

JEANIE AUSTIN, PhD

Pronouns: they, them, their

EDUCATION

PhD	2017	LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Dissertation: “Libraries for social change: Centering youth of color and/or LGBTQ and gender non-conforming youth in library practice” Committee: Christine Jenkins (chair), Nicole A. Cooke (research director), Carol Tilley, Soo Ah Kwon, Rae-Anne Montague
MS	2009	LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Specialization: Community Informatics
BA	2005	PSYCHOLOGY, <i>cum laude</i> University of Oklahoma Minor: Sociology

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2026–Present	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Department of Library and Information Science School of Communication and Information Rutgers University
2022–Present	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR Expanding Library Services for Incarcerated People San Francisco Public Library

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: LIBRARIES

2018–2026	JAIL AND REENTRY SERVICES LIBRARIAN San Francisco Public Library
2017–2020	INSTRUCTIONAL LIBRARIAN Berkeley City College
2017–2018	YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN San Francisco Public Library

2013–2017	YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN Oakland Public Library
2009–2011	LIBRARY STAFF Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

Austin, J. (2022). *Library services and incarceration: Recognizing barriers, strengthening access*. Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman.

JOURNAL ISSUE

Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy, Summer 2023, 8(2): Access to information in carceral institutions. (Guest editor.)

WHITE PAPERS

Trends and concerns in library services for incarcerated people and people in the process of reentry: publication review (2020-2022). Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People.

Technology in carceral facilities: Trends, limitations, and opportunities for libraries (2020-2022). Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Jordan-Makely, C., **Austin, J.**, Brammer, C., & Ness, N. (2025). "A collection of obstacles": Qualitative findings from the 2020 Library Services and Incarceration survey. *Library Quarterly*, 95(3), 265-285.

Keyes, O., & **Austin, J.** (2022). Feeling fixes: Mess and emotion in algorithmic audits. *Big Data & Society*, 9(2).

Austin, J. and Jacobson, E. (2021). Patron-centered services: Disrupting the narrative of reformation and reading in American jails and prisons. *Exploring the roles and practices of libraries in prisons: International perspectives* [special issue, J. Garner ed.]. *Advances in Librarianship*, 50, 291-309.

Fry, A. and **Austin, J.** (2021, 2026). Whose safety is the priority?: Attending to LIS Grassroots Movements and Patron Concerns around Policing and Public Libraries. *International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion (IJIDI)*, 5(2), 224-237.

Austin, J., Charenko, M., Dillon, M. and Lincoln, J. (2020). Systemic oppression and the contested ground of information access for incarcerated people. *Open Information Science*, 4(1), 169-185.

Austin, J. and Villa-Nicholas, M. (2019). Information provision and the carceral state: Race and reference beyond the idea of the "underserved." *The Reference Librarian*, 60(4), 233-261.

Austin, J. (2019). Affective absence: Risks in the institutionalization of the FemTechNet archive. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 13(2).

Austin, J. (2019). Lines of sight and knowledge: Possibilities and actualities of trans and gender non-conforming youth in the library. *LGBTQ+ librarianship in the 21st century: Emerging directions of advocacy and community engagement in diverse information environments* [special issue, B. Mehra ed.]. *Advances in Librarianship*, 45, 167-196.

Austin, J. (2019). Mechanisms of communicative control (and resistance): Carceral incorporations of ICT and communication policies for physical mail. *First Monday*, 24(3-4).

Austin, J. (2019). Literacy practices of youth experiencing incarceration: Reading and writing as points of regulation and escape. *Libri: International Journal of Libraries and Information Studies*, 69(1), 77-87.

Austin, J. (2019, 2026). Representative library collections as a response to the institutional oppression of LGBTQ youth of color. *International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion (IJIDI)*, 3(1), 91-111.

Austin, J. (2018). Restorative justice as a tool to address the role of policing and incarceration in the lives of youth in the United States. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 52(1).

Austin, J. (2017). Reform and revolution: Juvenile detention center libraries in the 1970s. *Libraries: Culture, History, and Society*, 1(2), 240-266.

