

Valdosta State University  
Master of Library and Information Science  
MLIS 7999: Rare Book Librarianship  
Maymester 2010  
Three Credit Hours

## 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

Students will

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

## Required Materials

### *Textbook*

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

### *Additional Readings*

Readings are available on Odum Library Course Reserves, unless indicated otherwise.

### *Periodical*

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

### *Listserv Subscription*

Free subscription to Exlibris, the listserv dedicated to special collections and the rare book world. 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 with attached microphone for use with Live Classroom software.

## Graded Activities

### Assignments

Acquisitions/collecting exercise	25%	Due: May 28
Analysis of Exlibris discussion topic	15%	Due: June 11
Final exam	45%	Due: June 18

### Participation

Following instructions/guidelines and paying attention to detail	15%
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## Assignment Synopses

- **Acquisitions/collecting exercise:** An exercise relating to book collecting, the antiquarian book trade, and library acquisitions
- **Analysis of Exlibris topic:** An analysis of topic discussed on the listserv
- **Final exam:** Essay exam 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

## Schedule

### May 13

Live Classroom 5:00 p.m. Attending or listening to the archived session is required.

### May 14-17

#### Tastes and Techniques in Collecting

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*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, pp. 221-225.

Adams, R. G. (1937, July). Librarians as Enemies of Books. *Library Quarterly*, 3, 317-331.

View C-SPAN's BookTV interview with Nicholas A. Basbanes at <http://www.booknotes.org/Transcript/?ProgramID=1273>

### **May 17**

Optional Live Classroom. 7:00 p.m.

### **May 18-19**

#### **Support of Research and Teaching**

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>

### **May 20**

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

### **May 21-22**

#### **Acquisitions and Access**

Acquisition Sources: Advantages and Disadvantages. Available in BlazeView. See Acquisitions Handout

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](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>

**May 23**

Optional Live Classroom. 5:00 p.m.

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

**May 24****Librarian Education, Training, and Competencies**

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/comp4speccollect.cfm>

**May 25**

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

**May 26****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

**May 27**

Work on Acquisitions/collecting exercise

**May 28**

Acquisitions/collecting exercise due by 12:00 noon  
Optional Live Classroom 5:00 p.m.

**May 29-30****Security and Preservation**

Basbanes. "The Blumberg Collection." In *A Gentle Madness*, 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. Malero. "The Care of Collections." In *A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.rbms.info/committees/security/theft_reports/index.shtml)

### **May 31**

Memorial Day: VSU closed

### **June 1-3**

#### **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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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.abaa.org/books/abaa/abaapages/code-of-ethics.html>

### **June 4**

Optional field trip to Bentley Rare Book Gallery at Kennesaw State University.

## **June 5-6**

### **Current Issues, Trends, and the Future**

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>

Association of Research Libraries (ARL). "Special Collections in ARL Libraries: A Discussion Report from the ARL Working Group on Special Collections. March, 2009. Washington, D.C.: ARL. Available in BlazeView

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

## **June 6**

Optional Live Classroom: 5:00 p.m.

## **June 11**

Analysis of Exlibris discussion topic due by 12:00 noon

## **June 18**

Final exam due by 12:00 noon

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## 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.

## Attendance

This is an online course and no face-to-face meetings are scheduled.

## 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.”

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>

## 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.

[http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/SAF\\_Student\\_Handbook2009-050809.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/SAF_Student_Handbook2009-050809.pdf)

## 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](mailto: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.”

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