

Michael C. Weisenburg, PhD

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Libraries

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Employment

Director, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina.
[Current]

Associate Director, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina, 2019-2023.

Reference and Instruction Librarian, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina, 2015-2019.

Digital Collections, University of South Carolina 2013-2015.

Publications

"Augusta Baker: An Early Advocate for Diverse Books," *The Legacy of Black Women in Librarianship*, ed. Nicole A. Cooke (Chicago: ALA, 2025), 1-8.

"‘Not for Old Fogies’: Burns for Jazz Age America," *Burns Chronicle*, 134.1 (2025): 120-122

"Francis Scott Key, William Lloyd Garrison, Manuscript Circulation, and the Rewriteability of Burns" *Burns Chronicle*, 134.1 (2025): 56-69

"Bibliography, Print Culture, and What to Do with Comics in a Rare Books Library," *Comic Books, Special Collections, and the Academic Library*. ed. Brian Flota & Kate Morris. (Chicago: ACRL, 2023). 103-119. https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/lib_facpub/60/

"Print Culture and the Enduring Legacy of Confederate War Monuments," *Reading Confederate Monuments*. ed. Maria Seger. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2022), 43-71.

"Thomas Campbell's Epigram on the American Flag and Abolitionist Oratory: Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, and William Lloyd Garrison," *Studies in Scottish Literature*: Vol. 47: Iss. 1, 160-168.

"‘a cigar had uses’: Emerson as Advertising Icon," *The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society. The Transparent Eyeball*, May 25, 2021, <https://emersonsociety.org/the-transparent-eyeball/a-cigar-had-uses-emerson-as-advertising-icon/>

"Immediacy as Periodical Aesthetic in Walt Whitman's Poems in the Daily Graphic," *American Periodicals: A Journal of History & Criticism*. 31.1 (2021): 1-18.

"America's postwar fling with romance comics," *The Conversation* (13 Feb. 2020): <https://theconversation.com/americas-postwar-fling-with-romance-comics-130988>

"Beyond the Borders of Time: Thoreau and the ‘Ante-Pilgrim history’ of the New World" *Thoreau Beyond Borders*, eds. Laura D. Walls and François Specq (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2020), 40-54.

"I came to the classroom because I wished to play deliberately: Teaching Walden, a Game". *Thoreau Society Bulletin*. 303 (Fall 2018): 9-11.

"Teaching Emerson in the Archive". *Emerson Society Papers*. 28.1 (Spring 2018): 1, 6-7.

"I liked the town no better at our second interview": A New Emerson Letter from Charleston in 1827. *New England Quarterly*. 89.3 (2016): 457-492. (co-authored with Joel Myerson).

"The Year in Conferences: ALA." (group-authored) *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*. 62.1.

Review of Greenspan, Ezra. *William Wells Brown an African American Life*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2014. *SHARP News*. 25.1, 18-19.

Review of *The Keys to Power: The Rhetoric and Politics of Transcendentalism*, by Nathan Crick; and *Emerson and the History of Rhetoric*, by Roger Thompson. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 49:2, 202-206

Presentations

I regularly give academic conference papers and talks to the public. Some representative talks are:

"What does Moby-Dick look like? Narrative Ekphrasis, Sequential Art, and the Sublime in Comics Adaptations," 34th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association at Boston, May 2023

"This Is Not an Archive; or, Comics Books In and Out of the Library", Comics Studies Society,

- Michigan State University, 2022.
- “Comics Artifacts and Rare Books”, Comics Studies Society, Michigan State University, 2022.
- “‘You must make the best apology for me both to yourself & to the towns in the association which I hoped to visit’: Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Limits of the Lyceum Circuit,” American Literature Association, Boston May 2022.
- “Teaching with Comic Books in a Rare Books Library”, St. Ambrose University, Comic Studies Society, 2021.
- “‘If these enclosed pieces are worthy a place in the new magazine, will you stand as their godfather?’: Emerson as advocate and editor of *The Dial*”, American Literature Association, Symposium on American Poetry, Washington, DC, February 2020.
- “‘If beauty wraps the universe, there is no need to send messages’: Robert Browning and Christopher Pearse Cranch, a Transatlantic Perspective”, Boston Browning Society, September 2019.
- “Uses of Great Men: Donald J. Trump, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the Limits of Self-Reliance in Twenty-First Century Popular Culture”, 30th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association at Boston, May 2019.
- “Teaching Thoreau in His Social Context” 20th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association at Boston, May 2019.
- “Patience and Paper: Tips on Exposing Students to Rare Books and Archival Materials” 11th Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists, Eugene, OR, March 2019.
- “Print Culture and the Enduring Legacy of Confederate War Monuments: Columbia, SC as a Case Study” 29th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association at San Francisco, May 2018.
- “‘The Ante-Pilgrim History’ of Thoreau’s Cape Cod” Thoreau from across the Pond, an International Symposium at the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, October 2017.
- “First Folio: The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare – Tips for Engaging Your Community Around a Traveling Exhibit,” South Carolina Library Association Conference, November 2016.
- “Of Manuscripts & Metadata: Digitizing Emerson for the Joel Myerson Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Manuscripts, Images, and Ephemera” 26th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association at Boston, MA, May 2015.

Exhibits Curated

- “Something significant, elemental, and profound”: Celebrating 100 Years of *The Great Gatsby*, Spring 2025
- “To tell the secret of my nights and days”: LGBTQ+ History in South Carolina and Beyond, Fall 2023
- 250 Years of African American Literature, Spring 2023.
- Curious like Catesby, Spring 2022.
- Ray Bradbury Now and Forever: The Anne Farr Hardin Collection, Fall 2020 [restaged Fall 2021]
<https://digital.library.sc.edu/exhibits/bradbury/>
- Four Color Fantasies: Highlights from the Gary Lee Watson Comic Book Collection (co-curated with David Shay), Fall 2019
- Highlights from the Darla Moore Collection of 19th Century Americana, Summer 2018
- Weird Science: A History of Human Knowledge, Fall 2017
- Highlights from the Robert B. Ariail Collection of Historical Astronomy, Fall 2017
- Total Solar Eclipse, 2017 <http://digital.library.sc.edu/exhibits/solar-eclipse/>
- Dali’s Fabulous Fairy Tales, at the Columbia Museum of Art, Spring 2017
- Darwin Day, February 2017
- Pondering Poe, Spring 2017
- Chasing John Updike (co-curated with Don Greiner), Fall 2016
- Much Ado About Shakespeare (supplement to the Folger First Folio! exhibit), Spring 2016
- The Joel Myerson Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Manuscripts, Images, and Ephemera <https://delphi.tcl.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/Myerson.html>
- Henry William Ravenel Collection
<http://delphi.tcl.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/rav.html>
- The John and Mary Osman Braun and Hogenberg Collection
<https://delphi.tcl.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/braunhogen.html>