Noble, S. U., Sweeney, M., **Austin, J.**, McKeever, L., Sullivan, E. (2014). Changing course: Collaborative reflections of teaching/taking 'Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Information Professions.' *Journal of Education for Library & Information Science*, 55(3), 212-222.

Austin, J. (2012). Critical issues in juvenile detention center libraries. *Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Austin, J. (In press). Access. In n. cline & J. R. López-McKnight (eds.), *Keywords in (critical) library information science/studies*. MIT Press. (Invited contribution.)

Austin, J. and Jacobson, E. (2024). The incarcerated and formerly incarcerated. In C. Bomhold (ed.), *Serving the underserved: Strategies for inclusive community engagement* (pp. 177-196). ALA Neal-Schuman. (Invited contribution.)

Austin, J. (2019). Situating youth voice: Moving from understanding to action through critical theory. In A. Bernier (ed.) *Transforming youth services* (2nd edition, pp. 61-73). Chicago, IL: ALA Neal-Schuman.

Austin, J. (2016). Questioning "positive development": Toward centering YA library practice on the lived realities of youth. In B. Mehra and K. Rioux (eds.), *Progressive community action: Critical theory and social justice in library and information sciences* (pp. 249-281). Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press.

Austin, J., Coyle, J., and Montague, R. A. (2014). Creating collaborative library services to incarcerated youth. In B. C. Bruce, A. Peterson Bishop and N. R. Budhathoki (eds.), *Youth community inquiry: new media for community and personal growth* (pp. 119-131). New York: Peter Lang.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Austin, J. (2024). Preface. In E. Boyington, R. Horton, E. R. James, S. Olmeda, and V. van Hyning (eds.), *Standards for library services for the incarcerated and detained* (pp. ix-x). American Library Association.

Jordan-Makely, C., **Austin, J.**, & Brammer, C. (2022). Growing services: How libraries outside of prison create access for incarcerated people. *Library Journal*, 147(8), 24-29.

Jordan-Makely, C. & **Austin, J.** (2021). Outside and in: Services for people impacted by incarceration. *Library Journal*, 146(9), 21-25.

Austin, J. (2020). Information access within carceral institutions. *Feminist Media Studies*, 20(8), 1293–1297.

Austin, J. (2018). Sentenced to read. *Young Adult Library Services*, 16(4), 31-36.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	COMMUNITY CATALYZER San Francisco Public Library
2022	MOVERS & SHAKERS: ADVOCATE <i>Library Journal</i>
2020	LIBRARY JUICE PRESS AWARD Library Juice Press, with Melissa Villa-Nicholas
2012	SECOND PLACE POSTER Diversity and Outreach Fair, American Library Association Annual Conference
2012	TRENDS IMPACTING YOUNG ADULT SERVICES Young Adult Library Services Association
2011	FIRST PLACE POSTER Diversity and Outreach Fair, American Library Association Annual Conference
2010	SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

GRANTS

2024	EXPANDING INFORMATION ACCESS FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE PHASE 2 Mellon Foundation \$1,966,000
2023	EXPANDING INFORMATION ACCESS FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE BRIDGE GRANT Mellon Foundation \$375,000
2021	EXPANDING INFORMATION ACCESS FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE PHASE 1 Mellon Foundation \$2,000,000
2018	COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GRANT Baker & Taylor \$1,000
2011	MIX IT UP! (collaborator) Institute of Museum and Library Services: RE-05-11-0074-11 \$725,923

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

How libraries are addressing mass incarceration. ALA Publishing. 2026. With C. Scott Banks and J. Anderson.

Digital literacy and reentry. CDI Community, KU Center for Digital Inclusion, University of Kansas. 2026.

Seeing beyond bars. Cleveland Public Library. 2025. With K. Budd & L. Fields.

Creating and sustaining meaningful library services for incarcerated people and people in reentry. Preconference session. Maryland and Delaware Library Association Conference. 2024.

Library and information access in prison. Cornell Prison Education Program Alumni Reunion and Symposium. 2023. With R. Bott, S. Burnett, & M. Reynolds.

