

Alyssa Sklar (she/her)

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EDUCATION

Master of Science, Information

2025

University of Michigan

Concentration in Libraries, Archives, & Digital Curation

Master of Science, Environment & Sustainability

2024

University of Michigan

Concentration in Geospatial Data Sciences

Bachelor of Arts, Geography

2020

DePaul University

Major in Geographic Information Systems & Geotechnology

Minor in Architecture & Urbanism

Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

CURRENT POSITION

Librarian for Geospatial Systems and Data

June 2024-present

GIS Lab, Vanderbilt University

Teaching and Instruction

Course-Related & Program Instruction

Provided GIS and geospatial instruction in support of courses across campus, including guest lectures, class sessions, and demonstrations.

- MHS 6400: Quantitative Research Methods (Fall 2026, Fall 2025)
- CORE 2500: Wildfire: Past, Present, and Future (Fall 2026)
- Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator, "Dewey Data + GIS Lab: new data sources to publication-ready research" (September 2026)
- DS 5390: Data Storytelling and Communications (Spring 2026)
- CORE 2500: From Mountains to Sea - The Intersection of Environment, Culture, and Society (Spring 2026)
- ENGL 3659: Cultures of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands (Spring 2026)
- MHS 7000: Interdisciplinary Research Methods (Fall 2025)
- HART 3810W: Exhibiting Historical Art (Fall 2025)
- PUBH 5515: Introduction to Public Health Informatics (Fall 2025)
- SOC 9367: Social Processes and Social Change: AI & Society Course (Fall 2025)
- MHS 2280: AI & Environment (Fall 2025)
- HART 2815: Digital Heritage: Methods and Practice (Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024)
- EHLP 8140: Social Context of Educational Leadership and Policy (Spring 2025, Fall 2024)
- LAS 2150: Afro-Diasporic Legacies (Fall 2024)
- GSS 2245: Feminist Geographies (Fall 2024)

Workshops

Designed and delivered GIS workshops supporting geospatial software instruction, geospatial data discovery, spatial analysis, cartography, web mapping, programming, and geospatial visualization. Total workshop attendance: 185

Fall 2026

- *Python for GIS: Building Workflows for Analysis*

- *ArcGIS StoryMaps: Telling Stories with Maps*
- *ArcGIS Online: Getting Started with Web Mapping*

Summer 2026

- *Mapping in R*
- *Getting Started with PolicyMap*
- *Introduction to ArcGIS StoryMaps*
- *Introduction to ArcGIS Online*

Spring 2026

- *Geocoding 101*
- *Introduction to ArcGIS Pro*

Fall 2025

- *Georeferencing Maps Workshop*
- *Spatial Statistics*
- *Mapping People and Places: Working with Demographic Data*
- *Introduction to Spatial Analysis in ArcGIS Pro*
- *Mapping People and Places: Working with Geospatial Data*
- *Introduction to Spatial Analysis in ArcGIS Pro*
- *GIS Essentials: Introduction to ArcGIS Pro*
- *Behind the Prints: StoryMap Workshop & Guided Tour of VUMA's 'Paper Backs'*

Summer 2025

- *Using Historical Maps in GIS*
- *Introduction to ArcGIS StoryMaps*
- *Introduction to ArcGIS Online*

Spring 2025

- *Creating Study Area Maps for Research*
- *Telling Stories with Maps: ArcGIS StoryMaps*
- *Mapping Elevation Data: Using GIS for Landscape Analysis*
- *IPUMS Data: Accessing Census and Geographic Information*
- *Telling Stories with Maps: ArcGIS StoryMaps*
- *Mapping Sea Level Rise: Using GIS for Climate Change*
- *Making Maps with Python: Automating GIS Tasks*
- *Making Maps with Python: Introduction to ArcPy*
- *Mapping Natural Disasters: Using GIS for Risk and Response*
- *How to use Historical Maps in GIS*

Fall 2024

- *Digitizing Map Features Workshop*
- *Georeferencing Maps Workshop*
- *Coordinate Systems and Map Projection Essentials*
- *Mapping in R: Crafting Interactive Maps with Leaflet*
- *Mapping in R: Exploring Spatial Libraries*
- *Mapping in R: Introduction to R*
- *Geospatial Visualizations: Designing for Impact*
- *Geospatial Data Discovery: Leveraging Library Tools*
- *Introduction to GIS with ArcGIS Pro*

Research Support and Consultation

Geospatial Consultation and Collaboration

Provided individualized geospatial consultation and technical support to faculty, students, staff, and external partners across instructional, research, data, and technical contexts. Consultations addressed GIS methodology and analysis, geospatial data discovery and management, cartography and visualization, geocoding, GIS software and technology, course and instructional support, and research workflows.

