

INF 388K.5 (28480)
RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
SPRING 2013

Instructor: Michael Laird
Seminar Room: HRC Denius (2nd Floor)
Times: Mon. 1:00pm - 3:45pm
512-668-4621
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Teaching Assistant:
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OBJECTIVES:

The course will address topics of Special Collections Librarianship, including the management of rare books and manuscript collections, ethics, security, preservation and digitization. The course will allow students to become familiar with specialized research tools and techniques that are daily utilized by bibliographers, rare book dealers and Special Collections librarians. Utilizing primary source materials from the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, the course will offer an introduction to the study of rare books, including medieval manuscripts, incunabula and other books from the hand-press era, illustrated books, and historic bookbindings.

TOPICS:

Hands-on Examination of Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books, Descriptive bibliography, Rare Book reference works, the Antiquarian Book trade (auctions, dealers, librarians and collectors), Price guides and Web resources, Acquisition and De-accessioning in Special Collections, User and public services policies, Issues of Copyright, Professional Ethics, Library Security, Rare Book Cataloguing, Issues of Preservation, Digitization of rare materials, Digital Assets.

EVALUATION:

Grades will be based on assignments (25%), Participation in the Collections Development Blog (15%) Examination (10%), Formal "Acquisitions Committee" Presentation (10%), Final project (20%), Class Participation (20%).

Assignment 1: Discuss problems of "*Standards For Ethical Conduct For Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Librarians*"
http://www.rbms.info/standards/code_of_ethics.shtml = 5% of final grade. Written, 1-2 pp. (due Jan. 28, 2013)

Assignment 2: (Informal) Presentation: “This Old Book” (Feb. 11, 2013). 5% of final grade. Oral, 2-3 minutes.

Assignment 3: Bibliographical Exercise: Cataloging a Pre-1800 Printed Book = 5% of final grade. Written, 2-5 pp. (due Mar. 4, 2013)

Assignment 4: Bibliographical Exercise 3 (Appraising a Book) = 5% of final grade (due Mar. 4, 2013). Written, 2-5 pp. (due Mar. 18, 2013)

Midterm Examination: Terminology / Bibliographical questions / Rare Book reference works = 10% (March 25, 2013)

Assignment 5: Formal Proposal for Final Project = 5% of final grade (due April 1, 2013). Written, 2-3 pp. This document is to be considered a formal proposal soliciting support for a scholarly article; or as a formal proposal soliciting support from an exhibition committee.

Assignment: “Curator’s presentation to the Acquisition Committee” = 10% of final grade (April 29, 2013). Oral presentation (ca. 3-4 minutes) with written notes (no more than 2 pp.) to be distributed to the instructor and to each member of the class. The class will serve as the “Acquisition Committee.” The exercise affords an opportunity for the student to solicit support for major acquisition. Discussion of each proposed acquisition is strongly encouraged.

Final Project: Term Paper / Exhibition Catalog = 20% (due before May 6, 2013, 1:00pm CST)

Blog: "Collections Development - Rare Books and Manuscripts" (throughout Semester) = 15% of final grade. On Blackboard / Course Tools / Blogs: Identify five (5) Special Collections libraries identify particular types of collections that are *currently* being developed. See if there is a published Collections Development Policy; if no Collections Development Policy is located for a particular library, try to list materials that appear to be of *current* collecting interest. As per the Research Library Group Conspectus this would classed as Tiers 4-5

Class Participation (throughout Semester) = 20%. Your participation (or non-participation) in class discussion will be factored into your final grade for the course. INF 385T is a seminar class founded on active, collaborative discussion and voluntary verbalizations. At the risk of stating the obvious: ask questions and seek to provide answers to questions posed by your colleagues and by the instructor. Your experience with primary source materials and your interpretations of the readings provide the starting point for our discussions. The goal is to improve the quality of the seminar for all participants; and to develop academic communication skills in preparation for careers as information professionals.

