC was amazing.
2. Yes, we went to visit SC with a workshop hosted by David Vander Meulen. It expanded on what we learned in class and was very inspirational.
3. Indeed. We went to the SC demo (and then I visited the Whitman exhibit, which was totally relevant).
4. Yes. Our trip to see SC materials was beneficial. The book-ordering exercise challenged us with a hands-on exercise, and getting more acquainted with more rare books was helpful. The more exposure, the better.
5. Yes (especially the trip to SC).
6. Yes. The SC trip was very interesting and worthwhile.
7. I thought the trip to SC was very helpful in illustrating the concept of different states in rare books.
8. Yes. I enjoyed our field trip to SC. It was really interesting.

9. Yes.
 10. Yes, it was very helpful to go to SC and see the different variant issues and impressions of various books.
 11. Yes—SC was fascinating and enlightening. It answered many questions I didn't know I had!
 12. You bet! It was great to see David Vander Meulen in action and to see how researchers can help catalogers.
- 9) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. Plan to stay one or two extra days to be able to visit the city, Monticello, &c. Bring your laptop.
 2. Try to catalog a few books beyond the warm-up activities. Bring questions.
 3. Be prepared for long, mentally engaging days with real homework. But do do the homework. It's essential practice.
 4. Do it: you will not be disappointed. DJL is a wonderful instructor with a ton of knowledge, and she made learning fun.
 5. I highly recommend it.
 6. {no response}
 7. Practice using DCRM(B) on modern books before class if you get a chance.
 8. Reading the material and watching the videos was helpful.
 9. Do your homework. Practice, practice, practice.
 10. I would definitely encourage others to take this course—I wish I had done it several years ago!
 11. If I was brand new to cataloging I would have had a harder time; do the reading and prepare yourself with questions.
 12. Definitely apply: you will walk away not only with more knowledge but also with more confidence cataloging in DCRM(B).
- 10) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*
1. Incredible experience!
 2. I had an amazing time, and I am inspired to learn more.
 3. If this poem was in a gather of four
we would know leaf 4/5 would be sewn for sure
but if there is no V, then the break has to be pulled out
Yeah sure, cataloger's judgement, some signatures leave room for doubt.
 4. I learned a ton, got to work with and catalog some amazing materials, and loved getting to meet other students, faculty, and staff who share in my love of rare books.
 5. This has been a highlight of my professional career, and I'm grateful to have had such an amazing experience!
 6. Excellent hands-on learning opportunity, with an enthusiastic bunch of book nerds of all stripes. Summer camp for book nerds!
 7. Overall, worthwhile.
 8. Intense but FUN!
 9. {no response}

10. Great experience!
11. Fantastic, 10/10 would recommend.
12. Fabulous! A center of learning for all those interested in rare books. A community for all those who want to learn and share their passions with like-minded bibliophiles.

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: 12 (100%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (75%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 3 (25%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (8.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (75%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

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

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (16.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (75%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 11 (91.67%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (8.33%)