

STEPHANIE BIRCH

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• African American Studies Librarian •

Education

2016 • Master of Library Science
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2016 • Master of Arts, African Studies
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2012 • Master of Arts, History
University of Illinois, Springfield

2010 • Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art History
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Appointments

University of Connecticut | 2022 - Present

- Research Services Librarian, Africana Studies

Florida Libraries | 2016 - 2022

- Assistant Librarian, African American Studies Librarian
- Subject Liaison, Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
- Affiliated Faculty, Gender, Sexualities, & Women's Studies Research, 2019-2022
- Subject Liaison, Carceral Studies, 2020 - 2022

Practica

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Spring 2016

- International & Area Studies Library, Africana / MENA Collection Assistant
- Center for African Studies Graduate Intern

Illinois State Museum Research & Collection Center | 2011 - 2012

- African Ethnographic Collection Intern

Past Experience

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | 2013 - 2016

- Figure One Gallery, School of Art + Design
 - Interim Director, 2015 - 2016
 - Gallery Assistant, 2014 - 2015
- Department of African American Studies | 2013 - 2015
 - Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Ronald Bailey, Department Chair

Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission | 2010 - 2012

- Historical Researcher

Library Instruction Sessions

University of Florida | 2016 - Present

African American & interdisciplinary courses (grad & undergrad)
ENC 1101: Expository and Argumentative Writing
ENC 1102: Argument and Persuasion

Grants Activities

Total # of
Funded Projects

14

Total Funds
Awarded

\$1M 63K

of Projects as PI
or Co-PI

7

Grant Awards (selected)

- [Middle Grade and Young Adult Books with BIPOC Individuals: Where Are They?](#)
 - Institute of Museum and Library Services
 - Award: \$427,100 | Role: Investigator
- [Redressing Native American Oral Histories](#)
 - Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
 - Award: \$200,000 | Role: Principal Investigator
- [Reanimating African American Oral Histories of the Gulf South](#)
 - National Endowment for the Humanities
 - Award: \$349,990 | Role: Co-Principal Investigator
- [Film on a Boat: Digitizing Historical Newspapers of the Caribbean](#)
 - CLIR Digital Hidden Special Collections and Archives
 - Award: \$434,124 | Role: Investigator
- [Intersections: Research-into-Teaching: Mass Incarceration](#)
 - Andrew W. Mellon Foundation / UF Center for Humanities & the Public Sphere.
 - Award: \$30,000 | Role: Co-Principal Investigator
- [Digital Publishing on Black Life and History Collaborative Meeting](#)
 - George A. Smathers Libraries Strategic Opportunities Grant Program
 - Award: \$4,940 | Role: Principal Investigator
- [Enhancing the Legacy Digital Collections of the SPOHP for Improved User Access](#)
 - George A. Smathers Libraries Strategic Opportunities Grant Program
 - Award: \$4,954 | Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Publications (selected)

Book Chapter

Birch, S. 50 Years of African American Studies Library Collection Development at the University of Florida. Conference Proceedings from the African American Studies 50th Anniversary Symposium, University of Florida, February 20, 2020. Edited by Dr. Jacob U. Gordon and Dr. Paul Ortiz. LibraryPress@UF, forthcoming (under review).

Refereed Journal Articles

Birch, S., Stapleton, S., & Vargas-Betancourt, M. (2020). [Outreach from academic libraries: Supporting our local school district's diversity initiative](#). College & Research Libraries News, 81(7), 345.

Stapleton, S., Royster, M., Bharti, N., Birch, S., Bossart, J., Butts, S., Cataldo, T., Gonzalez, S., Minson, V., Putnam, S., & Yip, C., (2019). [Girls Tech Camp](#). Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, (92).

Birch, S. and Lutomia, A.N., (g) (2017). [Con\(Texts\): Re-examining the Social Life of Kanga Cloth](#). Africa e Mediterraneo, (85), pg. 39-45.

Other Publications

Birch, S. (2020). [Digital Collaborations Workshop on Black History in Florida: Final Report](#). George A. Smathers Libraries.

