

Francis P. Donnelly

Brown University Library
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🌐 atcoordinates.info
🌐 <https://libguides.brown.edu/geodata>
🔗 [github/Brown-University-Library/geodata](https://github.com/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, \LaTeX
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. (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, 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.

Evolving non-federal data services: New ways to think of the national data ecosystem. Panel at FedGeoDay, hosted by the US Census Bureau, Suitland, MD, Apr 2026.

HIFLD Open: An effort to save America's GIS data. Keynote address at the BIG 10 GIS Conference, hosted virtually by BTAA-GIN, Apr 2026.

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