TEXTS:

ABC FOR BOOK COLLECTORS 8TH ED.

Carter, John & Nicolas Barker

Eighth US Edition With Corrections, Additions and an Introduction by Nicolas Barker.

New Castle, Delaware: Oak Knoll Press, 2004.

PCL Reference Z 1006 C37 2004

HRC Z 1006 C37 2004 REF

Alternately: <http://www.ilab.org/download.php?object=documentation&id=30>

A NEW INTRODUCTION TO BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Gaskell, Philip

Winchester & New Castle, Delaware : St. Paul's Bibliographies & Oak Knoll Press 2000

HRC Z 116 A2 G27 1995 REF

Guide to the Collections: Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/guide/>

PERIODICALS:

RBML (= Rare Book and Manuscript Librarianship)

RBM (= Rare Books and Manuscripts)

C&RL NEWS (= College and Research Libraries News)

Class 1

Monday, January 14, 2013

Introduction

**Presentation: Olivia Primanis (HRC Conservation):
Proper Handling Techniques / Preservation Housings**

Introduction to "Rare Books and Special Collections" / administration / distribution of old books from the Instructor's collection to be taken home by the student (NB: these volumes are to be returned on Feb. 11, 2013)

Introduction to EXLIBRIS. To subscribe to the list:

<http://www.lsoft.com/scripts/wl.exe?SL1=EXLIBRIS-L&H=LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU>

Discuss written Assignment #1 (**due Jan. 28, 2013**): Assessment of RBMS *Standards For Ethical Conduct For Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Librarians*:

http://www.rbms.info/standards/code_of_ethics.shtml

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine HRC Medieval & Renaissance MSS in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings:

Introduction to AEON and HRC Research Account:

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/account/>

In-class discussion: *The Significance of Primary Records: A Statement from the Modern Language Association*:

http://www.mla.org/resources/documents/rep_primaryrecords/repview_records/primary_records1

Standards For Ethical Conduct For Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Librarians

http://www.rbms.info/standards/code_of_ethics.shtml

What's So Special about Special Collections Librarians?

Alice D. Schreyer

RBM, Volume 7, Number 1, Spring 2006

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/7/1/49.full.pdf+html>

PERUSE:

Carter, *ABC for Book Collectors*

<http://www.ilab.org/download.php?object=documentation&id=29>

Christopher de Hamel, *Scribes and Scholars*.

PCL Reserves -- ND 2920 D4 1992

HRC -- ND 2920 D4 1992

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday Jan. 21, 2013

NO CLASS

Class 2

Monday Jan. 28, 2013

**Presentation: Olivia Primanis (HRC Conservation):
Proper Handling Techniques / Preservation Housings**

Bibliography

Written Assignment #1 Due: Potential Problems of *Standards For Ethical Conduct For Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Librarians* (5% of grade)

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine Incunabula in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings:

Gaskell, all chapters on Hand Press Period

Belanger, Terry. *Descriptive Bibliography*, in: Jean Peters, *Book Collecting* (1977) pp. 97-115.

PCL Z 987 B68

HRC Z 986 B68

Class 3
Monday February 4, 2013

Presentation by James Stroud (HRC Conservation)
Tour of HRC 4th Floor and Basement Conservation Labs

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine early printed books (Aldine-Uzielli Collection and Pforzheimer Collection) in HRC Reading Room

FOR NEXT WEEK: Return Instructor's "Old" Book to HRC for Presentation ("This Old Book")

Readings:

Rare Condition: Preservation Assessment for Rare Book Collections

Mary Ellen Starmer, Sara McGough Hyder, and Aimée Leverette

RBM Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 2005

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/6/2/91.full.pdf+html>

Your Old Books

RBMS Publications Committee (Revision 2005.2) 02/07/2006

<http://www.rbms.info/yob.shtml>

Pilette, Roberta and Carolyn Harris. It Takes Two to Tango; A Conservator's View of Curator/Conservator Relations. *RBML* vol. 4, no.

rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/4/2/103.full.pdf

Class 4
Monday, February 11, 2013

Presentation by Christopher Jahnke (Head of Technology and Digital Services)

Assignment #2: Informal Presentation -- “This Old Book” (at which time Instructor's books are to be returned) -- 5% of final grade

Discuss: Written assignment (Bibliographical exercise #2: “Catalogue a Book” – 5% of final grade – due Feb. 25, 2013

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine Early Modern printed books in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings:

Gaskell, Chapters on Edition Binding, Identification, Bibliographical Description

“ARL Promotes Member Use of Large-Scale Digitization Principles”

<http://www.arl.org/news/pr/principles-4august10.shtml>

Contemplating Scholarship in the Digital Age

David M. Levy

RBM Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 2005

rbm.acrl.org/content/6/2/69.full.pdf

James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, *Proposal for a World Digital Library*:

<http://www.loc.gov/about/librarianoffice/speeches/060605.html>

Class 5

Monday Feb. 18, 2013

Antiquarian Book Trade

Discuss Assignment 3: "Cataloging a Book" (5% of final grade) -- due Mar. 4, 2013

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine HRC bindings

Required Readings:

Peruse VIALIBRI website:

<http://vialibri.net>

Peruse *American Book Prices Current*:

HRC Reading Room **Terminal 1** (only). Open browser: ABPC is on **taskbar**)

William S. Reese, THE RARE BOOK MARKET TODAY

<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/2.1.ReeseDESIGNED.pdf>

Katherine Reagan, BOOKS IN THE AGE OF ANXIETY
<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/3.2.ReaganDESIGNED.pdf>

Tom Congalton, BOOKSELLING IN HARD TIMES: “WILL WORK FOR RARE BOOKS”
<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/2.2.CongaltonDESIGNED.pdf>

Class 6
 Monday February 25, 2013
Seminar with Elizabeth Gushee
Digital Collections Librarian, HRC

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine book illustrations in HRC Reading Room

Discuss: Assignment 3: “Catalogue a Book” – 5% of final grade – due March 4, 2013
 Discuss: Assignment 4: “Appraise a Book” (5% of final grade) – due Mar. 18, 2013

Required readings:

Barbara Taranto. “It’s Not Just about Curators Anymore: Special Collections in the Digital Age.” RBM Spring 2009 10:30-36
<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/10/1/30.full.pdf+html>

Katie Hafner, *History, Digitized and Abridged*. The New York Times, March 10, 2007:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/10/business/yourmoney/11archive.html>

Hirtle, Peter B. *The Impact Of Digitization On Special Collection Libraries* in: Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium 2000, University of Texas, 3 November 2000, Austin, Texas:
<http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/11310/1/RLG%20DigiNews%20December%2015%2c%202003.pdf>

Patrick Leary, *Googling the Victorians*. Published in Journal of Victorian Culture, 10:1 (Spring 2005) 72-86.
<http://victorianresearch.org/googling.pdf>

Class 7
 Monday March 4, 2013
Seminar with Everett Wilkie
Security: Theft Prevention / Recovery

Assignment 3 Due: “Catalogue a Book” – 5% grade.

FOR MARCH 18: Examine 18th-century imprints in HRC Reading Room

Required Reading:

Guidelines for the Security of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Other Special Collections

Approved at ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 2006

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/securityrarebooks.cfm>

Bringing It All Back Home: Recovery of Stolen Special Collections Materials

Richard W. Oram and Ann Hartley

In: *Art and Crime : Exploring the Dark Side of the Art World* (2009), pp. 172 et seq.

