

DAVID P. BLANDING

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Archivally focused genealogical researcher with 15+ years of experience in African American family history and 20+ years managing high-integrity data systems. Specialized in digital archive development, metadata standards (Dublin Core, EAD), provenance research, and genealogy reference services. Demonstrated ability to support public history initiatives, archival collections, and descendant-centered research aligned with institutional missions such as the International African American Museum's Center for Family History.

CORE SKILLS

- Digital Archive & Collections Management
- Metadata Standards (Dublin Core, EAD)
- Digitization & Digital Preservation Workflows
- Archival Accessioning & Documentation
- Provenance Research & Historical Analysis
- African American Genealogy (Reconstruction Era)
- Genealogy Reference Services (Onsite & Remote)
- Public Programming (Workshops, Webinars)
- Research Support for Institutional Projects
- Records Management & Compliance
- Project Workflow & Milestone Tracking
- Patron Engagement & Research Support

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Genealogical Researcher & Archival Consultant | 2010–Present

- Develop and manage digital archival collections, ensuring accessibility and long-term preservation
- Conduct genealogical and archival research using Freedmen's Bureau, probate, census, church, and institutional records
- Perform provenance research and contextual analysis of African American historical materials
- Provide genealogy reference services to diverse patrons through onsite and remote engagement
- Delivering public programming including genealogy workshops and research training sessions
- Produce publication-ready research reports with full source citation and documentation

- Manage multi-phase research projects with defined deliverables and timelines

Scientific Games | Senior Game Designer / Variable Data Specialist | 2001–2025

- Managed secure, high-volume data systems with strict documentation and compliance requirements
- Maintained chain-of-custody protocols for sensitive and regulated materials
- Applied quality assurance, anomaly detection, and structured workflows transferable to archival systems
- Collaborated across departments to support complex, deadline-driven production environments

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING & EDUCATION

- Conduct genealogy workshops and training sessions for individuals
- Provide instruction on archival research methodology and database navigation
- Support public-facing historical storytelling and community engagement initiatives

AFFILIATIONS

Pursing a professional genealogist degree

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Ancestry, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker, Digital Imaging, Metadata Tagging (Dublin Core), Microsoft Office 365, SQL, Archival Databases, Records Management Systems

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Lillian Hightower & Francisco Escover Jimenez Case Study: Reconstructed an international migration narrative (U.S. Philippines) using 5+ record sets (census, immigration, Social Security, maritime context); resolved identity correlations across multiple jurisdictions.
- Decatur & North Six-Generation CAU Legacy Project: Documented 6 generations linked to Clark Atlanta University using 10+ archival sources; developed a lineage narrative suitable for public presentation and institutional interpretation.
- Digital Archival Collections Development: Organized and digitized 200+ family and historical records with structured metadata (Dublin Core), improving searchability and long-term preservation.
- Genealogy Reference & Public Engagement: Supported 50+ patron inquiries and conducted multiple workshops, increasing accessibility to genealogical research methods and archival resources.
- Archival Research Reports: Produced 25+ structured, citation-based genealogical reports meeting Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) guidelines.
- Bridging AI genealogical searches with actual genealogical records.

SELECTED PROJECTS – IMPACT & ALIGNMENT

- Lillian Hightower & Francisco Escover Jimenez Case Study: ****5+ record sets analyzed****; reconstructed ****international migration (U.S. Philippines) ****; supports IAAM focus on diasporic African American narratives.
- Decatur & North Six-Generation CAU Legacy Project: ****6 generations documented****,
- ****10+ archival sources synthesized****; designed for ****public interpretation and exhibition storytelling****.
- Genealogy Reference & Public Engagement: ***50+ patron inquiries supported****; delivered workshops enhancing ****community access to archival research tools****.
- Archival Research Reports: ****25+ GPS-compliant reports produced****; ensured
- ****evidence-based conclusions and citation integrity**** aligned with professional standards.
- Creating database of direct ancestors interred at local cemeteries.