Ryan Cordell

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Current Appointment

Associate Professor, College of Information Sciences and Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, August 2021-present

Education

Ph.D. English Language and Literature, University of Virginia, August 2010

Recent Awards

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, hosted by the Ada Lovelace Center for Digital Humanities, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany, 2023-2025

Senior Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, Rare Book School, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2017-present

Lead Investigator with Geoff Ward (Washington University), David Cunningham (Washington University), and David Smith (Northeastern University), for the *Virality of Racial Terror* project, funded by a Mellon Grant, January 2023-December 2025

Recent Publications

"Surveying the Humanities MakerLab Movement," with Isabella Viega and Kyungwon Koh, 27 September 2024, https://hcommons.org/deposits/item/hc:69557/

"Word Embedding Models and the Hybridity of Newspaper Genres," with Avery Blankenship, *The American Historical Review* 29.1 (March 2024), https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhad493 "Programmable Type: The Craft of Printing, The Craft of Code," *Teaching the History of the Book*, ed. Emily Todd and Matt Pangallo, University of Massachusetts Press (2023)

"Computationally Modeling Publication Format in HathiTrust Books, 1500–1799" second author, with Wenyi Shang and J. Stephen Downie, DH+BH Conference (22 September 2022)"Material Culture of the Digital," *Handbook of Material Culture Studies*, ed. Lu Ann De Cunzo and Catharine Dann Roeber, Cambridge University Press (2022), pre-print available

"Newspapers and Periodicals as Transitional Media," *American Literature in Transition, 1851-1877*, ed. Cody Marrs, Cambridge University Press (2022), pre-print available

"Closing the Loop: Bridging Machine Learning Research and Library Systems," *Library Trends* 71:1 (August 2022), https://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2023.0008

"Speculative Bibliography," *Anglia* 138:3 (September 2020), special "Archives" issue, ed. Daniel Stein, available online

"Machine Learning + Libraries: A Report on the State of the Field," commissioned by LC Labs, the Library of Congress, 14 July 2020, https://labs.loc.gov/static/labs/work/reports/Cordell-LOC-ML-report.pdf.

Selected Digital Projects

The Virality of Racial Terror, with David Cunningham, David Smith, and Geoff Ward, 2023-2026

Viral Texts: Mapping Networks of Reprinting in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals, with David Smith (co-PI), Abby Mullen, Jonathan Fitzgerald, and Avery Blankenship, 2012-present

Selected Recent Presentations

Bloomsbury Chapter Stevenson Lecture, "The Scissors, the Paste-Pot, & the Large Language Model," Institute of English Studies, University of London, 23 May 2024

Keynote, "All Data is Small (If You Zoom Far Enough), with David Smith, Final Conference for the Thematic Einstein Seminar on Small Data Analysis, Einstein Foundation Berlin, 12 March 2024, https://mathplus.de/topic-development-lab/tes-winter-2023-24/final-conference/

Invited Lecture, "From C19 to GPT: How Historical Reprinting Can Help Us Understand Large Language Models," Illinois Digital Humanities Speaker Series, Loyola University Chicago, 15 November 2023Invited Lecture, "Towards a Bibliography for AI Systems," Library Lecture, Freie Universität Berlin, 8 June 2023

"Computationally Modeling Publication Format," second author; with Wenyi Shang and J. Stephen Downie, BH+DH Conference, 23 September 2022

Recent Teaching

Graduate

- Introduction to Digital Humanities: Fall 2024
- BookLab Print to Programming: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Undergraduate

- Introduction to Fiction ("Fictional Tech" Theme): Spring 2024
- Building a (Better) Book: Spring 2023
- Reading & Writing Data: Fall 2022