Birch, S., Gordon, J. (&), Moradi, B., Adejumo, V. (2018). [African American Studies Steering Committee Final Report and Recommendations](#). University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Presentations (selected)

Invited

Birch, S. "[African American Library Collections: Then and Now](#)." African American Studies 50th Anniversary Symposium, University of Florida, February 20, 2020.

Houchen, D., Walker, D., and Birch, S., "[Towards Justice: University-Community Collaborations & Black Public History](#)," Digital Collaborations Workshop on Black History in Florida, Gainesville, FL, July 25, 2019.

Birch, S., Morini, R., and Ortiz, P., "The Long Freedom Struggle in Florida: Oral Histories, Archives, & Teaching the Movement," National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc., Tallahassee, FL, May 20-21, 2019.

Birch, S., "Teaching African and African American Experiences with Open Resources," Teaching African American History Conference, Gainesville, FL, May 4, 2019.

Refereed

Birch, S. A [Librarian's Guide to Radical Gatekeeping: Reducing Academic-Driven Harm in Chronically Exploited Communities](#). 2021 Panhandle Library Access Network Virtual Conference, virtual, July 16, 2021.

Birch, S. "Building Collaborative Partnerships for Black DH Projects." Florida Digital Humanities Conference, Flagler College, St. Augustine, FL, March 27, 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Mann, E., Zayas-Ruiz, K., and Birch, S., "Academic Libraries: promoting & sustaining EDI through everyday work." Still We R.I.S.E. Diversity and Inclusion Conference, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, February 1, 2020.

Birch, S., "[Fixer-Uppers: Restructuring an Inefficient Digital Collection](#)," Digital Library Federation Forum, Tampa, FL, October 14-16, 2019.

Houchen, D., Birch, S., Walker, D., and Ponds, V., "The Stories We Tell: Critical Approaches to Black Public History," Florida Historical Society Annual Meeting, Cape Canaveral, FL, May 16-23, 2019.

Campbell, L and Birch, S., "Meeting Student('s Goals): Practicing Learner-Centered Library Instruction," Florida Association of College & Research Libraries (FACRL) Conference, Ft. Meyers, FL, October 18-19, 2018.

Hines, A, Birch, S., and Ewing, S., "Getting to Know Us! Creating a Librarian Profile Video Series," Florida Library Association Conference, Orlando, FL, May 24-25, 2018.

Exhibitions (selected)

[Black Thursday: UF's Black Campus Movement](#)

George A. Smathers Libraries (online exhibition), June 2020 – present
Role: Co-Curator

[Lincoln High School: A Metaphor for Excellence](#)

A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center, December 2018 – present
Role: Curatorial Team Member

[Black Educators: Florida's Secret Social Justice Advocates, 1920-1960](#)

Smathers Library Gallery, October-December 2018
Role: Curatorial Team Member

[Race, Representation, and Resistance in Children's Literature, 1800-2015](#)

Smathers Library Gallery, August – October 2018
Role: Co-Curator

Programs & Events Organized / Facilitated (selected)

[Decolonizing Representations, Parts 1-3](#)

UF Libraries & Matheson History Museum, 2019 - 2021

[Black History Month Double Feature: A Virtual Celebration of Early Afro-American Film](#)
University of Florida, 2021

[Decarcerating Disability: Deinstitutionalization & Prison Abolition, Liat Ben-Moshe](#)

University of Florida, 2019

[Digital Collaborations Workshop on Black History in Florida](#)

University of Florida, 2019

[Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, & the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration, Reuben Miller](#)

University of Florida, 2018

[Libwizard Workshop, Parts 1 & II](#)

UF Libraries, 2018

[Authors @ UF: Stamped from the Beginning, Ibram X. Kendi](#)

University of Florida, 2016

National & State Service

American Library Association

- EDI Assembly
 - Member (appointed): August 2021 – July 2023
- CHOICE Resources for College Libraries, African American Studies bibliography
 - Reviewer: Summer 2021
- Diversity Research Grant Advisory Committee
 - Member (appointed): December 2020 – November 2022

Association of College & Research Libraries

- African American Funnel Project Committee
 - Member: August 2018 – August 2019

Association of Research Libraries

- ARL Diversity Fellowship Program
 - Mentor, September 2019 – August 2020

Council for Library and Information Resources

- Digitizing Hidden Collections Symposium Program Committee
 - Member: February 2020 – September 2020