Defending the fifth freedom: Protecting the Right to Read for incarcerated individuals. American Library Association Annual Conference. 2022. With D. Betts, R. Horton, & E. Rivera, moderated by T. D. Hall.

Inspiration, knowledge and curiosity while incarcerated. Jean E. Coleman Lecture, American Library Association Annual Conference. 2022. Moderator, with E. Boyington, C. Meissner, N. Shawan Junior & K. Tanaka.

Library services and incarceration. University of South Carolina College of Information and Communications, Augusta Baker Annual Lecture. 2022.

Philosophy, purpose, and actuality: The history of library services and incarceration in the United States. UCLA Department of Information Studies Colloquium. 2022.

Incarceration and information surveillance. S.T.O.P. x RadTech. 2021. With S. Ball & K. Owens.

Library services to people who are incarcerated: Attempting anti-racism through LIS. UCLA Department of Information Studies Colloquium. 2019.

Social justice movements and the role of libraries. Digital Rights in Libraries Conference. 2015. With A. Sonnie & E. Harger.

ACCEPTED PRESENTATIONS

Amplifying services for incarcerated people: Key findings from Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People. ALA Annual Conference. 2026. with N. Ness, B. Okelo & E. Yim.

Meeting information needs in sites of removal: A historical look at carceral library services and standards. Libraries in Unexpected Places: Library History Round Table research forum. 2025. With E. Jacobson.

T.E.C.H. for reentry: Digital literacy and public library programming for formerly incarcerated community members. American Library Association Annual Conference. 2025. Moderator, with N. Adams, A. Villalta, & E. Yim.

Supporting formerly incarcerated learners: Building from restriction to meaningful access. Association of College and Research Libraries Conference. 2025.

Information access for all incarcerated learners: Contextualizing information access and prison education programs. Montreal International Conference on Education in Prison. 2024. With E. Pokornowski.

How your library can support users impacted by incarceration: *Standards* launch. American Library Association Annual Conference. 2024. With E. Boyington, E. R. James, R. Kinnon, B. Okelo, & V. van Hying.

Incarcerated people are patrons too!: Improving legal information services for incarcerated people. American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting and Conference. 2023. With K. Tanaka & L. Reppe, moderated by D. Rodriguez.

Expanding information access for people who are incarcerated: Service *Standards* and mapping. American Library Association Annual Conference. 2023. With E. Boyington, E. R. James, N. Ness, & B. Okelo.

Research with people who are currently or have been incarcerated in the United States. American Library Association Annual Conference. 2023. With E. Boyington, C. Brammer, C. Jordan-Makely, A. Nash, N. Ness, T. Ortiz, & L. C. Richardson.

Serving 500,000 new students: Planning for Pell restoration for incarcerated college students. Association of College and Research Libraries. 2023. With R. Bott, J. Honn, & K. Tanaka.

Countering 'conditions which demand a perseverance verging on the superhuman': Teaching and learning anti-carceral librarianship through Reference by Mail. Critical Pedagogy Symposium. 2021. With J. Abbott & L. Maminta.

Reference by Mail services to people who are incarcerated: Overcoming barriers to information access while reimagining the public. American Library Association Annual Conference. 2021. With S. Ball, E. Jacobson, & R. Kinnon.

Information access, systemic oppression, and incarceration. Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, University of Rhode Island. Voices for Information Equity. 2021.

'Unaware of when and how covert enrollment occurs': Voice biometric surveillance in prisons and beyond. American Library Association Midwinter Meeting. 2021.

Autobiography of an audit: Tracing the roots and repercussions of the HRT-Transgender database. Association of Internet Researchers Selected Papers of Internet Research. 2020. With O. Keyes.

Reimagining the public: Library services to people in jails and prisons. Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services of the American Library Association. 2019. With M. Villa-Nicholas.

What if patrons can't access the internet?: Reference by Mail for patrons who are incarcerated. California Library Association Annual Conference. 2019. With R. Hall & R. Kinnon.

Public library services to incarcerated people: Librarians' insights. Books to Prisoners Virtual Summit. 2019. With S. Ball.

