M. C. Lang Fellowship in Book History, Bibliography, and Humanities
Teaching with Historical Sources

Informational Session
25 October, 2023
About the Fellowship

Mr. Michael Lang’s goal in creating this fellowship program is to reanimate humanities teaching by equipping educators with the skills to enlarge their students’ historical sensibilities through bibliographically informed instruction with original historical sources.

In particular, humanities teaching at liberal arts colleges and small universities.

Inculcate wonder!
The Fellowship Includes

- Two Rare Book School Courses
  - One course in each year of the two-year program (more on this in a minute)
  - Tuition is waived
- Annual stipend of $1500 for travel, housing, and food
- Matching funds of up to $1000 each year of the Fellowship program
  - Matched by the Fellow’s home institution
  - Build the book-historical community at home institution
    - Examples: teaching collection, vitrines for exhibition space, speaker series, symposium, etc.
  - Projects may be undertaken with other Lang Fellows
Building Community

Lang fellows will take two Rare Book School courses, and will, in turn, be charged with building a book-historical community at their institution. The Fellows will also be given opportunities to build a community within their cohort; a support system.

"[The H-165 class] has the two-fold benefit of being a chance to learn from an RBS faculty member and to learn from the other educators in the course simultaneously. I feel that Michael Suarez imparted a lot of information to us about how to teach, the importance of bibliographic and book historical approaches, and skills on how to leverage that knowledge to educate undergraduates. Additionally, this Lang cohort has been a really marvelous resource that I have felt forming over this week and that I look forward to continuing to rely on after this." ~A current Lang Fellow
The Courses

1. The first course must be H-165 History, Bibliography, and Humanities Teaching
   a. Fellows must be able to take this course during the set week in their first year (9–14 June 2024)
   b. Guaranteed admission, open only to Lang Fellows

2. The Second course is an elective
   a. Can take equivalent of one full-length course (i.e. two short online courses)
   b. Cannot take H-90 Teaching the History of the Book
The Multiplier Effect
"Watching Michael Suarez teach in Special Collections with rare books helped give me new ideas as to how I might approach teaching with special collections materials (in both similar and different ways!).

I also appreciated that Suarez emphasized collaboration as part of the Lang Fellowship—between faculty and librarians, across campus, &c. The conversation on how we will transform book historical culture on our campus with the matching funds gave me ideas on both projects for how to spend the money, and who to approach as partners/collaborators." ~A current Lang Fellow
Eligibility

Qualifications & Eligibility

The Lang Fellowships are open to full-time tenured faculty; full-time tenure-track faculty who have passed the third-year review; or full-time library/curatorial staff members, at liberal arts colleges and small universities (i.e., 5,000 or fewer undergraduates) located in the United States.

The following classes of applicants are ineligible for this fellowship program:

- individuals based at institutions located outside the United States
- individuals employed by universities that award earned doctorates (exceptions will be made for institutions that only offer doctorates in fields outside the humanities, such as medical fields, law, and education)
- anyone who has previously taken more than two Rare Book School courses, or who has taken RBS course H-90, Teaching the History of the Book
- past or present members of RBS’s full-time, year-round staff
The Application Process

1. Go to rarebookschool.org
2. Click “MyRBS” (upper right hand corner)

Instructions can be found at:
https://rarebookschool.org/admissions-awards/fellowships/lang/
3.

Log in with your MyRBS account information

First time users should click “Need an account?” (lower right)
Welcome to myRBS, Rare Book School’s student information and application system! To navigate to different sections of myRBS, use the red menu bar at the top of the site. Within a section, you can use your browser’s back button to return from viewing individual records.

RBS staff members look forward to helping you with admissions and enrollment for this summer’s courses. We recommend that you contact us using our Request Information form if you have any questions.

