

# APRIL URBAN

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## EDUCATION

**MLS**, Master of Library Science 2023  
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

**PhD**, English 2019  
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN  
Concentration: Literature, Theory, and Cultural Studies

**MFA**, Creative Writing, Fiction 2013  
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

**BA**, English and Religious Studies 2009  
Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Library Experience

*The University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Instructional Services and Scholarly Communications Librarian Oct. 2024-Present  
Librarian II; Research, Information, and User Services; M. Louis Salmon Library

- As liaison librarian for the College of Nursing; the English and Sociology departments; and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, provide specialized research consultations and library instruction and respond to library collection development needs
- Consult and collaborate with instructional faculty to develop library instruction sessions and resources aimed towards achieving learning outcomes for their courses
- Lead the Salmon Library's scholarly communications initiatives, including planning strategies for utilizing the institutional repository to preserve the campus community's research data and publications and developing programs for incentivizing Open Educational Resources (OER) adoption and creation
- At the Research Help Desk, respond to patrons' reference questions and requests

*University of California, Irvine*

Research Librarian for Digital Humanities and African American Studies July 2023-Sept. 2024  
Associate Level, Digital Scholarship Services, UCI Libraries

- Consulted with faculty, staff, and students on selecting and using digital humanities (DH) tools and methods and best practices for project management
- Developed and presented instructional materials on DH tools and best practices for Libraries workshops and class visits

- Led the Undergraduate Summer Fellowship in Digital Humanities (USFDH) program by evaluating applications, facilitating instruction for undergraduate fellows on DH methods and tools, and coordinating support from faculty and subject librarians
- In collaboration with colleagues, enhanced the user experience for the Digital Sandbox Service through improvements in interface
- As co-chair of the Digital Humanities Exchange, collaborated with humanities faculty and staff to develop events and outreach
- Engaged in collection development for African American Studies
- Jan.-Mar. 2024: As interim liaison librarian for English and Comparative Literature, provided consultations and instruction

*Indiana University, Bloomington*

Graduate Assistant March 2023-June 2023  
Digital Collections Services, IU Libraries

- Assisted with migrating digital files to a new website and maintaining manuscript image files for *The Chymistry of Isaac Newton Project*
- Ensured that manuscript image files and website transcripts aligned and reported errors
- Reviewed and corrected filenames for consistency

Graduate Student Assistant, Course Material Fellowship Program Aug. 2021-March 2023  
Scholarly Communication unit, IU Libraries

- Co-led an affordable course material fellowship program for instructors interested in open educational resources (OER)
- Conducted research on and implemented best practices for OER programs
- In partnership with the Implementation Group, evaluated faculty applications
- Assisted with developing the program's goals and infrastructure
- Developed instructional materials aimed at faculty focused on OER development, pedagogy, and accessibility best practices
- Created documentation for the program using Microsoft Teams and Confluence Wiki spaces
- Contributed to a Library digital exhibit through writing, research, and web development

Research Assistant, Learning Commons Aug. 2021-Dec. 2021  
Teaching & Learning unit, IU Libraries

- Assisted undergraduate students with conducting research and navigating library resources
- Led in-person Library tours and research presentations
- Learned and implemented best practices for conducting and teaching online library research

**Refereed Publications**

Urban, A. [manuscript in preparation.] The value of open education labor. In J. Maxwell and L. Todorinova (Eds.), *Affordability, open education, and academic library dysfunction: Can libraries make higher education more affordable and equitable?* Routledge.

## Digital Humanities and Library Conference Presentations

- “‘Abortion Access Has Everything to Do with Access to Information’: A Digital Collection of Abortion Memories” Poster. Global Digital Humanities Symposium, East Lansing, MI 2024
- “Building Accountability and Improving Instruction: Strategies for Enhancing Open Education Programs” Poster, with Sarah Hare. ACRL Conference, Pittsburgh, PA 2023
- “Exploring the Value of Open Education Labor.” Open Texas, online 2022

## Digital Humanities Projects and Library Web Publications

- [Reproductive Rights in Bloomington, Indiana](#) 2022  
Created for Digital Libraries course, Fall 2022
- [Annotated Bibliography, Afro-Indigenous Intersections in the USA](#) 2022  
Part of [Land, Wealth, Liberation digital exhibit](#)
- [Course Material Transformation with OER](#) 2021  
By Sarah Hare, Jeani Young, and April Urban

## Library Workshops and Presentations

### *UC Irvine Libraries*

- Undergraduate Summer Fellowship in Digital Humanities (10 weekly workshops) 2024
- Digital Narratives Across the Disciplines (in collaboration with WAC/WID Program) 2024
- Introduction to Humanities Data 2024
- Digital Humanities Tools for Performance Archives 2024
- Introduction to Text Analysis with Voyant Tools 2024
- Digital Humanities and Community-Centered Archives 2024
- Library Resources for Early Modern Mixedness 2024
- Library Resources for Literary Journalism 2024
- Introduction to Digital Humanities Tools for Openly Engaging Communities 2023
- Storytelling Tools for Digital Narratives 2023

### *IU Bloomington Libraries*

Organizing and Scaffolding Content Workshop, Course Material Fellowship Program 2021  
(with Sarah Hare)

Library Research Instruction, Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society 2021  
(with Meredith Knoff and Michael Courtney)

### **Library Academic Service**

#### *UC Irvine*

Co-Chair, Digital Humanities Exchange, UCI Humanities Center 2023-2024  
Co-Leader, UCI Libraries Writing Group Community of Practice 2024  
Member, Diversity Team, UCI Libraries 2023-2024  
Member, OER Team, UCI Libraries 2023-2024

