

STEPHANIE BIRCH

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• Africana 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

Current Appointment

University of Connecticut | January 2022-Present

- Research Services Librarian, Africana & African Studies

Past Experience

University of Florida Libraries | August 2016-January 2022

- Assistant Librarian, African American Studies Librarian
- Library Liaison, Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, 2018 - 2022
- Affiliated Faculty, Gender, Sexualities, & Women's Studies Research, 2019-2022

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Spring 2016

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

Illinois State Museum Research & Collection Center | 2011-2012

- African Ethnographic Collection Intern

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

Grantsmanship

Total # of
Grant Projects

16

Total Funds
Awarded

\$1M+

of Projects as
PI or Co-PI

9

Grant Awards (selected)

Equity and Ethics in Cultural Heritage Preservation

Boston Library Consortium Innovation Fund

Award: \$1,500 | Role: Principal Investigator

Black History Month 2023: Black Resistance

UConn Library Strategic Framework Fund

Award: \$5,000 | Role: Principal Investigator

Assessing Representative Aggregation in National and Regional Cultural Heritage Repositories

University of California Irvine

Award: \$49,338 | Role: Investigator

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: Co-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. (2021). 50 Years of African American Studies Library Collection Development at the University of Florida. In J.U. Gordon and P. Ortiz (Eds.). *African American Studies: 50 Years at the University of Florida*. Gainesville, Florida: LibraryPress@UF.

Refereed Journal Articles

Birch, S. (2023) [A New Prohibition Era: Book Banning, Prison Abolition, and Librarians](#). *Education for Information*, 38(4), pg. 415-422.

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.

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).

Dunbar, A., Corble, A., Howard, N., Birch, S., Centeno, V, and Shabrack, A. D. (2023). [Cultivating collective praxis for scholarly transformation and racial justice: The Critical Race Theory collective's introduction to the special issue](#). *Education for Information*, 38(4), pg. 275-287.

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).

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.

Forthcoming Publications

Birch, S. "A Vast Machine of Repression": Carceral Book Banning and the Prison Industrial Complex. *The Bell Ringer*. *In progress, forthcoming Spring 2023*.

Birch, S and Dunbar, A. W. Racial Capitalism and PragerU (working title). In Dickinson, Rob and Cowin, Tom (eds). PragerU and the Alt-Right Pipeline (working title). *In progress, forthcoming 2024*.

Presentations (selected)

Invited

Birch, S. (2023, February 9). #ThisIsAmerica Panel on Banned Books. Social Justice Education Series, UConn Alumni Association. Hartford, Connecticut, *forthcoming*.

Birch, S. (2022, July 11). *Banned Books Behind Bars*. Connecticut Division of Public Defenders, Racial Justice & Cultural Competency Committee Meeting.

Ortiz, P., Gordon, J., McDade-Gordon, B., Dupree, S., Shaw, H., Mingo, G., and Birch, S. (2022, March 18). *50 Years of African American Studies at UF and in the Community*. Rosa B. Williams Center, Gainesville, FL.

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

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

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

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

Refereed

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

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

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

Birch, S. (2019, October 14-6). [*Fixer-Uppers: Restructuring an Inefficient Digital Collection*](#). Digital Library Federation Forum, Tampa, FL.

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

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

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

Exhibitions (selected)

[Disorder in the Night: Narratives of Black Resistance, 1723-2023](#)

UConn Library, February 2022

Role: Curator

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

George A. Smathers Libraries, June 2020

Role: Co-Curator

[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)

UConn Black History Month Closing Ceremony, Rik Stevenson

UConn Student Union, 2023

Rosewood Virtual Film Screening & Discussion, Lizzie Robinson Jenkins

UConn Library, 2023

Decolonizing Representations, Parts 1-3

UF Libraries & Matheson History Museum, 2019 - 2021

Sankofa Virtual Film Screening & Discussion

University of Florida, 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

Authors @ UF: Stamped from the Beginning, Ibram X. Kendi

University of Florida, 2016

Awards and Honors

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

Continuing Education

CRT Summer School

African American Policy Forum

July 18-22, 2022

Trauma-Informed Library Services

American Library Association

July-August 2022

National & International Service (selected)

American Library Association

EDI Assembly (appointed) | August 2021 – July 2023

Diversity Research Grant Advisory Committee | 2020 – 2021

Association of College & Research Libraries

African American Funnel Project Committee | August 2018 – August 2019

Association of Research Libraries

ARL Diversity Fellowship Program Mentor | September 2019 – August 2020

CHOICE Resources for College Libraries

African American Studies Bibliography Reviewer | Summer 2021

Critical Race Theory Collective

Managing Editor, *The Bell Ringer* blog | 2022 – present

Founding Member | 2021 – present

Council for Library and Information Resources

Digitizing Hidden Collections Symposium Program Committee | 2020

Digital Library Federation

DLF Committee for Equity and Inclusion | 2021 – present

DLF Forum Program Committee | 2020

DLF Scholarship Committee | 2020

Regional & State Service

Boston Library Consortium

Media Community of Interest | August 2022 – present

Florida Library Florida Association of College & Research Libraries

FACRL Program Committee | 2019

University Service

UF African American Studies Program Advisory Committee

Member: August 2017 – 2022

UF African American Studies 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Member: October 2019 – February 2020

UF African American Studies Program Task Force

Chair, August 2017 – May 2018

UF Multicultural & Diversity Affairs MLK Celebration Committee

Member: October 2016 – February 2019

Library Service

UConn Library Action Committee for Inclusion, Academic Engagement Team

Member: October 2022 – present

Library West Carceral Studies Acquisitions Cluster

Convener: 2021 – 2022

Library West American Indian & Indigenous Studies Acquisitions Cluster

Co-Convener & Member: 2021 – 2022

UF Digital Library of the Caribbean Team

Member: October 2016 – 2022

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

UF Libraries Search Committee, Chair of Cataloging and Discovery Services

Member: May 2018 – October 2018

Library West Search Committee, Library West Outreach and Instruction Librarian

Member: March 2017 – September 2017

University Governance Service

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

Community-Based Cultural Heritage Service

Alachua County African & African American Historical Society

Treasurer (founding): 2021 – Present

Alachua County African and African American History Task Force

Educational Resources Sub-Committee, Chair (appointed): January 2018 – June 2022

City of Gainesville Cultural Affairs Advisory Board

Member (appointed), 2019 – June 2022

Friends of Thomas Jackson, Inc.

Vice President (founding): October 2022 – present

Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc.

Chair (elected), 2019 – December 2022