

Narrative Evaluations

1) *Do you have any practical suggestions for improvements to RBS's online logistics?*

1. Nope!
2. n/a
3. No.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. I really enjoyed the 10-hour format (hour, 30 min break, hour each day) -- other conferences/workshops I have attended on Zoom were mentally exhausting if they lasted longer than this amount
7. The logistics were really flawless and some of the best I've seen over the last 18 months.
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. No. Everything went very smoothly for me this week.
11. {no response}
12. No, this was awesome!
13. Gather.town seems awkward and not useful for tablets. Audio varied between assistant and instructor. Since I was listening in an office, I had to keep adjusting my volume.
14. No. The online course is not a good substitute to in-person, especially when the course necessitates dealing with physical books, but the online course was logistically as good and simple to handle as possible. I would do away with Gather.town
15. The online logistics worked perfectly.
16. Maybe use the poll feature on Zoom for David's pop quiz questions he poses throughout to see where the whole class is on target and where they are not.
17. I think that y'all did very well this year, and wonder what the possibility of online courses in non-COVID years could potentially look like. They're never ideal, but could be a welcome possibility.
18. Honestly, this class crushed it. It was well organized, used helpful slides that were provided to students as well. The session assistant is a great person to have handling the technological aspects.
19. Not really. I think the zoom class sessions were as useful as they could be.
20. No. I thought everything was thoroughly thought out and worked perfectly.
21. No; I think that the online format of RBS this year went smoothly, and the Zoom lectures were easy to attend.
22. I thought the Zoom lectures worked well and there was just the right amount of student participation.
23. {no response}
24. No - Everything went very smoothly.

25. I know it's difficult over Zoom, but I would have liked time built in for some hands-on work. I received materials from RBS for that purpose, but they weren't used during class at all.
26. I was very impressed with how everything was handled online. I especially thought that sending out multiple redundant links by various avenues was helpful.
27. I think that everything ran quite smoothly. Kudos to your team.
28. None
29. I was thoroughly impressed and the course assistants really helped. I may have simply missed the email, but I would have appreciated a reminder or two about the advanced reading and where to find it on the RBS site.
30. {no response}
31. Some sort of standardisation of platforms used by instructors would be helpful, one of the courses I took this summer was using an overwhelming array of platforms, most of which seemed irrelevant
32. I do not. I think we're all still trying to figure out how to make online instruction more accessible and RBS is doing really great!
33. No.
34. {no response}
35. No. I thought that everything was very well thought out. I'm afraid that I did not ever determine how to make good use of Gather.town, but it was a good idea, in theory. I think if the school has to continue in the online format, it might be helpful to plan online receptions in a more formal style, with zoom format with breakout rooms for various topics, perhaps?

2) How would you describe your encounters with RBS staff?

1. Everyone has been so friendly, helpful and professional.
2. Everyone seemed very helpful and friendly.
3. fantastic before and during the classes
4. everyone was great and very informative
5. Very helpful; any email enquiries were responded to quickly.
6. All incredibly friendly, professional, supportive
7. Superb.
8. {no response}
9. Excellent. A bunch of friendly highly professional nice people
10. Invariably courteous and helpful
11. RBS staff were extremely helpful and made the experience run smoothly!
12. So so great! They were all so kind and reassuring when things looked overwhelming :)
13. Always helpful and responsive.
14. Very positive
15. Professional and friendly.
16. Wonderful! Will was most helpful in coordinating the logistics for the class.
17. Excellent. All I have interacted with are very knowledgeable and eager to help.
18. Every encounter I have had has been welcoming, encouraging, and educational. All of the staff have been so helpful and it makes me excited to hopefully take a class next year!
19. Helpful, welcoming, supportive.

20. Always wonderful.
21. Excellent; I was able to meet a few members of the RBS staff this week, and they all were friendly, professional, and kind.
22. I did not have many encounters with RBS staff outside of my class sessions, but everyone seemed helpful, professional, and friendly.
23. Excellent. Prompt, courteous, helpful.
24. Excellent - Always friendly, professional, and welcoming.
25. Everyone is lovely.
26. Polite and professional.
27. Nothing but welcoming.
28. Very friendly and helpful
29. Always delightful
30. Very helpful, thank you!
31. Positive
32. RBS staff is very professional, kind, and knowledgeable!
33. Excellent.
34. Very positive.
35. RBS staff have been very helpful and polite.

3) 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?

