

## Employee Spotlight: Jack Collins, Lead Application Developer at the Digital Archives

Contributed by Terry Badger, Deputy State Archivist

Jack Collins joined the Archives in 2014 as a Lead Application Developer. Since joining the Archives, he has worked on several of our applications including our catalog, Arcat, and the E-Publications portal. Prior to joining the Archives, Jack worked for over 20 years serving blue-chip companies and start-ups alike spanning the Insurance, Banking, Aeronautics, and Sustainability industries.



In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar and spending lots of time with his 6 kids. They keep him very busy attending practices and games, as well as building items such as robots.

### **TB: Where were you born and raised?**

**JC:** I was born in Alabama. However, three days after being born there, I had already done everything there was to do in Alabama and had the good fortune of my parents relocating to Kentucky, where I was raised.



### **TB: What does a typical day look like for you?**

**JC:** I start off with a quick scan of email for any support issues or urgent request and address those, then dig into my task list for the day. Usually, I try to knock out any communications and non-technical tasks in the mornings (if any) and focus on technical task in the afternoons. I spend a few minutes each afternoon planning out the next day and jotting down any project details still floating around in my head.

**TB: What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?**

**JC:** In golf they talk about the "shot that keeps you coming back." For me this is when we have delivered a new function that enables somebody to be more effective in their work in a big way.

**TB: Motto or personal mantra?**

**JC:** "Don't take life too seriously, nobody makes it out alive."

**TB: If given a chance, what other profession would you like to work in?**

**JC:** It is hard to imagine doing anything else, because I have been programming computers since I was a kid, but the other major career interest for me is Law.

**TB: What book did you read last?**

**JC:** "Living Forward" by Michael Hyatt and Daniel Harkavy.

**TB: Best vacation you've been to?**

**JC:** Several years ago, I lived in Texas. After packing up the kids in a big passenger van, we drove to my hometown in Kentucky and just spent a week with my parents and brothers and their families. It was wonderful.

**TB: If you were on death row, what would your last meal be?**

**JC:** Steak and Lobster

**TB: What one food do you wish had zero calories?**

**JC:** Cheeseburgers!!

**TB: If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see cast as you?**

**JC:** Ray Liotta

We can see that working!

