Frequently Asked Questions about the Book Arts Workshop

**Q What can I make or do here?** A. You can make a book—whether it’s a blank journal or a book that you’ve made the content for. It can be a “traditional” book or a less traditional origami-based or pop-up book. You can make posters, books, cards, fans, maps, coasters and other printed pieces using metal or wood type. We can make relief polymer plates from an image or design you’ve created on the computer, which you can then print on our presses. You can learn how to carve your own rubber stamps or relief blocks for printing. You can learn how to make or decorate paper. You can work with someone in the Book Arts Workshop to flesh out an idea for a book-like project for a class or for fun. You can learn about the methods and history of type, printing, paper and books here.

**Q. Are there curricular/for credit classes here?** A. Yes. Sometimes a full, 3-credit course is offered here. More often though, classes from the curriculum come in for a project—some short one-session tours or demos, and others larger multi session projects.

**Q. I’m a professor, how do I arrange for a class visit or project?** A. Stop by when the door is open or email Sarah Smith at Sarah.M.Smith@dartmouth.edu. You’ll get some guidelines and questions to help you plan a project or visit in the Book Arts Workshop. Of course, it works best to plan a project well before your class runs, but we know this isn’t always possible. We want to help even if you think of an idea at the last minute. If it’s possible, we’ll make it work.

**Q. Is it open to everyone?** A. Yes! Dartmouth students are our primary focus, but non-students (faculty, staff and community) are welcome as well. Non-students can register for our classes/workshops, but students get first priority. When the studios get busy with curricular work (tends to be the end of term) we will steer non-students toward coming in in a less busy time.

**Q. How much does it cost?** A. It’s free! However, if you plan on making a lot of something or need a lot of supplies (you’re making 50 or more posters, postcards or you’re making a very large book or multiple books) you should buy your own materials paper/book cloth etc. We have lots of samples to help you choose and order what you need.

**Q. Are there workshops I can take?** A. Yes! We have ten or more workshops every term. Some are introductory classes like the Letterpress Orientation (which is required before working with letterpress in Open Studio) or How to Make a Pamphlet. Others are more involved like the Letterpress Intensive. Most of the classes don’t require a lot of previous experience. You need to register for these classes because we can only fit 6-8 people per class. Students can sign up before non-students. Classes are free and we supply the materials.

**Q. Where do I find the schedule and how do I sign-up for a workshop?** A. You can find the schedule and register for classes through our website here: [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/preservation/bookarts/](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/preservation/bookarts/) and through LibCal here: [http://libcal.dartmouth.edu/calendar.php?cid=214&t=d&d=0000-00-00&ct%5B%5D=31686&cal%5B%5D=214]
Be sure to put your name on the waitlist if the class is full! Some last minute shifting around often happens with our classes, so it’s very possible to get an email just before the class you wanted to take, telling you you’re in. Just be sure to let us know you’re still interested in attending.

Q. I didn’t get into a workshop that I wanted to take. What can I do? A. Always put your name on the waitlist if the class is full. Spaces often open up for the class at the last moment. If your name is on the waitlist, you’ll get an email telling you there’s a spot for you in the class—but act quick and let us know you’ll be joining us or the spot will go to the next person. If you still didn’t get into the class, know that we will probably repeat the class later and you’ll get another chance.

Q. Can children take classes and work in the Workshop? A. Unfortunately, no. We’re set up for people who are at least 15 years old and older. There are some interesting programs for younger people at AVA Gallery and Scratch Makerspace in Lebanon. The Howe Library also hosts book related classes.

Q. What are Open Studios? A. Open Studios are specific hours, supervised by an instructor or student employee, when anyone can come into the Workshop and consult on a project, set type, print or make a book, card or other paper-based item. To work in the letterpress studio, you need to go through one of our Letterpress Orientation sessions, which is 3 hours and offered many times throughout the term. No orientation is necessary for bookbinding, but some book structures are better for a beginner—and take less time than others.

Q. Do I need to sign up for Open Studio? A. No registration is necessary—you can just drop in. However, it’s always nice to get an email (Sarah.M.Smith@dartmouth.edu or Book.Arts@dartmouth.edu) ahead of time if you have a specific project in mind. If we know you’re coming in and what you want to do, we can get the materials and ideas ready for you.

Q. When are Open Studios? A. Our hours for the week are posted on the first page of our website and on the door to the studios. Open Studios hours vary as curricular classes come in at different times and we need to cancel our open hours. Unless a class comes in, we’re open from 3-6 Monday-Thursday, 6-9 a few evenings/week and occasional Saturdays from 12-4. But check the website for a specific week.

Q. What happens if I can’t finish my project by the end of the term? A. We prefer it if all your work and materials are done and put away by the end of term (some curricular courses require it before a grade is issued). However, when that is not possible or a project will go on for longer, we have places where projects in progress can be stored—but only with permission from a Book Arts Workshop instructor.

Q. Can I bring in a bunch of friends? A. Sure! We can set up a workshop just for you and your friends or club. Email ahead of time (Sarah.M.Smith@dartmouth.edu or Book.Arts@dartmouth.edu) to make a plan—we can have materials ready and give you our full attention if it’s not during Open Studio hours.

Q. Are there jobs here? A. Yes. We usually have between 1 and 3 student employees. After some training (usually a full term), employees help participants in Open Studios and classes with their printing and binding projects. Employees also work to keep the studios organized and clean.

Q. How can I get updates on classes, events and Open Studio times? A. We have a Listserv to which you can subscribe to get weekly updates on upcoming Open Studio hours, classes and events. You can join it here: https://listserv.dartmouth.edu/scripts/wa.exe?A0=DARTMOUTH-BOOK-ARTS-LIST