

**What Should We Teach?
Collection-oriented Approach.
Masters and LRBS Programmes
in London University**

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- We teach postgraduate courses on history of the book.
- Full-time and part-time MA and MRes courses taught over a term, or in LRBS over five-day period.
- HoB is dependent on students having very close contact with materials and processes that make a book. Visits to libraries and archives essential.

- However, travel takes up precious time, so we concentrate on collections close by.
- The most immediately useful, is the Senate House Library. For instance, the course on the printed book in Europe 1455-2010 can be illustrated almost exclusively from the collections of the Library.
- We also have to target special collections elsewhere in London: the British Library, the British Museum, the V&A, Lambeth Palace library, St Brides Printing Library. Using other collections gives us access to expertise of specialist librarians.

- A frustrating paradox that underlies much of the teaching of book history: look but don't touch.
- We also use our own special collections, for example, the Museum of Writing, some of whose artefacts are numerous and robust enough to be directly used by the students e.g. Roman styli.
- For this reason, we are in the process of building up 'teaching collections'. We need materials that students can handle without worrying about them. We have received material from the ABA and from de-accessioned books from SHL, and the teaching collections of retired colleagues are also available.

- LRBS continues to innovate. In 2015 we hope to introduce a new course on: the Renaissance Book, the History of Paper, the incunable book, and course on communication in the Second World War featuring the MOI. We shall be teaching the course in the rooms occupied by those working for the ministry. What George Orwell was later to call the ‘Ministry of Truth’, or ‘Minitrue’ in *Nineteen-Eighty Four* will become a critical part of our material teaching collection.