

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. Yes! The book assigned by our instructors was very helpful in framing the work of the course, and the articles added good meat to those bones (I apologize; it's late on Friday).
 2. All readings useful.
 3. All were excellent, especially the Trevor Owens book.
 4. Yes—they made me think about many of the issues raised in class, in very different ways than I had in my more analog world. Primarily, digital work always seemed foreign and intimidating. The readings (and the class) showed how interrelated many analog/digital tasks are.
 5. Yes, very much so! I highly recommend the Trevor Owens book—read it with your colleagues at home first even.
 6. The readings were helpful and relevant and enriched my understanding of the experiences in the class.
 7. Yes, all the pre-course reading assignments were useful.
 8. Absolutely useful! I'll read anything NN and MK deem to be worthy of our time. Excellent case studies, strategies, and anecdotes.
 9. Yes, I liked all the readings, and I think I will revisit all of them. I particularly liked the Trevor Owens book and plan to recommend it to others at my institution.
 10. Yes, the reading was so useful and helped set the tone of the class.
 11. Readings were evocative and useful—the instructors are doing a great job of keeping relevant, as the field is so new.
 12. Absolutely useful. Only one was a rather difficult read—"Material History of Bits"—but the message was important.

- 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. Great! It was! Yes!
 2. Yes, handouts were useful here and seemed adaptable for home use.
 3. Yes, the materials seem useful. I appreciated the instructors assembling and sharing resources via Dropbox.
 4. Yes very appropriate and useful. The slides, in particular, will help me to help my supervisors convince administration that we need resources (so much red tape!). Getting new positions is difficult, so even though my supervisors are supportive, we need to advocate at the higher levels. This course has given me the confidence to do that.
 5. No course workbook, but appreciate the Dropbox of materials shared. Lecture

- slides, the week's schedule, yes, but also tools, example files to work with, and other articles that came up during the week—including those by other students as well, not just by the instructors.
6. Yes! Our course used a Dropbox with readings, slides, exercise materials. I already see uses for referring to these materials after RBS.
 7. I believe the coursework was very appropriate and useful. Hands-on experience is always valuable and particularly so in a collaborative learning environment.
 8. Yes, very useful to think about a process to solve born-digital challenges.
 9. I'm glad the slides and other class materials are in Dropbox. I will definitely refer to them again as I'm doing this work.
 10. I really enjoyed reading the workbook. I felt like it made the topic accessible, and the articles added context to the work.
 11. The hands-on experience and exercises—although they may not be globally applicable—are beneficial for solidifying concepts and instilling confidence.
 12. Yes. The instructors structured the course to involve practical assignments, hands-on labs, and engaged discussions. Yes!
- 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. Yes. This course has empowered me, even midstream, to stop and think more deliberately about my practice.
 2. Discussion with donors surrounding born-digital materials will become more detailed about computing background, transition points in their history, explicit understanding of what future access/use might look like, method/strategy to help keep them engaged (invested?) in their future collection transfers.
 3. Yes, the course gave me many new ways to think about my day-to-day work, as well as ideas for research. Even information or resources I was already familiar with were framed in a productive new way. I'll be implementing specific policy and practice ideas at work and introducing colleagues to principles and values that should inform our future plans.
 4. Yes. I know things that I can do immediately, even without resources, that will prepare us as we move forward with acquiring, processing, and making accessible born-digital materials, and should, if we are able to hire a digital archivist for the University Archives, help them get on their feet more easily.
 5. I have ways to improve and think about a born-digital inventory project that I am working on. Also walked away with good first things to try, as we're starting out, such as designing a project for archives staff to use a born-digital collection to familiarize ourselves with tools. Also, the course text will be very helpful as a shared read among our staff.
 6. I acquired new methods and questions for working with born-digital materials and the material culture of computing as a researcher and instructor. I made valuable connections with new colleagues who are partners in doing this work.
 7. I feel that this course helped me orient my thinking to what is a relatively new and complex topic. I feel prepared to help my institution understand many of the ethical and technical considerations that accompany this class of archival records.
 8. Tons—what is authenticity and completeness in the digital age?
 9. Lots of small “aha!” moments, like ways to better describe born-digital material in finding aids and how to talk about these materials in donor agreements, but I also

think the class will be really informative in how I think about working with these materials at a higher, programmatic level.

10. The “aha!” moment I had was that we don’t have to know it all. There are small things we can do to really be responsible for the born-digital materials we have. I’m going to start with surveys and make plans from there.
11. I’ve had concepts with which I came into this course highlighted and their importance emphasized. I have plans to review and can better articulate plans.
12. I will return to engage in discussions with my institution on how we can better increase access, learn processes, and provide better descriptions.

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. They did! I have!
2. Yes. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. Yes and yes.
5. I think so. So much to think about. I want a perpetual connection to the instructors and my classmates as mentors and teachers.
6. Yes! MK and NN are extremely skilled teachers. We learned through hands-on interaction with materials and thoughtful and well prepared lectures and discussions.
7. Yes—both instructors were amazing. They brought to the table tons of real-life experience and theoretical knowledge. Course objectives were met.
8. Yes and yes. Both were very available and willing to talk through our questions despite the students’ varied vocabulary on the subject.
9. Yes, other than not getting an exact road map for how to do born-digital preservation (an impossible thing to ask for), I got everything I wanted!
10. Yes! Both NN and MK really truly know their stuff and were able to break down the material in a way that is accessible and fun! The class exceeded my expectations!
11. Yes and yes.
12. Yes. The instructors were clear that this is not a course to learn about the newest technologies, processes, and ways of doing things. This was a useful course for someone with very little knowledge of born-digital materials.

