

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

Selected 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

Lead Investigator with David Smith *et al*; Transatlantic Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities Digging Into Data Grant; for *Oceanic Exchanges: Tracing Global Information Networks In Historical Newspaper Repositories, 1840-1914* (OcEx), 2017-2020

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Digital Innovation Fellowship, for “Global Viral Texts,” 2015-2016

Selected Publications

“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> “The Ripple Effect of Dataset Reuse: Contextualizing the Data Lifecycle for Machine Learning Dataset and Social Impact,” with Jaihyun Park, *Journal of Information Science* (27 December 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1177/01655515231212977>

- “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) “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>.
- “‘Q i-jtb the Raven’: Taking Dirty OCR Seriously,” *Book History* 20 (2017), available online

Selected Digital Projects

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

Oceanic Exchanges: Tracing Global Information Networks In Historical Newspaper Repositories, 1840-1914 (Lead Investigator) with David Smith *et al* on a six nation Digging Into Data project, 2017-2019

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

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 2023 Invited Lecture, “Reprinting, Composition, and Large Language Models,” Nancy Brownell Lecture on the History of the Book, University of Iowa Center for the Book, 28 September 2023 Invited 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

“Closing the Loop Between Machine Learning Research & Library Systems,” AI & Cultural Heritage series, Loughborough University Institute for Advanced Studies, 28 March 2022

“What Information Can Historical Newspapers Provide?” Marbach-Weimar-Wolfenbüttel Research Association Mid-Term Conference, Theme: “Verschwinden: Engaging with material & medial losses in the archive and library,” 14 October 2021

Invited lecture, “Novels in the News: The Reprinting of American Fiction in Nineteenth Century Periodicals,” with Avery Blankenship, Penn Price Lab in Digital Humanities, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 5 March 2020

“Speculative Bibliography,” Modern Language Association Convention, Seattle, Washington, 10 January 2020

Recent Teaching

Graduate

- BookLab Print to Programming: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Undergraduate

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

Selected Service

- Director, Skeuomorph Press and BookLab, 2022-present
- *American Literary History* editorial board, 2024-2027+ Senate Committee on Educational Policy, 2022-2024+ School of Information Sciences, Research Advisory Committee, 2023-2024