RBS provides continuing education opportunities for students from all disciplines and skill levels to study the history of written, printed, and digital materials with leading scholars and professionals in the field. Pictured above, from the teaching collections of RBS in Charlottesville: nineteenth-century color woodblock-printed map of Japan; leaf from the 1469 Catholicon decorative motif on eighteenth-century Ottoman hilyah; Bosse, Traité des manières de graver, 1645.

MyRBS Student Landing Page (after you log in)

4. Scroll down
MyRBS Scholarships & Fellowships

5. After scrolling down, the Lang Fellowship is in the right hand column.

"Click Here" to apply for the Lang Fellowship
6. Click “Apply Now”
7. If you have an Interfolio Account, sign in

If you do not, Create an account

You do NOT need to pay for an Interfolio account
Scholarship & Fellowship Applications

Scholarships:
Applications for all RBS scholarships are accepted via a single application. See the main Scholarships page for more information about each type of scholarship. If your question is not answered there, please email rbs_scholarships@virginia.edu.
Applications are due 1 November 2023. 
Click here to apply for our scholarships.

SoFCB Junior Fellows Program:
See the main Society of Fellows page for more information about the Society and the application process.
If you need assistance with the application, please email the SoFCB Administrative Director at rbs-mellon@virginia.edu.
Applications are due 17 November 2023. 
Click here to apply for the SoFCB Junior Fellows Program.

M. C. Lang Fellowship:
See the M. C. Lang Fellowship in Book History, Bibliography, and Humanities Teach with Historical Sources page for more information about this fellowship and the application process. If you need assistance with the application, or have questions about the program, please email rbs_lane@virginia.edu.
Applications are due 17 November 2023. 
Click here to apply for the Lane Fellowship.

The application links will route you to Interfolio, where you will be asked to create a free account. If you have any trouble creating a free Interfolio account, please have to pay to submit an application for any RBS-awarded scholarship or fellowship.

You will receive a confirmation email once your application has been successfully submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation email, we have not received your application. Please contact Interfolio Support at 877-997-8807 if you believe you have submitted your application but have not received a confirmation email.

Participation in scholarship and fellowship programs implies acceptance of the scholarship/fellowship Terms and Conditions. For general queries about scholarships or fellowships, see the Frequently Asked Questions page.

Applying for Courses

If you run into difficulty making an Interfolio account, you will need to consult the Interfolio Support Page
Application Materials

- A brief contact information and eligibility form
- A *curriculum vitae*
- Invite a colleague to submit a confidential letter of recommendation
- Four short essays, submitted as four documents (one page maximum, single spaced)
  - Why do you want to be part of the M.C. Lang Fellowship?
  - What interests you most about participating in Rare Book School courses?
  - Describe your experiences of and commitment to undergraduate education. How does working in a Liberal Arts environment contribute to your efficacy?
  - How might you work with others to help create an educational culture of book-historical humanities teaching with original sources?
Letter of Recommendation

The letter should be written by a colleague who can speak to your suitability for the Lang Fellowship—to your teaching, outreach, impact potential, dedication to teaching with primary sources, bibliography, book history and inculcating wonder.
The Letter of Support at the Finalist Stage

Applicants who are selected for the Fellowship will need to submit a signed letter of support (we’ll supply the form) from their supervisor before the fellowship is awarded. This form confirms that the home institution will support the Fellow’s efforts to build a bibliophilic community and will consider applications for matching funds.
The Selection Process
The Experience of Being a Lang Fellow

“You demonstrated... through the exercises and object lessons—how creatively as well as deliberately one can teach. While I was hopeful that the class would be terrific, I had not anticipated how eye-opening it would be, a regenerative experience that will have ramifications well beyond my teaching in book history.” ~A past Lang Fellow

Recent Projects by Lang Fellows:

- Book historical panel discussion
- Faculty learning community
- Transcribe-a-thon and speaker series
- Speaker/workshop series
- Acquisition of materials for teaching collections
Direct any questions to:
rbs_lang@virginia.edu