

# Francis P. Donnelly

Brown University Library  
10 Prospect Street  
Box A  
Providence, RI 02912

✉ frank\_donnelly@brown.edu  
🌐 atcoordinates.info  
🌐 <https://libguides.brown.edu/geodata>  
🌐 [github/Brown-University-Library/geodata](https://github/Brown-University-Library/geodata)

I am a geospatial information professional whose work integrates geography with library and information science. I manage a lab and map collection and support geospatial and demographic research by providing consultations, teaching workshops, partnering on projects, and producing datasets with tools like scripting languages and GIS. On average, I hold 160 consults, answer 120 research queries, and participate in a dozen projects each year.

## Education

M.L.I.S. Library and Information Science, University of Washington (2007)  
M.A. Geography, University of Toronto (2001)  
B.A. Degree with Distinction, Geography & History, University of Delaware (2000)

## Professional Experience

2021-	Head of GIS & Data Services, Brown University Library
2007-2021	Geospatial Data Librarian & Assoc Prof, Newman Library, Baruch College CUNY
2004-2005	Assistant Director, Office for Research and Planning, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
2002-2004	Economist / Planner II, Land Use and Planning, New Jersey Pinelands Commission

## Skills

GIS	QGIS, ArcGIS (Pro / Online / StoryMaps), GRASS
Databases	PostgreSQL / PostGIS, SQLite / Spatialite, Airtable
Scripting	Python & Pandas, geospatial Python, APIs, SQL, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
Datasets	U.S. census and government data, datasets for social sciences and public policy
Metadata	Dublin Core, ISO 19115 / 19139 (geographic information)
Management	Multiple research projects, student employees, interdepartmental working groups

## Select Publications

Donnelly, F.P. (submitted for publication). The Feasibility of Comparing American Community Survey Estimates Over Time.

Donnelly, F.P. (2022). US Census Data: Concepts and Applications for Supporting Research. *Library Technology Reports*, 58(4). ALA Tech Source, Chicago.

Donnelly, F.P. (2020). *Exploring the U.S. Census: Your Guide to America's Data*. SAGE Publications, Los Angeles.

Donnelly, F.P. (2020). *New York's Population and Migration Trends in the 2010s*. Weissman Center for International Business Occasional Papers Series, No. 21, Fall.

Donnelly, F. P. (2015). Regional variations in average distance to public libraries in the United States. *Library & Information Science Research*, 37 (2015), 280-289.

## Sample Projects

*Data Rescue Project HIFLD Open initiative*. Project lead. Coordinated 20 volunteers in archiving over 400 geospatial federal government datasets. 2025.

*Providence Census Geography Crosswalk*. Creator. Relational tables and maps for generating census estimates for neighborhoods and wards. 2025.

*Data Acquisitions Group*. Coordinator. Guides the library's data acquisitions process and manages collection funds. Chaired committee that drafted guidelines, and built the group's workflows. 2024 to present.

*Raster temperature and point observation overlay*. Creator. Python scripts for clipping PRISM temperature grids and associating values with point-based data by location and date. 2024.

*Ocean State Spatial Database*. Creator. Desktop spatial database for thematic mapping and spatial analysis in Rhode Island. 2023 to present.

*At These Coordinates*. Creator. Professional and personal blog, 2017 to present.  
<https://atcoordinates.info/>

## Recent Presentations, Teaching & Workshops

*Introduction to GIS using QGIS*. Day-long workshop at Brown University, held each semester.

*Data Rescue and screenscraping with Python*. DSCoV Workshop hosted by the Data Science Institute at Brown University, Providence, RI, Oct 2025.

*The Ocean State Spatial Database: A resource for RI mappers*. Presentation at the RIGIS User Group Meeting, Cranston, RI, Mar 2024.

*Census 2020 from the perspective of maps, GIS, and data librarians*. Panel at the American Library Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, June 2022.

GEP 664 - Spatial Database Management, semester-long course, Department of Earth, Environmental, and Geospatial Sciences, Lehman College CUNY, Spring 2019 & 2017.

## Recent Professional Activity

2025-	Active Volunteer, Data Rescue Project
2021-	Staff Affiliate, Population Studies Training Center, Brown University
2021-	Committee Member, RIGIS Executive Committee
2019-2021	Affiliate, CUNY Institute for Demographic Research