

Erica Titkemeyer & Steve Weiss
L-120: Introduction to Audiovisual Archives Management
10 – 15 July in Chapel Hill, NC

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 required reading document was useful for a general overview of terminology and what is currently being done.
2. Somewhat—class lectures and discussion helped to make them more understandable/digestible.
3. Yes. Required reading was minimal and appropriate given the overview. Recommended readings were made and left for individuals to pick and choose additional reading.
4. They were helpful in preparing me for terminology I'd be seeing.
5. The readings are a great resource. I only fully read those marked as required but I am glad to have the list to return to as a resource.
6. They were useful. I appreciate the list of resources for future reading as well as them offering a non-intense entry to the topics we would cover.
7. The readings were a useful foundation to introduce key concepts. I appreciated that only one reading was required.
8. Yes—many of these readings will be most useful post-course once I am applying the skills I've developed, and I very much appreciate the resources.
9. {no response}
10. The pre-course reading assignment was very useful to get me in the frame of mind for being in class.
11. Very helpful to give background to the material presented in class.
12. Many of our pre-course readings were optional but I plan on going back to them post-course. I feel I have a better foundation to understand them.

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. The hands-on activities were useful in understanding some of the processes that take place in preserving AV materials.
2. Yes, I plan to use course materials as a reference going forward.
3. All course material was useful and much will prove to be valuable after the class.
4. I will most likely use 85-90% of what was taught this week!
5. I enjoyed the activity materials. I would consider modeling my own materials on them. I will refer back to the PowerPoint slides, notes, and references/links in the future.
6. I found all of the materials to be useful in the moment and have a feeling they will be more

useful in my role where I work. Resources to turn to as questions and scenarios arise.

7. The shared resource document will be invaluable moving forward!
8. Yes, there are many resources that will be useful to projects I have waiting for me to address in my library.
9. {no response}
10. The creation of a resource list and access to the PowerPoint slides will be helpful after the course is complete.
11. Very useful. I liked that the instructors had physical examples that we could touch and examine.
12. I really appreciated all the physical objects/items that were used in the course—they were crucial for understanding the variety of formats and uses!

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. The open discussion with the instructors and the other students brought new ways of looking at how and what we can and should preserve.
2. Learning will be applied to our collection's work as soon as I return!
3. I have greater confidence in what type of archive I manage. I feel better equipped to seek out vendors who I should work with and which questions should be asked of them.
4. I'm definitely going to approach planning and conservation differently.
5. I plan to make more informed collection development decisions. I will use the history of formats in my special collections teaching. I will use technical information/project information to have more substantive conversations with potential donors, vendors, and conservators.
6. I plan to incorporate the new skills and knowledge in my work in a variety of ways. Gained more vocabulary, increased comfort in material types, seeing the big picture of AV collections and professional organizations and resources.
7. I want to upgrade our AV database and embark on new digitization and grant projects.
8. There are specifics in existing workflows that I will adjust to be more in-line with what I now understand to be the best practices. I also have a much better understanding of how I want to tackle projects that have been brainstormed but not fully realized due to lack of expertise.
9. {no response}
10. We are undertaking a plan for digitizing and preserving our magnetic media and everything I learned this week will help me contribute to those plans.
11. This class will help me ID and start a condition survey of concentrated areas of AV materials in our collections.
12. I feel that the project planning will be the most useful for me in the future - I feel better about identifying formats and can better advocate for their care

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. Yes. I learned what I had hoped to learn and more. This course exceeded my expectations.
2. Yes—instructors delivered course material in an accessible way and also made sure to share their resources and documentation to help deepen understanding.
3. Yes. My instructors did not shy away from any questions. They asked if anything needed to be clarified further.
4. I learned more than I thought!
5. Yes, they did—although I thought based on the overview that project management would look more like the discipline of project management more broadly. I'm not sure that was promised in the course description anyways, and I appreciate what I did learn about it.
6. Yes, the course covered everything it promised. And I gained what I was hoping to learn. Might take some review over the next months but it's a great starting point.
7. The course was so useful and the instructors did a great job keeping us engaged with various activities and videos/examples throughout their presentations.
8. I did—I knew so little going in that I feel light years ahead of where I was, even with just one week of the course!
9. The instructors were very knowledgeable and the various hands-on activities throughout the course were quite helpful.
10. Absolutely, the instructors were great and I got exactly what I hoped for from the course.
11. Yes—ID, preservation concerns, project management, copyright—all very useful. Very valuable to have all the examples and resources ... especially documentation of workflows for in house.
12. While I've had some training with film, I was happy to also gain knowledge of sound/video—and especially appreciated learning about what is possible in working with vendors.