Identifying 'trap doors': The gendered surveillance of transgender people's online embodiment. Society for Social Studies of Science. 2019.

Crossing institutional divides: Services to incarcerated patrons as a bridge between public libraries and Library and Information Science education. Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. 2018. With M. Villa-Nicholas.

Do we walk the walk or just talk the talk: Library practices around intersectional needs. National Diversity in Libraries Conference. 2016. With C. J. Woo.

Youth as citizen?: Libraries and youth civic engagement. BOBCATSSS. 2016.

Queering libraries. UNC Asheville Queer Studies Conference. 2015. With L. McKeever.

Turn the page: Information Services for Diverse Users. Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2013.

Who has a say?: Power dynamics and their effect on juvenile detention center librarianship. School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. 2012.

Mix IT Up!: Youth advocacy librarianship. Diversity and Outreach Fair (poster). American Library Association Annual Conference. 2012.

Youth can change IT!: Youth, technology, and community empowerment, a presentation of Youth Community Informatics projects. American Library Association Annual Conference. 2011. With J. Coyle & C. Nam.

Extending Library Services to Empower Youth. Diversity and Outreach Fair (poster). American Library Association Annual Conference. 2011. With J. Coyle.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2025, 2026 EXPANDING SERVICES TOGETHER 2025 COHORT
Cohort Lead
Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People
San Francisco Public Library

Spring 2021 PRISON LIBRARIANSHIP
Adjunct Professor
School of Information Sciences
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2018, 2020 INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION RESOURCES
Summer 2020 Professor
Berkeley City College

Fall 2016 INFORMATION ORGANIZATION AND ACCESS
Teaching Assistant
School of Information Sciences
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2016 YOUTH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Adjunct Professor
Library and Information Science
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Spring 2016 LITERATURE AND RESOURCES FOR YOUNG ADULTS
Teaching Assistant
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2015	YOUTH SERVICES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Teaching Assistant Graduate School of Library and Information Science University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Spring 2011	SOCIAL ASPECTS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS Teaching Assistant Graduate School of Library and Information Science University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Fall 2010	INFORMATION ORGANIZATION AND ACCESS Teaching Assistant Graduate School of Library and Information Science University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

PRESENT

Invited Peer-Reviewer	<i>Big Data & Society</i> <i>International Journal of Lifelong Education</i> <i>Journal of Radical Librarianship</i> <i>Journal of Librarianship & Information</i> <i>Libraries: Culture, History, and Society</i>
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American Library Association: Informal consultant to support work related to libraries and incarceration.

Critical Cultural Information Studies (ALA Neal-Schuman series): Advisory board member.

Freedom Reads: Assistant on prison libraries, book review committee member for Inside Literary Prize.

Library Services for the Justice-Involved (ALA Interest Group): Member.

ReconnectCT Digital Pathways Program (Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, UCONN): Grant applicant reviewer.

PREVIOUS

Extending Library Services to Empower Youth: Project manager.

FemTechNet: Digital archive coordinator.

Institute of Museum and Library Services: External reviewer, National Leadership Grants for Libraries.

Library Services for Youth in Custody: Member.

Mix IT Up!: Project coordinator.

PEN America: Member, *Coalition for Carceral Access to Literature and Learning*.

Resources for Women and Gender Studies: A Feminist Review: Book reviewer.

INVITED LECTURES IN LIS COURSES

2024, 2026	SPECIAL LIBRARIES School of Information Science, University of Kentucky
2024	SERVICES FOR DIVERSE USERS School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2024	PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS LECTURE SERIES School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2023-2025	BROWN BAG SERIES School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
2023-2025	PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama

EVENT PLANNING

2022–2026	Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People Annual Convening
2010–2011	Midwest Zine Fest
2011	Accepted Knowing: Peer-Review

ASSOCIATIONS

2020–Present	Association of Internet Researchers
2019–Present	Society for the Social Studies of Science
2018–Present	California Library Association

2010–Present

Beta Phi Mu

2009–Present

American Library Association