

RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Palmer School offers an area of study in Rare Books and Special Collections as part of the American Library Association-accredited MSLS in Library and Information Science program. The program is designed for students intending to pursue careers in research institutions and the book trade. Students develop proficiency in rare book curatorship, archival techniques, book history, rare book cataloging, preservation, and exhibition planning. They become acquainted with major rare book collections through field trips and internships, and they will have opportunities to meet experts in this area. Specialized courses in book history are offered, and courses relevant to this specialization may also be selected from the Palmer School's Certificate in Archives and Records Management program.

Completion of at least four courses is suggested (12 credits)

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

658 – History of the Book (or one of several other historically oriented classes that studies the history of the book)

713 – Rare Book and Special Collections Librarianship**

RECOMMENDED: (select any two electives from the list below)

519 – Great Collections of New York City

529 – Map Collections (counts as history of the book)**

652– Exhibitions and catalogs: Library Meets Museum

657 – Introduction to Preservation**

709– Rare Book Cataloguing and Descriptive Bibliography (counts as history of the book)

710—Rare Book School (University of Virginia; see below)

714 – Archives and Manuscripts**

901– Collecting and Managing Ephemera

901—Reference and Instruction in Special Collections

**** *These courses meet requirements for the Certificate in Archives and Records Management and the suggested courses for the Special Collections area of study.***

Courses in web design and digital libraries are strongly recommended although they do not count towards the concentration.

Students may take up to two (2) courses in the University of Virginia's Rare Book School (LIS 710) as part of this concentration. This option must be approved by the Palmer School before the student enrolls in the RBS program.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities in rare books and special collections librarianship are varied but usually group around the same functional areas found in most libraries:

- Public Services, Instruction and Outreach: Reference Librarian, Reference Archivist, Public Services/Reader Services Librarian, and Outreach Services Librarian
- Technical Services: Rare Book/Rare Materials Cataloger, Processing Archivist, and Digital Resources Librarian

- Collection Development: Curator, Archivist, Collection Development Librarian, Records Manager, and Bibliographer/Subject Specialist
- Preservation: Preservation Librarian and Conservator

For more information on careers in rare books and special collections librarianship, see the "Careers FAQ" (<http://rbms.info/careers-faq/>) maintained by the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of Association of College & Research Libraries, American Library Association.

For more information, contact the Director of the Rare Book and Special Collections program at (212) 998-2681.

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