- 300+ individual consultations
- 31 long-term project engagements
- 43 departments and academic programs represented
- 7 external research/community partners

Select Projects

- Hospital Service Areas for Pediatric Surgery in Zambia - Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health (VIGH)
- Community Resources Map - Nashville Black Literacy Coalition
- Partnerships with Metro Nashville Public Schools - Vanderbilt University Government and Community Relations
- The Geophysical Investigation and Geospatial Storytelling of the William Edmondson Homesite - The Friends of the William Edmondson Homesite Park and Gardens

GIS Lab Development and Program Leadership

GIS Infrastructure and Systems Administration

- Manage the GIS Lab's physical and technical infrastructure, including coordination of software installations, updates, hardware needs, licensing, and ongoing maintenance.
- Administer the University's Esri ArcGIS environment, including management and configuration of ArcGIS Online resources and services.

Program Infrastructure and Resource Development

- Develop and maintain the GIS Lab website as a central hub for GIS services, resources, instruction, and events.
- Established and manage a GIS Lab mailing list to support ongoing communication, outreach, and community engagement.
- Geospatial Research Guides: Developed and maintain four guides with 9,500+ combined views since their respective creation dates:
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) — 6,000+ views since August 2024
 - Critical Cartography — 2,400+ views since August 2024
 - Geography — 650+ views since December 2024
 - Maps and Cartographic Resources — 450+ views since November 2024

Outreach and Engagement

Develop and coordinate outreach activities that increase awareness of GIS Lab services, resources, instruction, and geospatial scholarship.

- GIS Day / Geography Awareness Week
 - "Mapping Vanderbilt's Past Present, Future," Fall 2025
 - "The Art of Cartography: Historical Maps for Modern Inquiry," Fall 2024
- GIS Lab Open House (Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024)
- Campus & community outreach and tabling - William Edmondson (WE) Fest, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Peabody Library Open House

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Cartographic Designer, self-employed, 2021-present
 - Research Assistant, College of Innovations & Technology, University of Michigan - Flint, March 2023-June 2024
 - Data Curator & Project Consultant, Engaged Learning Office, School of Information, University of Michigan, May 2023-May 2024
 - Reference Assistant, Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, August 2021-May 2024
 - Mapping & Statistics Industry Solutions Intern, Esri, May 2022-July 2022
 - Greenbelt Program Intern, City of Ann Arbor, May 2021-September 2021
 - Access Services Assistant, John T. Richardson Library, DePaul University, September 2017-June 2020
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RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Cartographic Design for Scholarly Publications

Eades, C., Bai, Y., Walden, R. L., Torregrossa, L., Gilbertson, L., Narisetti, L., Yarrell, S., **Sklar, A.**, Moussa-Tooks, A. (2027). Body and movement based interventions in psychotic disorders: a scoping review of treatments and outcomes. [Forthcoming].

Miller, T. (2027). *Harnessing divinity: Generative design and the Buddhist architecture of early medieval China*. Harvard University Press. [In press].

Molineux, C. (2026). The python god and the empty chair: Crafting royal power in the early modern Bight of Benin and Europe. *The American Historical Review*, 131(3), 984-1014.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhag234>

Custer, L. A. (2026). Constructed visions: Georgia O'Keeffe, architecture, and the city beyond the frame. In *Georgia O'Keeffe: Architecture* (exhibition catalog). Detroit Institute of Arts.