PCL Reserves: N 8795 A78 2009

Optional: Returning Looted European Library Collections: An Historical Analysis of the Offenbach Archival Depot, 1945–1948

Anne Rothfeld

RBM Volume 6, Number 1, Spring 2005

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/6/1/14.full.pdf>

March 11-15, 2013

Spring break

NO CLASS

READ: Gaskell, all chapters on the machine press period and bibliographical applications

Bowers, Fredson. *Principles of Bibliographical Description*.

HRC Z 1001 B78 1994

PCL RESERVES Z 1001 B78 1962

Class 8

Monday March 18, 2013

Presentation by Micah Erwin

DACS / DCRM(B) / RDA

Assignment #4 Due: Appraising a Book = 5% of final grade

Discuss forthcoming Exam (March 25, 2013)

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine 19th-century imprints in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings:

VanWingen, Peter M.

Standard citation forms for published bibliographies and catalogs used in rare book cataloging 1996

Z 695.74 V36 1996 HRC REF

"**Descriptive cataloging of rare materials (books)**"

PCL RESERVES: Z 695.74 U54 2011

Opinion: Resource Description and Access (RDA) -- Karen Coyle

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january07/coyle/01coyle.html>

Optional Readings:

Winship, Michael. "What the Bibliographer Says to the Cataloger." *RBML*, vol. 7(2):

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/7/2/98.full.pdf+html>

Class 9

Monday March 25, 2013

Seminar with Georgia Harper (Scholarly Communications Advisor, UT Austin Library)

Copyright Issues

Exam (10% final grade)

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine 19th-century imprints (Wrenn Collection) in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings:

OCLC's Copyright Evidence Registry: explore the site to determine its functionality, usefulness, etc. as a means of cumulating information about the copyright status of works:

<http://www.oclc.org/news/releases/200832.htm>

Incredibly, as of 1/11/2013 this site is DOWN:

<http://www.worldcat.org/copyrighthevidence>

Google Book Settlement Agreement: explore online to determine the purpose and mission of the (forthcoming) Book Rights Registry — how it will enable the identification of copyright status of books, etc.

<http://www.openbookalliance.org/>

<http://www.googlebooksettlement.com/>

Library of Congress' Report on Orphan Works: read the report, at least the executive summary, and consider how the commercial efforts exemplified above (Copyright Evidence Registry and Books Rights Registry) will attempt to address the problems identified in the Report, for which legislative efforts have been thus far unsuccessful.
<http://www.copyright.gov/orphan/orphan-report.pdf>

James Boyle's "The Public Domain: Enclosing the Commons of the Mind."
<http://www.thepublicdomain.org/download/>

Class 10
 Monday April 1, 2013
Seminar with Jennifer Tisdale (HRC Public Affairs Officer)
Public Affairs and Special Collections

Nineteenth-century Books

Written Assignment #4 Due: Formal Proposal for Final Project = 5% of final grade.
 Topic for Term Paper (due before May 6, 2013 -- 1:00pm) to be submitted for approval.

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine 19th-century imprints (Wolff Collection) in HRC Reading Room

Required Reading:

Wolff, Robert Lee. Title *Nineteenth-century fiction : a bibliographical catalogue based on the collection formed by Robert Lee Wolff*
 -Q- Z 2014 F4 W64 1981 HRC REF

Sadleir, Michael, *XIX century fiction : a bibliographical record based on his own collection*
 Z 2014 F4 S16 HRC REF

Sadleir, Michael, *Excursions in Victorian bibliography*
 Z 2013 S12 HRC REF

Class 11
 Monday April 8, 2013
Seminar with Margie Rine (HRC Development Officer)
Development Issues in Special Collections

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine 20th-century imprints (Carlton Lake Collection) in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings:

Steven Escar Smith, "The Accidental Fund Raiser" in: *Chronicle of Higher Education* (January 14, 2011)

<http://chronicle.com/article/The-Accidental-Fund-Raiser/125891/>

Lisa Browar, "Paving the Road to Hell? Cultural Institutions and the "New" Philanthropy"

RBM Volume 5, Number 1, Spring 2004

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/5/1/52.full.pdf>

Schreyer, Alice D. *Elective affinities: private collectors & special collections in libraries.*

Chicago : University of Chicago Library, 2001.