1. It was difficult to attend evening courses due to time zone differences and personal/professional responsibilities--hopefully I will be able to attend them in person soon!
2. n/a
3. I was only able to attend two of the Tuesday night lectures. Without being away for RBS, life got in the way.
4. Yes, very helpful and entertaining
5. The lecture was a great addition.
6. The Tuesday evening lecture about Black bibliography was fascinating and pertinent!
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend any due to childcare responsibilities.
11. {no response}
12. They were all an incredible use of my time, I loved the guest lectures and the Gather.town meetings!
13. Yes.
14. {no response}
15. The presentation on Black bibliography was very interesting and I hope to be able to rewatch a video of it if possible.
16. Yes! I enjoyed Gather.town very much!
17. I very much enjoyed the lectures.
18. I loved the Black Bibliography lecture. It was hands down one of the most informative experiences of RBS online that I have had. Honestly, every lecture RBS has posted has

been an educational gold mine. I've shared many of the lecture youtube links with my colleagues so they may also benefit from Rare Book School's excellent standards of education.

19. {no response}
20. The lectures and Gather.town meetings were great.
21. I attended the majority of the optional evening events, but I felt that the social events in particular were not a good use of my time. I would sit in the Gather.town lobby for the entire suggested times, and I would typically only meet one or two other students. The interactions I had with these students were great -- I wish I could have met more people throughout the week and networked more. I understand that the online format of RBS made these social events harder for everyone to attend. I hope that I get to attend courses in future years in person so that I can take a greater advantage of social events.
22. I attended the opening lecture on Sunday and the Malkin lecture on Tuesday. Both were enjoyable and instructive and a good use of my time.
23. {no response}
24. Yes - I particularly enjoyed the Tuesday evening lecture.
25. I did not. Honestly, I have too much Second Life trauma from early in my career to want anything to do with something similar, like Gather.town. I appreciate that RBS tried to provide something for socializing, but it just wasn't for me.
26. I felt like the lecture series was a good use of time. I think maybe the Gather.town hangout times mentioned in the Important Information guide were under-advertised and promoted.
27. Still need to watch the Malkin Lecture - but am anticipating it.
28. No evening events attended
29. I was unfortunately unable to attend the lectures this week, but was hoping that at least the Tuesday lecture would be recorded and made available? During my course earlier in the summer, the events really made the week feel more like RBS summer school and a feeling of community.
30. Tuesday's keynote was excellent!!! The best keynote address I've attended during this year's virtual RBS summer sessions
31. Could not attend because of time zone differences
32. The "What is 'Black' about Bibliography?" lecture was extremely valuable and a good use of my time. I rushed back home in order to make sure I could attend.
33. N/A
34. {no response}
35. I very much enjoyed the lectures and found them interesting. Perhaps break-out zoom groups on various topics related to the lectures might be planned for just after the lectures, if the online format has to continue.

4) 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, so helpful!
2. The reading assignments were useful for learning important background information before taking the course.

3. Bowers is tough to get through even though it is so important, but the rest was very helpful.
4. {no response}
5. {deleted response}
6. Very useful and manageable, Bowers was essential pre-course reading. I could follow the course because of that advanced reading.
7. The readings were, as per the course itself, the Fundamentals.
8. Yes... not that I am aware of.
9. The pre-course assignments were very helpful
10. Yes, and I wouldn't suggest any changes.
11. Bowers was useful but extremely confusing to read before the course. I understand *why* we read it before the course (almost all of the confusion was clarified in class), but maybe reading (or even rereading) relevant chapters daily as homework would make it even clearer.
12. yes!
13. {no response}
14. Useful, though I found it hard to read them all while working full-time
15. Very useful. The course and readings complemented one another very well.
16. Quite, I think reading Gaskell and Bowers beforehand is a big help for this course.
17. All of Bowers related readings were useful, but even more so after they were expanded upon in class. But I do feel confident returning to the readings as a refresher of material learned in the course.
18. Extremely, although many of the readings are quite dense, as they contain very important information. I recommend starting the readings early, but a companion video to some of these readings may help with a more in-depth understanding.
19. Yes, very much so. Had I not already been familiar with Gaskell and Bowers prior to the class, I think I would have been completely lost during the relatively fast-paced course. Prof. Whitesell did an excellent job building on and reinforcing the info from the advance readings.
20. The guides to refer to the pre-course readings were difficult, but as the instructor advised, were made much more understandable during the course. They are very important as
21. The pre-course reading assignments for this course were incredibly helpful! Both Bowers and Gaskell provide detailed explanations of the purposes of descriptive bibliography and function as useful handbooks for writing collational formulas. At first I did not enjoy reading Bowers, but I found that I had a greater appreciation for his book by the end of the course.
22. The pre-course reading assignments were useful, though it's hard to get through some of Bowers without already having the content of the class under your belt. I think it will be more meaningful to go back to Bowers after the class (maybe it will be less opaque now!)
23. Extensive advanced reading but valuable for providing advanced knowledge. Also gave greater appreciation of the delivery of this complex material during the course and fabulous job David Whitesell did to make the arcane information alive and applicable.
24. "(1) Yes (2) No"