Custer, L. A. (2025). Locating Blackness in John Sloan's Neighborhood Scene. In J. M. Saggese & G. D. Shaw (Eds.), *Blackness, the Ashcan School, and Modern American Art* (In the Round). *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art*, 11(1).
<https://doi.org/10.24926/24716839.19804>

Israeli, Y. (2024). Petition and response as social process: Royal power, justice and the people in late medieval Castile (c. 1474–1504). *Past & Present*, 262(1), 3-44.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gtad003>

Publications

Rybarczyk, G., **Sklar, A.**, Platt, L., & Yan, X. (2025). E-bicyclist experiences in motor city: A mixed computational and content analysis approach for understanding sustainable micromobility. *Case Studies on Transport Policy*, 22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cstp.2025.101581>

McKay, HD., **Sklar, A.**, & Knight, C. (2025). GIS x business librarian collaboration: Mapping new opportunities. *Ticker: the academic business librarianship review*, 10(1).
<https://doi.org/10.3998/ticker.7420>

Sklar, A., & Curry-Johnson, S. (2025). Geospatial discovery and collaboration: Vanderbilt's GIS Lab. *Western Association of Map Librarians Information Bulletin*, 56(2).
<https://waml.org/waml-information-bulletin/volume-56-number-2/vanderbilts-gis-lab/>

Estabrook, T., Schluter, C., **Sklar, A.**, & Zemanek, L. (2022). *Characterizing the urban tree canopy (UTC) to elevate its role in mitigating climate change and creating a healthy and vibrant community in Ann Arbor, MI* [Master's thesis, University of Michigan]. Deep Blue Documents.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.7302/4319>

Manuscripts in Preparation

Sklar, A. The depiction of origin, movement, and networks through interpretive maps in art museums.

Sklar, A. The role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) LibGuides in communicating library services, research, and teaching.

Knight, C., **Sklar, A.**, Roberts, M., & Castle, J. Academic libraries as a hub for community-engaged GIS: A framework synthesis review.

Presentations and Posters

Invited Presentations

Sklar, A. (March 2026). *Spatial tools for state and local history* [Invited guest lecture]. Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN.

Robbins, N., Curry-Johnson, S., **Sklar, A.** (October 2025). *From maps to medicine: Using spatial data & maps for health applications* [Panel presentation]. Southern Chapter of the Medical Librarian Conference, Nashville, TN.

Conference Presentations

Sklar, A. (March 2026). *Micromobility in Motor City: Centering E-Bicyclist Experiences in a Car-Dependent Urban Context* [Oral presentation]. American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Sklar, A. (October 2025). *Ethical Tensions in Geographic Place Names and the Role of Information Professionals* [Oral presentation]. North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) Annual Conference, Louisville, KY.

Rybarczyk, G., & **Sklar, A.** (September 2025). *Bridging the Modal Gap: E-Bicycle Integration Strategies for Car-Dependent Regions: Lessons from Metro-Detroit, Michigan* [Oral presentation]. Cycling and Society Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.

Sklar, A. (November 2023). *Beyond Symbolology: Identifying Subtextual Narratives in Pictorial Maps* [Oral presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, East Lakes Division, Oregon, OH.

Estabrook, T., Schluter, C., **Sklar, A.**, & Zemanek, L. (April 2022). *Characterizing the Urban Tree Canopy of Ann Arbor, Michigan* [Oral presentation]. University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability Capstone Conference, Ann Arbor, MI.

Poster Presentations

Knight, C., **Sklar, A.**, Curry-Johnson, S., McKay, H. D., & Castle, J. (April 2025). *The power of place: The academic library as a hub of community-engaged GIS* [Poster presentation]. Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Minneapolis, MN.

Sklar, A., & Curry-Johnson, S. (March 2025). *Libraries as spaces for geospatial scholarship: Case studies of community-engaged GIS at Vanderbilt University Libraries* [Poster presentation]. American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI.

McKay, H. D., Knight, C., Martinez, J. P., **Sklar, A.**, & Curry-Johnson, S. (October 2024). *Making the case for GIS in business school curricula* [Poster presentation]. Southeast Data Librarian Symposium (SEDLS).

Sklar, A., Rybarczyk, G., & Platt, L. (September 2024). *E-bike rider sentiments: A spatial analysis of textual data* [Poster presentation]. FOSS4G North America Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Sklar, A. (October 2019). *Urban remote sensing & superblocks: A case study of Barcelona, Spain* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, West Lakes Division, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.

Organized Conference Sessions

Session Chair, "Archives and Libraries in Practice: Applications in Geography and GIS Education." American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, March 2026.

Session Co-Chair, "Micromobility Matters: Geospatial, Health, and Equity Perspectives in the Age of Smart Transport." American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, March 2025.

Curated Exhibits

The art of cartography: Historical maps for modern inquiry. Vanderbilt University GIS Lab, GIS Day, Nashville, TN, November 2024.

Pages to places: Literary maps. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, April 2024.