HRC Z689 S338 2001

PCL RESERVES Z689 S338 2001

Class 12

Monday April 15, 2013

Seminar with Rich Oram (Associate Librarian, HRC)
Administration and Management in Special Collections

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine 20th-century imprints (Currey Collection / Detective Fiction) in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings

ACRL, *Competencies for Special Collections Professionals*

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/comp4specollect.cfm>

Mark Dimunation, *Red Wine and White Carpets: What We Didn't Learn in Library School, or When the Dog and Pony Goes Bad*

RBM, Volume 7, Number 1, Spring 2006

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/7/1/73.full.pdf+html>

William E. Landis. "Personas and Archetypes: Envisioning the 21st-Century Special Collections Professional." *RBM*, Volume 7, Number 1, Spring 2006

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/7/1/40.full.pdf+html>

Daniel Traister. "Is There a Future for Special Collections? And Should There Be? A Polemical Essay." *RBM* Vol. 1, No. 1 Spring 2000

<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~traister/future.html>

Robert L. Byrd. "One Day...It Will Be Otherwise:" Changing the Reputation and the Reality of Special Collections. *RBM* Vol. 2, No. 2 Fall 2001
<http://www.arl.org/rtl/speccoll/building/byrd~print.shtml>

Class 13
 Monday April 22, 2013
Seminar Rich Oram (Associate Director, HRC)
Collection Development; the Book Trade
Accessioning and De-Accessioning

Discuss: Presentation to the "Acquisitions Committee" (April 29, 2013)

FOR NEXT WEEK: Examine 20th-century "Modern Illustrated Books" in HRC Reading Room

Required Readings:

Curatorial Crossover: Building Library, Archives, and Museum Collections

Gerald Beasley

RBM Volume 8, Number 1, Spring 2007

PCL Z 688 R3 R374

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/8/1/20.full.pdf+html>

Cooperative Collection Building: A Response to Gerald Beasley

Bruce Whiteman

RBM Volume 8, Number 1, Spring 2007

PCL Z 688 R3 R374

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/8/1/29.full.pdf+html>

Oram, Richard. *Current Professional Thinking on the Deaccessioning of Rare Books in Academic Libraries*. *RBML*, v. 12(1):

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/12/1/9.full.pdf+html?>

Smyth, Elaine. A Practical Approach to Writing a Collection Development Policy.

RBML, v. 14(1).

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/14/1/27.full.pdf+html>

Class 14
 Monday April 29, 2013
Presentation: "Curator's presentation to the Acquisition Committee"
(ca. 3-4 minutes) – 10% grade

Discussion: Final Project (due before Monday, May 6, 2013, 1:00pm EST)

Final Project = 20% (due before May 6, 2013, 1:00pm CST)
Rare Books and Special Collections Librarianship (Term Paper)
Or: Exhibition Catalogue

Students will submit 10-15 page term paper which discusses ONE aspect of the profession of Rare Book Librarianship that was NOT discussed in class. Suitable formats of the Term Paper: MS WORD document, PDF or website. As per Assignment #5, Students are required to submit their formal written proposal for Final Project on or before April 1, 2013.

Attendance Policy

Three (3) absences lowers the overall final grade by one (1) full letter grade;
Four (4) absences lowers the overall final grade by two (2) full letter grades;
Five (5) absences results in a Fail ("F") for the course.

Kindly inform the instructor beforehand as to the reason for your absence.

Nota bene: as a courtesy to the other students, please arrive by 1:15pm, otherwise you will be counted as absent. Thank you.

A note on Plagiarism

Please do not plagiarize, as instances of plagiarism will result in **an automatic F (fail) FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE**. Plagiarism is defined here:

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php

STATEMENT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259.