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

1. I don’t think so.
2. More time with the machines.
3. I’d be interested in exploring more examples of research done using born-digital material in innovative ways.
4. I truly don’t think so . . . there were endless opportunities for us to ask questions and steer discussions so we had the power to make the course, in many ways, our own.
5. On the archives side, maybe some intro/hands-on experience with digital archival tools and how they are used. Not BitCurator, but maybe, say, an example of how ArchivesSpace is used to describe born-digital materials.
6. {no response}

7. Sincerely, I can't think of any suggestions for improvement. Perhaps more fellowships and scholarships to include as many people as humanly possible.
8. I'd love additional reading suggestions for after this "base-level" course. I didn't think I'd be asking for more reading, but here we are!
9. {no response}
10. I think it would be cool to hear more from the donors.
11. As they become available, a wider array of experiences of ROW institutions of varying size, resources, and affiliation. The examples available are often from presumably large institutions.
12. {no response}

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

1. Anyone involved in any aspect of collection development and management could benefit from this course.
2. Librarians, archivists, IT staff, authors, instructors.
3. Curators and public service archivists. Library IT. Historians and literary scholars working with contemporary materials.
4. Per our last discussion, many people in our library community, including curators who collect, IT people who work with staff, archivists, and reading room staff.
5. Anyone working with born-digital materials! IT staff should really consider taking this course.
6. Researchers in history, book history, any field that involves archival/special collections work, special collections librarians responsible for born-digital materials.
7. Anyone charged with maintaining a special collection and looking toward the future will benefit from studying the concepts and ideas covered in this class.
8. Archivists, IT workers who work with libraries.
9. I think anyone who plans to work with born-digital materials in special collections, either on the librarian/institution side or as a researcher.
10. Everyone! We are all going to have to deal and work with born-digital materials in some capacity.
11. My colleagues in archives and other special collections units.
12. Library staff, IT, students.

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

1. I certainly did. Yes, I would.
2. Yes. Yes.
3. Yes—I received a scholarship but would not have regretted paying for the course myself. Yes, I would recommend it.
4. Yes and yes in many ways. I feel like I may not have been the best person from our institution to attend this course (although I am glad I had the opportunity).
5. Yes. The instructors were so thoughtful in their design of the course.
6. Yes. I strongly recommend this course.
7. Yes, I will be recommending this course to others.
8. Yes and yes.
9. Yes, absolutely.

10. Yes and yes!!!
11. Yes and absolutely. I'm going to encourage others to attend.
12. Yes. Yes.

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

1. Yes. Our trip to SC was very enjoyable!
2. Yes. SC session—materials collected and philosophy behind it—quite interesting.
3. SC visit was interesting and helped me think about digital culture and collecting differently. I would've also liked to see how they handle and provide access to any born-digital collections.
4. The trip to SC was great and the "trip" to the vintage computer lab was eye-opening.
5. Absolutely. Molly Schwartzburg was wonderful!
6. {no response}
7. We had one session that was a talk given by a collections development librarian (Molly Schwartzburg). It was great.
8. The "digital books" and examples of digital printing were superb.
9. Yes, I really loved our visit to SC to see examples of artists' books and other digitally made or influenced materials. It was a real highlight for me.
10. The trip to SC with Molly was unique and so much fun. I feel that it was really cool to engage with art and print culture related to born-digital.
11. Yes, it was a nice experience of engaging with output and captured objects which could be influenced by the contents we preserve.
12. Yes! Our discussion with one of SC's curators was amazing. It was our only trip.

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

1. Do it!
2. No.
3. {no response}
4. I think I expected to feel embarrassed that I am so woefully behind the digital game, so to speak, but in fact, the instructors and classmates were supportive of all levels of knowledge.
5. Don't be afraid or intimidated to take this course and ask all the questions. The instructors make the topic both accessible and challenging.
6. {no response}
7. Take this class! Rich learning opportunities can feel few and far between. Immersing yourself in a week-long experience with superior instructors and engaging colleagues is very worthwhile.
8. The course is fairly philosophical in its approach in that it focuses on concepts and not on hitching your institutional wagons to a particular software vendor. The former is timeless information.
9. {no response}
10. Take your time with the readings; they're all going to make sense in class.
11. Do the readings and don't be intimidated by them or the class concept.
12. Have no expectations. This is not an instruction course, but a class focused on

looking at all areas of born-digital material with hands-on and practical lessons.

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

1. A phenomenal learning experience.
2. Digital is still material and needs active attention/care.
3. Supportive community of learning and practice.
4. This course will make me better at my job, will make our institution serve our constituents better, and will result in our doing greater justice to our collections.
Thank you!
5. Glad to come.
6. Perhaps the most generous, intense, and collaborative learning experience I have ever had.
7. The most fun I've ever had at a class I took for work.
8. It was so much more than I expected, and it turned out to be exactly what I needed to bring back to my home institution.
9. A rewarding week that will inform my work a lot in years to come.
10. Transformative!
11. A refreshing experience to stop, bring my nose up from the grindstone, and reconsider what it is I'm ultimately engaged in and why.
12. Love will (often) find a way. (Relates to one of our readings.)

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: 11 (91.66%)

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

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (41.66%)

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

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 4 (33.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; my institution/employer paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 1 (8.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 8 (66.67%)

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

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:

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (57%)

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

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

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

Library disciplines:

Archivist: 7 (58.33%)

Conservator/binder/preservation librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Library assistant/clerk: 1 (8.33%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Professional educator:

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (8.33%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Other: 1 (8.33%)