

Valdosta State University
Master of Library and Information Science
MLIS 7740: Rare Book Librarianship
Spring 2012 Online
Three Credit Hours

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Description

A foundation in the principles and practices of rare book librarianship. Topics include book collecting, acquisitions and access, support for teaching and research, professional competencies, programming, preservation, ethics, and current issues and trends.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- LO1 Explain concepts of book collecting
- LO2 Select items for a personal library unified by a collection theme
- LO3 Define key terminology pertaining to book collecting
- LO4 Discuss professional core competencies
- LO5 Recognize professional association codes of ethics
- LO6 Explain professional issues and trends

Required Materials

Textbooks

Nicholas A. Basbanes. *A Gentle Madness*. New York: Henry Holt, 1999.

John Carter. *ABC for Book-Collectors*. 8th edition. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Books, 2004. Available in pdf

Additional Readings

Readings are available on Odum Library Course Reserves, in pdf format in BlazeView, in a link, or in a subscription database.

Periodical

Fine Books & Collections <http://www.finebooksmagazine.com/>

Listserv Subscription

Free subscription to Exlibris. See instructions at the end of the syllabus.

Online Glossary

AbeBooks Online Glossary of Book-related Terms

<http://www.abebooks.com/docs/HelpCentral/Glossary/sellerIndex.shtml#general>

Hardware
Headphones

Graded Activities

Assignments

Acquisitions/collecting exercise	35%	Due: February 28
Final exam	45%	Due: April 30

Participation

Following instructions/guidelines	20%
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Assignment Synopses (additional information is available in BlazeView)

- **Acquisitions/collecting exercise:** Selection of rare books for a collection
- **Final exam:** Short essays pertaining to readings

Letter Grade Scale

A = Excellent
B = Satisfactory, above average
C = Average, needs revisions to be satisfactory
D = Perfunctory or missing work, below average
F = Unacceptable

Point Equivalent Scale

93-100
85-92
77-84
69-76
below 69

Communicating with the Professor

See “Communicating with the Professor” on the course homepage in BlazeView.

Late Assignments

Assignments submitted late automatically will lose 10 points for every 24-hour period. So, an assignment submitted 5 minutes late will be lowered by 10 points, an assignment submitted 25 hours later will be reduced another 10 points, and so on. A request for an extension for any reason should be handled by phone.

Academic Honesty

“Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources. Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics.”

Special Needs

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the instructor at the first class meeting. Students not registered with Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, (229) 245-2498.

Student Conduct

Behavior--which includes emails, phone calls, discussions, and all communications in BlazeView--is to be respectful and professional. Guidelines are specified in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics.

Student Agreement

Per the VSU VPAA: By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeVIEW.

Exlibris Subscription

Subscribe to Exlibris, an electronic news and discussion group for matters related to rare books and manuscript librarianship. To subscribe to Exlibris, send the following message to the server LISTSERV@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU

SUBSCRIBE EXLIBRIS-L yourfirstname yourlastname, institution

Instructions from Exlibris: “Be sure the message is contained in a single line in the message area; the subject line should be blank. You need not include the comma and institutional identification, but the latter is helpful to the list Moderator and to others. You yourself must subscribe from the address to which you wish Exlibris messages sent, both to assure proper usage and to assure that the subscription is under your control. The server will not acknowledge or successfully distribute mail to Bitnet addresses, other source routed addresses, or those originating from an open relay. You MUST give your real name to subscribe.”

Syllabus

Weeks 1-3

J9-J22 (J16 MLK Holiday)

Tastes and Techniques in Collecting I

Terms in *ABC for Book-Collectors*: Abbreviations, Association Copy, Antiquarian Bookseller, Auctions, Bookseller's Catalogues, Collected, Condition, Dust-Jacket, Ex-Library, Format, Inscribed Copy, Presentation Copy, Provenance, Rarity

Nicholas A. Basbanes. “First Principles.” In *Among the Gently Mad* by Nicholas A. Basbanes. New York: Henry Holt, 2003, pp. 1-13.