#### *IU Bloomington*

Student Representative, ILS Curriculum Committee 2023

### **Writing Center Experience**

Dissertation Writing Group Coordinator Graduate Assistant Aug. 2022-May 2023  
Campus Writing Program, Indiana University Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning

- Facilitated multiple in-person and online writing groups for doctoral candidates working on PhD dissertations
- Led discussions with group members on topics related to academic writing and research, goal-setting and time management, and navigating academia
- Assessed applications for each semester's new dissertation writing groups
- Participated in Campus Writing Program administrative and Advisory Board meetings

Article Writing Group Coordinator Graduate Assistant Jan. 2022-May 2022  
Campus Writing Program, Indiana University Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning

- Facilitated online and in-person writing groups for graduate students working on scholarly article manuscripts and dissertations
- Assessed applications for each semester's new article writing groups and determine if projects are appropriate for the groups' goals
- Participated in Campus Writing Program administrative and Advisory Board meetings

Graduate Tutor Aug. 2021-June 2023  
Writing Tutorial Services, Indiana University Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning

- Consulted with undergraduate and graduate students about their writing—including course essays and research, scholarly articles, dissertations, and job search documents—and their concerns for revision and editing
- Collaborated with students to develop plans for writing and revision

Graduate Tutor Aug. 2015-May 2019  
Purdue Writing Lab, Purdue University Department of English

- Consulted with undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, about their writing—including course essays and research, scholarly articles, dissertations, and job search documents—and their concerns for revision and editing
- Collaborated with students to develop plans for writing and revision
- Mentored undergraduate students training as writing tutors by discussing tutoring best practices. In Fall 2018 to Spring 2019, provided mentoring and feedback on graduate tutors' ESL training

Graduate Writing Consultant Aug. 2010-Aug. 2012  
University Writing Center, University of Central Florida

- Consulted with undergraduate and graduate students about their writing—including course essays and research, as well as job search documents—and their concerns for revision and editing
- Collaborated with students to develop plans for writing and revision

Peer Writing Consultant Aug. 2008-May 2009  
Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, Rollins College

- Consulted with undergraduate students about their writing—including course essays and research, as well as job search documents—and their concerns for revision and editing
- Collaborated with students to develop plans for writing and revision

## Writing Center Workshops and Presentations

### *Writing Tutorial Services, Indiana University*

Establishing a Daily Writing Practice, “Supercharge Your Dissertation!” event for PhD students, IU Libraries Scholars' Commons (with Sean Sidky and Maggie McLaughlin) 2022, 2023

Tutoring Literature Reviews, Working Group writing tutor meeting 2022

### *Purdue Writing Lab, Purdue University*

Writing Personal Statements, presentation for general student audience 2018

MLA and APA Formatting, presentation for general student audience 2018

Proofreading and Editing, presentation for general student audience 2018

Primary Research, in-class workshop for technical writing course 2017

Grammar for Business Writing, in-class workshop for graduate-level business course 2016

Academic Research and Writing, in-class workshop for Purdue Polytechnic Institute composition students at Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc., Lafayette, IN 2015, 2016

## Teaching Experience

### *Purdue University*

Instructor of Record, English First-Year Composition online Aug. 2019-May 2021

- An online, asynchronous composition, rhetoric, and research course focused on communication within scholarly disciplines
- Taught multiple sections per semester

Instructor of Record, Introduction to Fiction Jan. 2019-May 2019

- An introductory literature course focused on analyzing the craft and meaning of fiction
- Transitioned to online distance learning halfway through the semester due to COVID-19

Graduate Instructor (instructor of record), English First-Year Composition Aug. 2013-May 2018

- A composition, rhetoric, and research course focused on the reading of narrative and popular culture texts as a gateway to academic writing and research

Graduate Instructor (instructor of record), Introduction to Fiction online 2015, 2016, 2017

- An introductory literature course focused on analyzing the craft and meaning of fiction
- Online, asynchronous 8-week summer course

#### *University of Central Florida*

Graduate Instructor (instructor of record), English Composition II Spring 2012, 2013

- A first-year composition, rhetoric, and research course focused on research as a process of inquiry and knowledge-making

Graduate Instructor (instructor of record), English Composition I Fall 2011, 2012

- A first-year composition and rhetoric course focused on developing students' understanding of writing as a process and a social activity

### **SELECT ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Animating Material Hierarchy: The Implied Agency of Natural Selection in Darwin.”  
Personification Across Disciplines, Durham University, United Kingdom 2018

“Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*: The Maternal Burden of Racial Lineage.”  
The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY 2018

“The Narrative Place of Humanity in Darwinian Evolution: Between Instability and Linearity.”  
The Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Tempe, AZ 2017

“Destabilizing Life’s Borders: Cyborg Visions in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*.”  
Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO 2016

“Desire with No Object: Deleuze and Guattari and the Fiction of Mary Gaitskill.”  
Midwest Modern Language Association, Detroit, MI 2014

“Using iPod, LiveChat, and Internet Transcripts to Teach Tutoring Skills.” Co-presenter with  
Lindsay Anderson. Southeastern Writing Center Association, Tuscaloosa, AL 2011

## **SELECT GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Purdue Research Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Purdue University Summer 2018

Quintilian Award for Excellence in Teaching, Introductory Composition at Purdue 2016

Cultural Analysis Writing in Graduate Studies (First Place), Purdue University Literary Awards,  
for “The Biopower of Gendered Blackness” 2015

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Library Association (ALA)

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)