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

1. If possible, maybe more time for student discussions on what they are doing at their institutions.
2. The perfect blend of lecture, discussion, and hands-on learning.
3. The course was great. No.
4. Not at all.
5. I thought the course was great and can't think of much I'd improve. *Maybe* to formalize the student problems/challenges into an exercise or small-group sharing? But that would take time away from other valuable things...
6. Field trip to Duke or other opportunity to step out of the classroom.
7. No, it was an excellent and comprehensive course.
8. The instructors were so receptive to questions and requests for information that I cannot suggest improvements.
9. Some field trips to other archives in the surrounding area.
10. I think we could have spent an entire session on the ethical implications of AV collections and digitization.
11. Breaks were long, especially lunch—I think those could have been shortened but overall a great course.

12. N/A

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

1. Anyone who has AV material in their collection or thinking of acquiring AV would benefit from this course.
2. Anyone working with SC—including oral histories—in the twenty-first century. This course will be important and relevant for the foreseeable future.
3. Anyone interested in AV collection management.
4. My institution will definitely benefit from what I learned.
5. This is a great course for anyone with AV in collections they work with or who wants to be prepared to work with AV.
6. Archivists, curators, local historians, librarians.
7. Archival practitioners who are just starting to manage AV collections. A lot of foundational/general knowledge was shared throughout the week and I now know where to go to learn more as needed.
8. I was hired into my position for certain expertise and along with it came these additional AV duties that I had less confidence doing. This course is perfect for someone like that because you're given a "crash course" in addition to more resources to explore based on your own needs.
9. Anyone having audiovisual materials in the collections that they manage.
10. I would think any archivist/curator/special collections librarian could benefit from this course.
11. M.L.I.S. students, any librarian, archive professional wanting to learn more about AV materials.
12. Archivist or library workers who want to get a foundation in AV archives.

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

1. Yes and yes.
2. Absolutely yes.
3. Yes and yes.
4. I'd definitely recommend this course to others.
5. Yes! Very worth the time/money. I'd highly recommend.
6. Yes and yes.
7. Yes! The class instructors shared their expertise in a digestible way and brought in excellent guest speakers. Would definitely recommend the class to others.
8. Yes, I would definitely recommend it to those who are stewarding AV materials but may not have extensive (or any!) experience with them (see Q6).
9. I would recommend the course to others.
10. Yes, it was well worth the expense in time and money to take this course.
11. Yes, the instructors were very knowledgeable and gave practical advice, info, and shared lots of excellent resources.

12. Yes and yes!

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

1. Yes.
2. Tours of equipment labs/spaces were helpful to illustrate workflows and procedures discussed in class.
3. Yes. We took a couple of tours to AV/digitization stations in the library.
4. N/A
5. The facility tours were great. Seeing the labs. Would have been cool to see the machine for digitizing from Quadruplex.
6. I enjoyed the visits to the AV studios at Wilson Library. Great to see equipment in person and get a sense of workflows.
7. We got to see the AV labs and this was a nice treat.
8. Yes—we visited studios and it was useful to see the working operation in addition to hearing about it.
9. We made trips to other spaces within the library and those were helpful to better understand the processes that were being discussed in the course.
10. The visits we took to the lab facilities were very helpful and allowed me to get a better sense of the amount of space and staff needed to do in-house digitization.
11. I liked seeing the in-house sound and video digitization studios.
12. I liked being able to visit the studios and ask questions about the set up.

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

1. {no response}
2. It is an excellent course to explore, understand, and to become more familiar with topics, issues, and challenges that come along with audiovisual collections material.
3. Just take it!
4. Come prepared to learn a lot and be ready to have a great time learning.
5. Definitely take this course. The instructors' expertise will do you good. It's an excellent mix of history and theory with applied hands-on work and problem solving.
6. {no response}
7. The course demystified AV and made it feel approachable. I now know how to get started on new projects and have a better handle on potential issues. AV management no longer seems insurmountable.
8. It will be a much better use of time for you to get the info from the experts (the very knowledgeable instructors) instead of trying to sort through all the resources out there yourself!
9. {no response}
10. The only advice I have is to take this course if you have any qualms about working with AV materials. You will get over those fears in this class.

11. {no response}
12. Nope!

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

1. Informative.
2. A special kind of summer camp—I'm learning with desired specialized knowledge and new colleagues/friends in my professional network. Thanks to everyone whose work and efforts made this week so successful!
3. My experience was exceptional.
4. Wow, I learned so much!
5. It's a chance to gather with a small group of students all doing different but complementary work and learn from expert instructors.
6. {no response}
7. Amazing, thoughtful instructors, staff, and classmates helped me to learn and grow my AV understanding.
8. I would have been floundering for months (years) to gain the knowledge and resources I picked up in just this one week.
9. {no response}
10. Wonderful people, facilities, and instructors.
11. Demystifying AV, SW and ET are excellent instructors.
12. Would recommend it!