25. I couldn't get my hands on Bower before the class. It's not readily available for purchase at an affordable cost, isn't fully digitized online that I could find, and I am still WFH, so I couldn't get it from my library. That was a severe limitation.
26. This course especially has an excellent foundational reading list that's useful for the whole field, but I regularly check the website and pick from the pre-course reading lists of all the courses. Even if I never took an RBS course they are incredibly valuable resources.
27. Yes. I would need to mull over Bowers more, as it seemed very intense at times for me to comprehend. Gaskell's explanation and David's were appreciated.
28. The readings were challenging, especially Bowers Principles, but it gave great context for the course.
29. {no response}
30. Yes, and the workbook--both sent via post and delivered in the course materials--are very helpful. Thank you!
31. Yes they were useful and relevant
32. The pre-course readings were very challenging because of the formal English of the author--I guess. The videos were great and helped to fill in gaps for me. And, of course, the class sessions were helpful in clarifying the readings.
33. Yes, they greatly supported the course content.
34. Sort of. A lot of the readings were covered verbatim in class sessions. It helped to buttress my understanding of the lectures, but some supplementary material would be helpful, too.
35. The pre-course reading assignments were extremely useful and necessary to understand and follow along in the class. I wondered whether people could understand what Bowers was talking about at times, if they had never encountered the problems that he addresses. I have the odd experience of having encountered almost all the situations that he described in my research for Oxford English Dictionary over 25 years. I did not understand what I was seeing in the books that I looked at over the years, and I had not known how to describe the physical facts of these books. Each time Bowers went into an explanation, I remembered having encountered an example of the problem he was explaining, and what he said made sense. I really did feel that I was discovering theory to support and consolidate years of practice. I only wish I had taken the course 15 years ago. I hope that I am able to find a new role that will allow me to make use of the knowledge I now have.

5) 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. Absolutely. I will be working through the workbook for a long time to keep practicing!
2. Everything seems useful and I look forward to looking through the further suggested readings.
3. The course workbook is absolutely amazing and helpful. as are the PPT slides.
4. Yes
5. The course workbook and powerpoints were very helpful and comprehensive, and I plan to refer to them regularly at work in the future.

6. Workbook will stay with me for years to come due to its utility! Concise and very informative.
7. Obviously immaculately prepared and an extremely important resource in its own right. Yes.
8. Love the workbook and teaching materials distributed/looked at during class. Yes, it will continue to be useful.
9. The materials were well organised and extremely useful. The workbooks and slides will be kept as part of my reference library
10. I received a tube of facsimile pages in the mail that I can imagine using for practice, but would have liked a brief mention of the best way to make use of them.
11. The workbook was comprehensive and included all necessary content, plus even more for extra reading and gaining practice outside of class time.
12. the workbook for g10b is excellent, and will be an excellent resource going forward
13. {deleted response}
14. Very appropriate and very useful and will continue to be useful for me.
15. The workbook is very useful and I will be referring to it after the course.
16. I very much appreciated the workbook and mailed practice materials. It made the practiced content so much easier to maneuver.
17. Yes! I will refer to them often in the future, I'm sure.
18. Absolutely. This workbook was not only educational for the class, but it will help me review after the class and keep the information fresh in my mind.
19. Yes, it was helpful to have the workbook, which digested a lot of the material from other sources.
20. Extremely useful, especially when I'm trying to remember what I was taught in the class.
21. All of the teaching materials distributed during class were incredibly helpful. I received facsimiles of printed texts as well as descriptive bibliography paper from UVA which helped me better understand various terms we learned in class. The facsimiles allowed me to practice folding paper into their intended format and writing collational formulas after class discussions. The descriptive bibliography paper made it easier for me to understand vocabulary terms such as chainlines, watermarks, and deckle edges. The workbook is also incredibly helpful, and I am certain I will continue to use it long after the course ends.
22. The course workbook was extremely helpful in distilling the important points from Gaskell and Bowers and adding additional content. The workbook will definitely be something I turn to in the future when I'm describing books.
23. Excellent materials that will be used as reference going forward.
24. (1) All of the information was incredibly helpful, especially the practice kit, workbook, and PowerPoint presentations. (2) Yes (3) Yes
25. The PPT and readings (aside from Bowers) are very useful and I will definitely be consulting them in the future.
26. The workbook is excellent. I'd like to especially highlight the very robust exit reading list which alone is worth the price of admission.
27. I plan to divide the powerpoint sections into separate folders to use as reference going forward. Found the comprehensive layout of the course (workbook) and the divisions of topics very helpful.