John Carter. “Definition of a Book-Collector.” In *Taste and Technique in Book Collecting* by John Carter. London: Private Libraries Association, 1970, pp. 1-10.

David A. Randall. “Book Collecting as a Hobby.” *David Anton Randall, 1905-1975* by Dean H. Keller, editor. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1992, pp. 70-74.

William Matheson. “What Book Collecting is All About.” In *Book Collecting: A Modern Guide* by Jean Peters, editor. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1977, pp. 1-25.

A.W. Pollard. “Book-Collecting.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th edition, pp. 221-225.

- View C-SPAN's BookTV Tour of Basbanes's Library
<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/283398-1>

Weeks 4-7
J30-F26
Tastes and Techniques in Collecting II

Basbanes pp. 1-465

Week 8
F27-M4
F27 Collecting Exercise Due

Week 9
M5-11
Support of Research and Teaching

Terms in *ABC for Book-Collectors*: Aldus, Aldine, Americana, Ana, Edition and Impression, Ephemera, First Edition, First Printing, Underbidder

Lawrence Clark Powell. "Functions of Rare Books." *College & Research Libraries* 1 (December 1939), pp. 97-103.

Stephen Ferguson. "Rare Books in University Libraries." *Library Trends*. Vol. 36, No. 1 (Summer 1987), pp. 157-170.

Pablo Alvarez. "Introducing Rare Books into the Undergraduate Curriculum." *RBM* Vol. 7, No. 2 (Fall 2006), pp. 94-103. <http://rbm.acrl.org/content/7/2.toc>

Susan M. Allen. "Rare Books and the College Library: Current Practices in Marrying Undergraduates to Special Collections." *RBM* Vol. 13, No. 2 (Spring 1999). Pp. 110-119. <http://rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/13/2>

Week 10
M12-18
Spring Break

Week 11
M19-25
Acquisitions and Access

Terms in *ABC for Book-Collectors*: Bibliophily, Blurb, Book-plate or Ex Libris, Else Fine, High-spots, Inscriptions

Acquisition Sources: Advantages and Disadvantages. See handout in BlazeView

Joseph L. Sax. "Not So Public: Access to Collections." *RBM* Vol. 1, No. 2 (Fall 2000), pp. 101-114. <http://rbm.acrl.org/content/1/2.toc>

Stacy Etheridge. "Finding Hidden Treasures in Special Collections." *AALL Spectrum*, Vol. 12, No. 4 (February 2008), pp. 10-13. http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0802/pub_sp0802_ProDev.pdf

- ACRL/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials (1994) <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/jointstatement.cfm>

Week 12

M26-A1

Librarian Education, Training, and Competencies

Terms in *ABC for Book Collectors*: Calf, Cheap Copy, 'Follow the Flag', Foxed, Foxing, Juveniles, Mint Condition, Reading Copy

Rollo Silver. "The Training of Rare Book Librarians." *Library Trends* 9 (April 1961), pp. 446-452.

Alice D. Shreyer. "What's So Special about Special Collections Librarians?" *RBM* Vol. 7, No. 1 (Spring 2006), pp. 49-54. <http://rbm.acrl.org/content/7/1.toc>

- ACRL Guidelines: Competencies for Special Collections Professionals (2008)
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/comp4specollect.cfm>

Week 13

A2-8

Programs and Outreach

Sandra Powers. "Why Exhibit? The Risks Versus the Benefits." *The American Archivist* Vol. 41, No. 3 (July 1978), pp. 297-306.

<http://archivists.metapress.com/content/120809/>

Daniel Traister. "Public Services and Outreach in Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Libraries." *Library Trends*, Vol. 52, No. 1 (Summer 2003), pp. 87-108. Available in Academic Search Complete

Leslie Morris. A. "Public services and Outreach in Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Libraries." *Library Trends*, Vol. 52, No. 1 (Summer 2003), pp. 87-108. Available in Academic Search Complete

Week 14

A9-15

Security and Preservation

Basbanes, pp. 465-519.