A cartographic feast. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, March 2024.

Ye olde and ancient mappes. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, February 2024.

Water, water, everywhere. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, January 2024.

Mapping languages and linguistics. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, November 2023.

Lines on the land: Mapping borders and boundaries. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, October 2023.

cARTography: The artistry behind maps. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, July 2023.

Are we there yet? Vintage travel maps and guidebooks. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2023.

Going medieval on you: A cartographic journey. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, May 2023.

Mapping the beauty and fragility of our planet. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, April 2023.

Illustrating the world: Pictorial maps from the Clark Library collection. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, March 2023.

Mapping Black America: The Great Migration and other 20th-century journeys. Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Third Thursday Open House, Ann Arbor, MI, February 2023.

Press & Acknowledgments

Howard, B. (2026). *Imagining the Roanoke: Waterways and the making of identity in Eastern North Carolina*. [presentation]. Summer Institute at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Baker, L. J., Alaica, A., Locker, A. J., Krause, M. B., González, L. M., Palacios Gamarra, J., Aramburú Venegas, D. M., & Tung, T. A. (2026). Human-camelid interactions in the Wari Hinterlands: A stable isotopic analysis of camelid remains from Auquimarca (600–1000 CE), Huancayo, Peru. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, 18, 125.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-026-02471-z>

Turner, E. (2026, June 12). These Nashvillians are promoting literacy in Black and Brown communities across the city. *Nashville Banner*.
<https://nashvillebanner.com/2026/06/12/nashville-black-literacy-coalition-silent-reading/>

Library News Online. (2025). GIS Lab story map celebrates 150 years of place, progress and possibility at Vanderbilt. *Vanderbilt University Library News Online*.
<https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2025/11/gis-lab-story-map-celebrates-150-years-of-place-progress-and-possibility-at-vanderbilt/>

Kassim, M. (2025). Highway to Nashville: A comparative analysis of the impact of highway intervention on Jefferson Street and Germantown neighborhoods. [Undergraduate thesis, Vanderbilt University]

Library News Online. (2024). Heard Libraries to explore the art of cartography Nov. 18–2. *Vanderbilt University Library News Online*.
<https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2024/11/heard-libraries-to-explore-the-art-of-cartography-nov-18-21/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Invited Workshop

"Working with and through GIS." Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University (September 2026)

University-Level Course Instruction

Instructor, Chemical and Physical Biology Program, School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University
CPBP 8306-05: Probabilistic Inference in Biology (Fall 2025)

Graduate Student Instructor, School of Information, University of Michigan
SI 544: Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis (Fall 2023)

Graduate Student Instructor, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan
EARTH 408: Introduction to GIS in the Earth Sciences (Winter 2023, Fall 2022, Winter 2022, Fall 2021, Winter 2021)

Teaching Assistant, Geography Department, DePaul University
GEO 344: Spatial Analysis for Sustainability (Spring 2020)
GEO 345: Programming in Python (Winter 2020)
GEO 242: Community GIS (Fall 2019)

SERVICE

Vanderbilt University Service

Curator of Born Digital Special Collections Search Committee (2026)
Spatial Histories Seminar, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities (Spring 2026)
Community Engagement Committee member (2025–2027)
ArcGIS StoryMap Subcommittee (2026)
Librarian for Creative and Instructional Technologies Search Committee (2025)
Buchanan Library Fellowship mentor (Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024)
Teaching and Learning Committee member (2024–2026)

Professional Service

Committee Associate, Public Awareness Committee, American Library Association, 2025–2027
Remote Sensing Oral Presentation Judge, Tennessee Geographic Information Council Annual Conference, Murfreesboro, TN, 2025
Volunteer, FOSS4G North America Conference, St. Louis, MO, October 2024

Volunteer, West Lakes Division of the American Association of Geographers Regional Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, IL, October 2023

Affiliations

2021-present	Member, American Association of Geographers (AAG)
2024-present	Member, Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML)
2024-present	Member, North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS)
2025-present	Member, International Association for Social Science Information Service & Technology (IASSIST)

FUNDING & AWARDS

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Conference Scholarship, Minneapolis, MN, 2025

Creative Inquiry Grant, The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 2024 - \$2,500

Engagement, Career Training, and Outreach (ECO) Award from the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR) through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Cooperative Agreement NA220AR4320150, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2023 - \$7,982