28. I will have the workbook at my side as I begin my career as a rare book librarian. What a wonderful resource!
29. The course workbook is an incredible resource not just for the course itself but for my work moving forward. I'm grateful to have it at my disposal.
30. Very informative, resourceful, and accessible
31. Yes, I appreciated especially how the instructor provided a huge wealth of info in course materials that was intended for us to use AFTER the course for further practice/engagement
32. Yes, the collation formula chart created by the instructor was extremely helpful and it was good to be able to go through the workbook live with the instructor.
33. It was very practical and concise. I will certainly continue to refer to it in the future.
34. The workbook as a document to have is an invaluable resource.
35. The course workbook was so very useful. I immediately began working on the suggested example problems in the online books and created a spreadsheet format for describing the books, which I think will be very useful going forward. I found it very fun to study the examples and apply the principles we were learning each day. I hope to refer to the workbook in future.

6) *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. I have a greater understanding of how to approach the material elements of printed texts. I can't wait to put my new knowledge to use in an archival visit!
2. I am still trying to get into the rare books and special collections field, and I hope to use my experience to help me acquire the kind of job I want.
3. I now have a much better understanding of the components of bib description, which I sorely needed. This will help my research tremendously.
4. I will use this information towards my line of work, as I plan to work on becoming a book cataloguer. I am walking away with many "aha!" moments
5. {deleted response}
6. I'm hopeful to leverage some of the skills and concepts in a forthcoming PhD proposal.
7. Mostly to sharpen my own pedagogy in talking about hand press books with students. I will now be able to employ more precise terminology, highlight additional noteworthy features, and teach the rudiments of collation myself.
8. Yes, definitely want to get some more practice and do the tutorial but I have a better understanding of what is happening in bibliographic description now!
9. I will use the content of the course to improve my cataloguing and analytical skills. Every session was relevant and revealing
10. Mostly, I wanted to get a better understanding of hand-press era books and the scholarship in my field that engages with book history. In that sense, everyday was an "aha!" moment.
11. This class has made me more aware of anomalies to look for when viewing early modern printed books. While I don't plan to produce my own bibliographic descriptions, knowing what to look for that may indicate a book deviates from what I would expect will definitely be useful in my research.

12. I have been curious for a long time at my job how collational statements are built and i am going to attempt to make so many of them on our sometimes neglected stacks of pre-1850 books
13. {no response}
14. These skills and knowledge will be very useful for me in my regular job as special collections librarian
15. Many aha moments. Every lesson contained them. It was a great feeling when the information and concepts began to gel.
16. I will use this material as I head towards my dissertation work and am so grateful to have brushed up on the fundamentals of bibliography.
17. {no response}
18. {deleted response}
19. I don't know if I will directly use descriptive bibliography in any current project, but I can definitely see how the knowledge of and ability to describe book-as-object could shape in future planned work.
20. It gave me a completely new, and deeper, way of looking at and understanding the history of the books in my collection.
21. I feel as though I have a much stronger knowledge of collational formulas now. I can read many of the formulas that Bowers presents in his book and understand what each piece of it means. I plan to use the skills and knowledge I acquired during this class throughout the remainder of my Ph.D. program and with my future research.
22. I'm a cataloger, so this class has sharpened my understanding of format, collation, type differences, etc. I'm sure I will be able to use these new skills as I catalog rare books.
23. Many aha moments as collational formula was a complete mystery prior to attending this course. But there were others that supplemented my understanding of book history that I will apply to current research on our collections.
24. (1 & 2) Since graduate school, I have wanted to strengthen my understanding of certain elements of bibliographical description, such as format and collational formula. I hope to include this kind of information in my cataloging work in the future.
25. I am not a rare books cataloguer, and never will be, but it gave me a good introduction to the vocabulary and general methods of their work. This is helpful to me as an administrator and hiring manager, since we will soon be posting a job for one.
26. Hopefully the course will put me in a better position when applying to rare book cataloging positions.
27. Hoping to use in helping to rethink our institution's rare book collection. We are in the throes of a major overall and gaining trust with our users again. Having taken Critical Bibliography in a 7 week summer course 30 yrs. ago - there were many "aha" moments. Glad I remembered some of the terminology. This will require some earnest practice on my part.
28. The course has helped me cement my career path. I am fascinated and excited by what I learned and can't wait to have the opportunity to put it into practice in a professional
29. I will immediately put the skills and knowledge to use in my dissertation, and will continue to grow them as I advance in my career.
30. Yes! I will apply directly to my work in identifying and carefully evaluating rare book's in my library's special collections