Sherelyn Ogden. "Security from Loss: Water and Fire Damage, Biological Agents, Theft, and Vandalism." *RBML* 11, No. 1 (1996), pp. 43-47. Available in BlazeView

Marie C. Malaro. "The Care of Collections." In *A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections*, 2nd edition, by Marie C. Malero. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1998, pp. 406-417.

- The Storage Environment: Georgia Department of Archives and History
<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byorg/georgia/envir.html>
- ACRL Guidelines for the Security of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Other Special Collections (2006)
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/securityrarebooks.cfm>

- RBMS Security Committee: Theft Reports
http://www.rbms.info/committees/security/theft_reports/index.shtml

Week 15

A16-22

Ethical and Legal Matters

Terms in *ABC for Book-Collectors*: Breaking up, Breaking Copy or Breaker, Colour-Plate Books, Doctored, Facsimiles and Fakes, Forgery, Pirated Edition, Piracy, Sophisticated, Unsophisticated

Joseph L. Sax. "Heirs, Biographers, and Scholars." In *Playing Darts with a Rembrandt* by Joseph L. Sax. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2001, pp. 134-150.

Ralph Blumenthal. "Golden Broadway Images Stuck in Tangled History." *The New York Times* September 13, 2008, p A17.

Mark Singer. "Wall Power: Graham Arader." In *Mr. Personality: Profiles and Talk Pieces from The New Yorker* (pp. 318-361). New York: Mariner Books, 2005. Originally published in *The New Yorker* in 1987.

Marie C. Malero. The Disposal of Objects: Deaccessioning." In *A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections*, 2nd edition, by Marie C. Malero. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1998, pp. 216-238.

- ACRL Code of Ethics for Special Collections Librarians (2003)
http://www.rbms.info/standards/code_of_ethics.shtml
- International League of Antiquarian Booksellers Code of Ethics
<http://www.ilab-lila.com/english/code.htm>
- American Antiquarian Booksellers Association Code of Ethics
<http://www.aba.org/books/aba/abaapages/code-of-ethics.html>

Week 16

A23-A29

Current Issues, Trends, and the Future

G. Thomas Tanselle. "Statement on the Role of Books and Manuscripts in the Electronic Age." In *Literature and Artifacts* by G. Thomas Tanselle. Charlottesville: The Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia, 1998, pp. 331-334.

Michele Valerie Cloonan and Sidney F. Berger. "Present and Future Issues for Special Collections." *RBML* Vol. 13, No. 2 (Spring 1999), pp. 89-94.
<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/13/2>

Sidney F. Huttner. "Waving Not Drowning: Rare Books in a Digital Age." *RBM* Vol. 13, No. 2 (Spring 1999), pp. 97-108. <http://rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/13/2>

Daniel Traister. "Is There a Future for Special Collections? And Should There Be? A Polemical Essay." *RBM* Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring 2000), pp. 54-76.
<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/1/1.toc>

“Special Collections for the Twenty-first Century,” edited by Barbara M. Jones. *Library Trends*, Vol. 52, No. 1 (Summer 2003). Available in Academic Search Complete. Read articles by Jones, Cloonan and Berger, Kelsey, Allen, Brower and Streit, Hain, Prochaska, Genieva, Smith, and Belanger

Eric Holzenberg. “Second-Hand and Antiquarian Books on the Internet.” *RBM* Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 2001), pp. 35-44. <http://rbm.acrl.org/content/2/1.toc>

Julie Grob. “RBMS, Special Collections, and the Challenge of Diversity: The Road to the Diversity Action Plan.” *RBM* Vol. 4, No. 2 (Fall 2003), pp. 74-107. <http://rbm.acrl.org/content/4/2.toc>

- Independent Research Libraries Association <http://irla.lindahall.org/>

Week 17

A30 Final exam due by 12:00 noon

Note: The instructor may adapt or change the syllabus and/or the assignments according to circumstances that might arise during the semester.

LAST UPDATED DECEMBER 9, 2011