

STEPHANIE BIRCH

she/her/hers
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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

Professional Experience

University of Connecticut | January 2022-Present

- Research Services Librarian, Africana & African Studies

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 | 2013-2016

- Figure One Gallery, School of Art + Design
 - Interim Director, 2015-2016
 - Gallery Assistant, 2014-2015
- America Reads/America Counts | 2014-2016
 - Graduate Coordinator for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Garden Hills elementary schools, Champaign District 4 Schools, Champaign, Illinois
- Department of African American Studies | 2013-2015
 - Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Ronald Bailey, Department Chair
- Office of Minority Student Affairs Tutoring Center, 2013
 - Graduate Coordinator

Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission | 2010-2012

- Historical Researcher

Practica & Internships

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

Continuing Education

- CRT Summer School, African American Policy Forum, July 18-22, 2022
- Trauma-Informed Library Services, American Library Association, July-August 2022

Grantsmanship

Total # of
Grant Projects

15

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

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

Book Chapters

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

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.

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.

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).

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

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

Invited

Birch, S. (2023, Feb 23). #ThisIsAmerica Panel on Banned Books. Social Justice Education Series, UConn Alumni Association. Hartford, Connecticut.

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

Ortiz, P., Hendrix, D., Romero, A., Carter, D., and **Birch, S.** (2023, Sep 20-24). *The enduring resonance of the Joel Buchanan Archive of African American Oral History*. 2023 Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference, Jacksonville, Florida. *Forthcoming*.

Birch, S. (2021, July 16). *A Librarian's Guide to Radical Gatekeeping: Reducing Academic-Driven Harm in Chronically Exploited Communities*. Panhandle Library Access Network Virtua 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 & Displays

Occupy The Library: A 50 Year Retrospective of UConn's Black Campus Movement
UConn Library, *forthcoming Spring 2024*

Incarceration Nation: Carceral Studies, from Newgate Prison to Mass Incarceration
UConn Library, *forthcoming Fall 2023*

Disorder in the Night: Narratives of Black Resistance, 1723-2023
UConn Library, February 2022

Black Thursday: UF's Black Campus Movement
UF Libraries, June 2020

Black Educators: Florida's Secret Social Justice Advocates, 1920-1960
UF Libraries, October-December 2018

Race, Representation, and Resistance in Children's Literature, 1800-2015
UF Libraries, August-October 2018

With Eyes Wide Open: Ken Gonzales-Day and Sheila Pree Bright
Figure One Gallery, University of Illinois, October-November 2015

Programs (selected)

Library Outreach

- Trick or Treat at Lib West
UF Library West, annual
- Digital Resource Showcase
UF Libraries, annual
- Frankenreads: 200th Anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
UF Library West, 2018

Lectures

- Overboard: Black Resistance and the Middle Passage, Rik Stevenson
UConn Library & African American Cultural Center, 2023
- Decarcerating Disability: Deinstitutionalization & Prison Abolition, Liat Ben-Moshe
UF Humanities Center, 2019
- Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, & the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration, Reuben Miller
UF Humanities Center, 2018
- Stamped from the Beginning, Ibram X. Kendi
UF Libraries, 2016

Film Screenings

- *Rosewood* (1997), with a discussion with descendant Lizzie Jenkins
UConn Library, African American Cultural Center, and Real Rosewood Foundation, 2023
- *Space is the Place* (1974), with community conversation
UF Libraries & UF Assoc. of Black Faculty & Staff, 2022
- *Sankofa* (1993), with community conversation
UF Libraries & UF Assoc. of Black Faculty & Staff, 2021

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- *The Flying Ace* (1926), with a panel discussion on early Black cinema
UF Libraries, Norman Studios & Black Films Matter, 2021
 - *African Americans in Paris* (2017), with community conversation
UF Libraries & African American Studies, 2017
 - *13th* (2016), with community conversation
UF Libraries, African American Studies, & Black Graduate Student Assoc, 2017

Symposia

- UF African American Studies 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee
University of Florida, 2020
- From Segregation to Black Lives Matter: Oral History Symposium
University of Florida, 2019
- Teaching African American and African History
Alachua County School District, 2019

Workshops

- Decolonizing Representations: Past, Present, & Future: Parts 1-3
UF Libraries & Matheson History Museum, 2019 - 2021
- Digital Collaborations Workshop on Black History in Florida
UF Libraries, 2019
- Girls Tech Camp
Marston Science Library, 2017-2019

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

Service – International

Critical Race Theory Collective

Managing Editor, *The Bell Ringer* blog, 2022 – present
 Education for Information Editorial Team, 2021 – present
 Founding Member, 2021 – present

Intersectional and Comparative Advancement of Racial Equity for Social Justice (ICare4Justice) Summit
 Cohort Member, 2023 – present

Service – National

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

Council for Library and Information Resources

Digitizing Hidden Collections Symposium Program Committee, 2020

Digital Library Federation

DLF Committee for Equity and Inclusion, 2021-2022

DLF Forum Program Committee, 2020

DLF Scholarship Committee, 2020

Service – State / Regional

Boston Library Consortium

Media Community of Interest, August 2022 – present

Connecticut Humanities

Oral History Advisory Board (invited), May 2023 – present

Florida Library Florida Association of College & Research Libraries

FACRL Program Committee, 2019

Service – University

UF African American Studies Program Advisory Committee

Member, August 2017 – January 2022

UF African American Studies Program Task Force

Chair, August 2017 – May 2018

UF Multicultural & Diversity Affairs MLK Celebration Committee

Member, October 2016 – February 2019

Service – Library

UConn Library Action Committee for Inclusion, Academic Engagement Team

Member, October 2022 – present

Library West American Indian & Indigenous Studies Acquisitions Cluster

Co-Convener & Member, 2021 – 2022

Library West Carceral Studies Acquisitions Cluster

Convener, 2021 – 2022

Library West Creative Team

Member, August 2016 – February 2020

Library West Search Committee, Library West Outreach and Instruction Librarian

Member, March 2017 – September 2017

UF Digital Library of the Caribbean Team

Member, October 2016 – 2022

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

Service – 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

Service – Community

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

Rad Little Library

Founder, 2023 – present

Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc.

Board member, March 2023 – present

Chair (elected), 2019-2022