31. During the last day's class, one of the professors' comments about areas of descriptive bibliography that remain understudied really inspired me to consider applying what I learned to my own field, a methodological parallel to things I'm already doing. Thanks!
32. Yes, I plan to practice what I learned in the course. I learned that when descriptive bibliography is walked through slowly, it is not so intimidating, but practice is important.
33. I will likely teach some of the concepts I learned about. Additionally, it will help me better understand the works in our collections.
34. {no response}
35. I had many "aha" moments, but I am not sure what sort of future any of these ideas might have. I was intrigued with Professor Whitesell's discussion of the work Dr. Richard Sayce did on a selection of books at the Taylor Institution Library in Oxford. I have used a lot of online databases for research of text facsimiles, but it had never occurred to me until this class that when we were digitizing books, we should have given some attention to creating images that could be useful in studying paper and format and other aspects of the book, besides typography. Stuck at home and unable to look at books in libraries to examine their physical characteristics, I suddenly thought, wouldn't it be nice to be able to see more than the white type on stark white background that EEBO provides for its images. Wouldn't it be nice to have a database of images that illuminate paper and ink and stitching and other physical characteristics. At least it would be very useful to create a database providing metadata about these characteristics. I was intrigued with Professor Whitesell's idea that big data has the capacity to give us a lot more information than Sayce was able to provide about characteristics of printing in different geographic areas. I would like to see that project get started.

7) 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!
2. Yes
3. yes
4. yes
5. {deleted response}
6. I learned what I had hoped to learn, and thanks to Prof. Whitesell, it was easier to learn and less intimidating than I thought it would be.
7. Yes and yes. David Whitesell is, as everybody knows, a treasure. I feel lucky to have had 10 hours of his time.
8. Yes, and yes. Still a little overwhelmed but I think this was a great foundation to start.
9. The course delivered everything and more.
10. Yes and yes
11. Yes!
12. David was so cool honestly. I wasn't sure what to expect coming into the course, and then i did the advanced readings and got pretty overwhelmed but David did such a good job dividing up time in the class to all the aspects of what i needed to know and broke them into bite sized pieces.
13. {deleted response}
14. Yes

15. Yes!
16. This course exceeded my wildest expectations and that is not hyperbole. David is amazing and managed to cover a ton of content in 10 hours. He was timely and very helpful.
17. Certainly.
18. Absolutely. The only thing I meant to ask was how to add illustration notes to the bibliographical description, however I believe that the workbooks and slides will provide insight into this.
19. Yes. I'm looking forward to the "practice sessions" that follow the course, too, so that I can get 1-on-1 guidance from experts as I work through some bibliographical problems on my own.
20. Absolutely. It will make my use of reference books much more fruitful. I can now read bibliographical descriptions with much more understanding and I look forward to using the skills taught to do some bibliographical descriptions of books in my own collection.
21. Yes! I had hoped to gain a fundamental understanding of collational formulas by the end of this course so that I can begin to write bibliographic descriptions of books from the hand-press and early machine-press periods. I have a much stronger understanding of collational formulas and bibliographical descriptions than I had thought possible to learn in just a 10-hour course.
22. I thought this was an excellent overview. It's too bad the online course lacks the lab component (though of course it has to), because so much of the content is easier to understand when you can see it in actual books. David Whitesell did a wonderful job of choosing books to illustrate his points, but looking at slides is not quite the same as having the book in front of you.
23. More than completely satisfied with what I learned.
24. (1) Yes (2) Yes
25. Yes
26. While much of it was review from Bower and Gaskell, having Professor Whitesell walk through examples and field questions was very helpful. I am very pleased that one on one follow-up sessions are being offered as part of the course.
27. Yes, David delivered!
28. The instructor was knowledgeable and clear. I learned more than I had hoped
29. {no response}
30. Yes, a great mix of lecture and group analysis exercises
31. Yes I was surprised by how much I feel like I learned in just 10 hours. At times it was overwhelming but overall I thought the professors mix of information and examples/explanation was very good
32. Yes, I think the course was well-organized and had the right amount of content for a fundamentals of descriptive bibliography course.
33. Yes. Yes.
34. Yes.
35. I did learn the skills and information that I had hoped to learn, and more than I had been able to imagine. I enjoyed the class very much and would like to continue practicing and adding to the skills I have begun to acquire.

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

1. I would have liked more interactive moments like the text comparisons we did at the end of the course throughout the week. Any chances to connect more with my classmates and get hands-on practice is better for different types of learners!
2. No, it was quite enjoyable. I hope to be able to take it in person in the future.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. No improvements, other than looking forward to taking my next RBS class in person at UVA!
7. Within the self-evident limits of the online format, no. In truth, this scaled back version of Des Bib was just right for me. The time commitment was very reasonable and I felt like I was able to absorb a lot of material without the concomitant pressure, anxiety, and commitment of homework and labs.
8. {no response}
9. This subject could have had more time allocated to it. Small class or breakout room tutorials would have added value. Possibly having worked examples to study/practice on overnight
10. No
11. More time set aside for practicing would be helpful.
12. no
13. {no response}
14. In-person, which was obviously not possible this year
15. I think only if it had had the intimacy of an in-person course.
16. It might be nice to have a ten minute break out session at the start of the course to see what other concepts struck the other students in the Gaskell readings and Bowers' book. Since we kind of jumped in with only virtually typed introductions it would possibly have been beneficial to "meet" each other in this way.
17. I feel like there could have been more in-course exercises and practical applications, but I also understand that this was an abbreviated course and there are optional tutoring slots in the coming weeks which account for that lacking element.
18. The only way this course could have improved would be to have it in person, but we understand that was hard this year! I would also recommend sending 'examples' for our homework the night before so we could better digest the content for the following session.
19. Given the online format, I don't really think so--anything that I could think of suggesting here would be things only possible in an in-person format!
20. I think it was amazing how David Whitesell adapted this course for the Zoom platform. It seemed perfect to me.
21. I would have liked for the course to be more discussion-based. As the week progressed, students in the course began using the chat function more frequently, but the first half of the week was very lecture-heavy with little discussion. I think this lack of discussion may be due to the digital environment though.