Digital Library Federation

- DLF Forum Program Committee
 - Member: February 2020 – September 2020
- DLF Scholarship Committee
 - Member: February 2020 – September 2020

Education for Information: Interdisciplinary Journal of Information Studies

- Education for Information Special Issue on Critical Race Theory
 - Editorial Associate (invited): August 2021 - September 2022

Florida Association of College & Research Libraries

- FACRL Program Committee
 - Member: May 2019 – October 2019

University Service - University of Florida (selected)

African American Studies Program

- African American Studies Program Advisory Committee
 - Member: August 2017 – present
- African American Studies 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee
 - Member: October 2019 – February 2020
- African American Studies Program Task Force
 - Chair, August 2017 – May 2018

Multicultural & Diversity Affairs

- Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee
 - Member: October 2016 – February 2019
- Mentor Program, UF Multicultural and Diversity Affairs
 - Mentor: August 2017 – January 2018

UF Libraries

- Carceral Studies Acquisitions Cluster
 - Convener & Chair: 2021 – present
- American Indian & Indigenous Studies Acquisitions Cluster
 - Co-Convener & Member: 2021 – present
- Digital Library of the Caribbean Team
 - Member: October 2016 – present
- Library West DEI Task Force
 - Member, February 2020 – July 2020
- Library West Creative Team
 - Member: August 2016 – February 2020
- UF Libraries Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
 - Co-Chair (appointed), August 2018 – May 2019
 - Member, August 2017 – May 2018
- Search Committee, Chair of Cataloging and Discovery Services
 - Member: May 2018 – October 2018
- Search Committee, Library West Outreach and Instruction Librarian
 - Member: March 2017 – September 2017

University Governance

- University of Florida Faculty Senate
 - Senator (elected): August 2018 – August 2021

United Faculty of Florida

- Vice President (elected): May 2018 – April 2019
 - Communications and Membership Co-Chair: May 2017 – April 2019

Local Professional Service

Alachua County African and African American History Task Force

- Educational Resources Sub-Committee
 - Chair (appointed): January 2018 – present

City of Gainesville

- Cultural Affairs Advisory Board
 - Member (appointed), 2019-2023

Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc.

- Executive Board
 - Chair (elected), 2019 – 2022

Awards and Honors

- Gainesville Fine Arts Association, Award of Excellence, 2021 Summer Showcase
- George A. Smathers Libraries Outreach Award, COVID-19 LibGuide Team, 2020
- George A. Smathers Libraries Outreach Award, Library West Creative Team, 2018
- George A. Smathers Libraries Outreach Award, Girls Tech Camp, 2017
- Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship, Department of Education, 2015-2016

Research Guides (selected)

- [African American Studies Library Resources](#)
- [Black Film & Film Literature](#)
- [Carceral Studies Library Resources](#)
- [Oral History @ UF](#)
- [Teaching African & African American Experiences](#)

Language Coursework

- Bamanakan
 - 2008-2010, to intermediate level
- Kiswahili
 - 2013-2016, to intermediate level

Creative In/Outreach Projects

- [What Freedom Built](#)
 - Poster showcasing archival and special collections materials relating to Gainesville's historic Black neighborhoods established after emancipation; displayed at the City's 2021 Journey to Juneteenth Celebration event
- [COVID-19 Practicing Kindness in Crisis: Home-Cooked Memories](#)
 - A virtual presentation series for library personnel to share what makes us "whole" and create a sense of community during quarantine, April 2020
- [COVID-19 Virtual Library Promo / National Library Week Video](#)
 - A remote work-themed parody of The Office opening credits to promote the Libraries' new virtual services; Viewed 2.2k times view Twitter. April 2020
- [Frankenstein Operation](#)
 - A 6ft operation game to promote Frankenreads, the 200th-anniversary celebration of Mary Shelley's novel, October 2018
- [Subject Liaison Promotional Elevator Wraps](#)
 - Vinyl elevator wraps to promote librarians, while also generating a fun, friendly, and approachable environment for users, 2017-2019