

**How do we teach? - Continuing
Education Programmes.
Masters and LRBS Programmes
in London University**

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- Modularised courses: a single credit course, a postgraduate certificate, a postgraduate diploma, an MA, an MRes.
- In practice we run a continuing education programme, a certificate programme, and a degree programme.
- Our formal MA and MRes degree programme is small. We impose a maximum of twelve students per year.

- Purpose and intent: to convey to our students that the creation of information and its transmission is a series of material acts in a material world.
- Modes of delivery: the materiality of the subject means that we have to teach using a host of material objects.
- This creates a teaching problem. We now tend to have ten minute breaks in each hour for ‘laboratory’ sessions where we look just at the books. Each term we have a two-hour laboratory session in Senate House Library.
- Of course, all those who take the MA programme are aiming at a qualification. However, those taking LRBS courses frequently are not.

- Our audience is encouragingly wide in origin: our youngest student was twenty-two, our oldest eighty-six.
- We are looking at ways of increasing size of the constituency from which we recruit students. Half-credit courses could be offered for half the price over a long weekend. We could offer courses at other times of the year, and some courses could be offered in other libraries and archives throughout the UK, and beyond.
- Half-credit course offered over the Web. That is, there would be one half-credit on-line devoted to exploring the historical context of the subject, while the other half would consist of a ‘laboratory’ weekend in a library.

- This will be as far as we shall go, because if we abandoned the material nature of the subject we would be subverting it.
- Another way of extending our audience is to offer a much wider range of courses. We already have courses taught by antiquarian book dealers, and we are planning a complementary course on establishing provenance. A series of courses on the history of libraries, on the history of maps, and on the history of reading.
- We are also going to offer a course on the sending and receiving of letters 1500-1919, which will involve the national postal museum in London.