22. I felt that the only thing missing was a more hands-on component in which we practice creating bibliographical descriptions, and I'm looking forward to the optional tutorials to hone my skills at this.
23. {no response}
24. Not at all - Both the instructor and the course content were exceptional.
25. Maybe some breakout rooms? Something to break the lecture up. It was a pretty large class, the instructor could have sent us off with digital examples to look at and come back to report on. That way we also could have used the practice materials we were sent and it would have made the class more interactive.
26. The nature of the course doesn't leave much room for discussion, so brief office hours outside of class time could be a great addition.
27. Without having the ability to touch actual copies or experience actual printing, I think this was the next best thing.
28. {no response}
29. I was so wholeheartedly impressed at how successfully a course about books as physical objects was translated to an online format. While I would have preferred to have taken it in person, and how to do more hands-on training in critical bibliography, this was an excellent introduction. And the tutorial following class is a huge part of that as well.
30. A little more instruction/guidance with the mailed material would've been helpful--not to discount how great it was they were delivered! Being new to descriptive bibliography, it took my awhile to fully understand all of the material and how to engage with it
31. Within constraints of the online format, no I don't think so
32. {no response}
33. None come to mind.
34. {no response}
35. The biggest improvement in the course would be the ability to attend in person, and actually have some "boot camp" practice with the physical hand-press, forms, paper, ink, and books. I believe that is how the course was structured in the past and hope that this might be possible to do again in the future.

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

1. Anyone who works with printed books would benefit!
2. People who will be working with cataloging old/rare books.
3. Everyone who was in the course, booksellers, librarians, postgrads, etc.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Librarians, catalogers, especially early in their career
7. I think any serious student of hand press period books, print culture, and cultural history would benefit from what the course correctly advertises as the "fundamentals." I very much hope this version of Des Bib remains available as an option even once we're no longer confined to Zoom.
8. More junior students. I really wish I had this option 5 years ago when I was in my MLIS program and MA program. I think this particular shortened, online, version of this course would be extremely beneficial to students who may be cannot get into or afford other RBS courses.

9. Anyone who handles handpress books
10. Anyone who needs to understand how books were made and how we can learn things by studying the physical evidence of those books.
11. Anyone who works with early modern printed books could gain something by taking this class.
12. My mom! she always has so many book questions for me when i get home from work and i can never explain them to my satisfaction or hers
13. {no response}
14. Rare book librarians and library school students
15. People working with rare books in their job or who are simply enthusiasts.
16. This course is perfect for someone who has either taken David's introduction class or has had experience with bibliography before that wants to brush up on the fundamental content and idiosyncrasies of bibliographical description.
17. Anyone, but it seemed to be particularly useful for Ph.D students interested in bibliographical studies.
18. Librarians, but I am partial to that.
19. Librarians, book collectors, textual editors, and nerdy bibliophile English profs like me
20. Anyone with an interest in the history of printing.
21. Anyone interested in learning how to describe books printed between the 15th and mid-19th centuries would benefit from taking this course. This course would be useful to anyone first learning about bibliography and rare books since it serves as a foundational course.
22. I think this RBS course is valuable for a wide range of interests. I know that as a cataloger I found it immensely helpful.
23. Everyone who works with hand press books. After this course, I realize how blind I was to things I have been seeing in 16th and 17th century. This course has alerted me to noticing clues that could have influenced my understanding of the books. It has also enabled me to better describe these and to be able to articulate their meaning.
24. Anyone who has an interest in, or works in a profession that requires, detailed descriptions of books. Bibliographers, catalogers, and booksellers all come to mind.
25. People who need a general understanding of descriptive cataloging but for whom it is not a main job duty.
26. Anyone who wants an overview of descriptive bibliography in particular. If you don't have some background knowledge in hand-press period books, make sure to do all of the advanced reading.
27. Those who love the book! Either book arts students, special collection librarians, book trade folks...
28. MLIS students will discover skills in this course not usually found at library school
29. {no response}
30. Archivists and those who work in special collections
31. People who really want to learn about printing from the angle of what kind of traces it leaves in the book. This most obviously includes librarians and book collectors but as someone who's neither I appreciated how the instructor drew parallels throughout to more social/historical components of printing to which descriptive bibliography could also be relevant

32. I think that Special Collections professionals who have taken a survey course in rare books and special collections would greatly benefit from a more focused course for development. This course I see as particularly useful for those who have the responsibility of managing and teaching with rare book collections.
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. Anybody who works with and needs to know how to compare and describe physical books.

10) Do you feel that you got your money's worth?

1. Yes!
2. Yes
3. {no response}
4. yes
5. {no response}
6. Absolutely
7. Yes.
8. Yes
9. Yes
10. Yes
11. yes
12. yes!
13. Yes.
14. Yes
15. Yes.
16. Without a doubt, great materials - wonderful course!
17. Yes
18. Absolutely, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship and it was completely worth it.
19. Yes!
20. For sure!
21. Definitely!
22. Yes, and I appreciate that the online course was less money than the full course in Charlottesville. I have been wanting to take this course for years, but the cost and the week in Charlottesville always made it prohibitively expensive. This shorter (and cheaper) version meant that I was finally able to take Des Bib.
23. Absolutely!
24. Absolutely.
25. Yes
26. Yes. It was a great review, offering some one on one time after the course is very helpful, and the resources for further learning are extremely robust.
27. Yes.
28. I received a scholarship for this course, but I would gladly pay for it if I had the money.
29. Absolutely, no question.
30. Yes
31. Yes

32. Absolutely! I am excited to take another course.
33. Yes. Absolutely!
34. {no response}
35. I greatly appreciate Rare Book School making it possible for me to attend this course. It was a very precious and meaningful week of classes for me.

11) *On a scale of 1–10 with 10 being most likely, how likely are you to recommend this course to others?*

1. 10
2. 8
3. 8
4. 9
5. 8
6. 10
7. 10
8. 9
9. 10
10. 10
11. 5
12. 10
13. 7
14. 8
15. 10
16. 10
17. 8
18. 10
19. 10
20. 10
21. 10
22. 10
23. 10
24. 10
25. 9
26. 9
27. 9
28. 10
29. 10
30. 9
31. 8
32. 8
33. 10
34. 4
35. 10

12) *If your course had any virtual field trips or guest speakers, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. {no response}
2. n/a
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. I enjoyed hearing the bios of the two lab instructors who joined briefly on the final day
7. N/A
8. {no response}
9. NA
10. N/A
11. {no response}
12. Yeah!
13. {no response}
14. {no response}
15. n/a
16. Not applicable in this course
17. {no response}
18. Yes, the tutorial assistants were welcoming and motivated me to want to work on my books to share with them!
19. n/a
20. n/a
21. n/a
22. N/a
23. N/A
24. N/A
25. None provided
26. {no response}
27. Appreciated meeting 2 of the tutorial advisors.
28. {no response}
29. For a longer course, yes, but I would not have wanted to sacrifice one of five days with David Whitesell!
30. N/A
31. N/A
32. N/A
33. N/A
34. {no response}
35. All of the demonstrations that Professor Whitesell gave us were very useful and explanatory.

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

1. {no response}

2. Be sure to do the preliminary readings, but don't be intimidated by them. Everything becomes much clearer after the lectures.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Don't be intimidated; it's accessible and useful!
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. Stick out any initial feelings of confusion or frustration. Once the technical language gets a little more familiar, the material becomes much more lively and suggestive.
11. {no response}
12. no
13. {deleted response}
14. {no response}
15. Only to do as much of the advance reading reading because the material will already be familiar.
16. I read the readings and it really helped my thought process throughout the course. Make sure you complete the reading beforehand, even if this is your second time reading Bowers or Gaskell, refresh you memory as it will prove most helpful.
17. Make sure you're ready to take in a whole lot of information!
18. Start the reading months beforehand so you can digest them better and have a deeper understanding.
19. Definitely worth it!
20. {no response}
21. I encourage you to complete all of the assigned readings before the course begins. The class makes much more sense if you already have some foundational knowledge of the hand-press and machine-press periods as well as a basic awareness of collational formulas.
22. This course is foundational and an excellent use of your time.
23. {no response}
24. I highly recommend it. The practice kit, videos, and readings are all helpful and worth your time (before the course, if possible).
25. I do think it was worth it for me, but for someone who really wants to learn how to do descriptive bibliography, I would recommend they wait until the class is offered in person again. I think the two experiences are very, very different. But I appreciate the introduction and how much work the instructor obviously put into constructing an online class for what is typically a very hands-on experience.
26. Make sure to do the advanced reading, and review it again close to the course date.
27. I would advise them that it is well worth it. Was a pleasure to travel away from the grind of this year of pandemics & frustration - I felt I was on vacation for 2.5 hrs./day for these 5 days.
28. {no response}
29. {no response}

30. This course is exactly what it purports to be, and presents valuable, and sometimes complex ideas, in a very accessible way
31. Be ready to have a lot of info to digest and don't be put off by the initial impression of a monotonous lecture,ÄîI realised after the first hour that I was wrong in assuming it would be boring
32. Read the advanced readings.
33. {no response}
34. {no response}
35. If you love learning about books, take the course.

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. Very interesting but niche information!
3. {no response}
4. Very informative
5. {no response}
6. It takes a village to learn about rare books, and the RBS village is a great one to be part of.
7. <3
8. Mind blowing
9. {no response}
10. Thanks for everything!
11. I still don't understand most of Bowers, but I can read formulas now!
12. RBS / i was so nervous / for something completely new / my fears were groundless
13. I feel like I've finally entered the rare-book club. It used to be off putting because it seemed like a cult!
14. Good experience. Would have loved doing it in-person
15. If you work with rare books or are a bibliophile, RBS is something that must be explored.
16. Rare Book School is paradise for graduate students to grow and flourish.
17. {no response}
18. Encouraging, welcoming, and a close-knit sense of community.
19. This class was an incredibly powerful experience during a transitional point in my career
20. Don't be afraid of Descriptive bibliography; it's fascinating.
21. Phenomenal!
22. {no response}
23. {no response}
24. Rare Book School is the BEST!!!
25. We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths. -- Walt Disney
26. {no response}
27. des bib / what a way to love the book / what a way to nurture your soul.
28. I learned in awe
29. {no response}

30. I feel this course translated well into the virtual environment, and I'm glad I had the chance to take it in this format. Thanks again!
31. {no response}
32. {no response}
33. A truly fulfilling experience!
34. Better in person.
35. Being able to attend this Rare Book School summer school was such a meaningful experience for me, truly a light shining in the darkness of a very hard couple of years. Looking forward to the courses this summer got me through many of the hardest months of the pandemic. Doing the readings, reaching deep within to learn and explore new ideas, in spite of all we were all having to endure together, has been life affirming and a way to create hope going forward.

Student Data

Number of Respondents: 35 (of 44)

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

1. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
2. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
3. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
4. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
5. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
6. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
7. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
8. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
9. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
10. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
11. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
12. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
13. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
14. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
15. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
16. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
17. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
18. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
19. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
20. I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule.
21. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
22. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
23. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
24. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.

25. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
26. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
27. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
28. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
29. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
30. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
31. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
32. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
33. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
34. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
35. My situation does not fit any of the options above.

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

1. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
2. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
3. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
4. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
5. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
6. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
7. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
8. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
9. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
10. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
11. I had an RBS course tuition credit from a previous year.
12. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
13. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
14. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
15. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
16. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
17. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
18. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
19. My institution/employer paid part of my tuition costs, and I paid the rest.
20. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
21. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
22. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
23. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
24. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
25. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
26. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
27. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
28. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
29. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.

30. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
31. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
32. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
33. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
34. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
35. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.

Not including this year, how many RBS courses have you attended?

1. This is my first course.
2. This is my first course.
3. This is my first course.
4. This is my first course.
5. This is my first course.
6. This is my first course.
7. This is my first course.
8. This is my first course.
9. This is my first course.
10. 1
11. 1
12. This is my first course.
13. This is my first course.
14. This is my first course.
15. This is my first course.
16. 2
17. This is my first course.
18. This is my first course.
19. This is my first course.
20. 8
21. This is my first course.
22. This is my first course.
23. This is my first course.
24. 1
25. 1
26. This is my first course.
27. This is my first course.
28. This is my first course.
29. This is my first course.
30. This is my first course.
31. This is my first course.
32. 1
33. 1
34. This is my first course.
35. This is my first course.

Which of the following best describes your current occupation?

1. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
2. Library discipline: Public services librarian
3. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
4. Library discipline: Other
5. Library discipline: Library assistant/clerk
6. Library discipline: Library assistant/clerk
7. Professional educator: Full professor
8. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
9. Book Trades: Antiquarian bookseller
10. Professional educator: Assistant professor
11. Professional educator: Lecturer/adjunct
12. Book Trades: Other
13. Library discipline: Public services librarian
14. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
15. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
16. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
17. Much like Bartleby the Scrivener, I would prefer not to answer this question.
18. Library discipline: Library assistant/clerk
19. Professional educator: Full professor
20. Professional educator: K-12 teacher
21. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
22. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
23. Library discipline: Public services librarian
24. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
25. Library discipline: Subject specialist/bibliographer
26. Library discipline: Other
27. Library discipline: Conservator/binder/preservation librarian
28. Student working towards a/an: M.L.I.S./M.L.S.
29. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
30. Library discipline: Archivist
31. Professional educator: Assistant professor
32. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
33. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
34. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
35. Other Occupations/Vocations: Other