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Final Reflection

After hours and hours of work, I have my completed document. Unfortunately, due to time restraints, it is not *as* complete as I would like it to be, but I want to keep working on it.

Assessment of Goals:

This project allowed me to work with both InDesign and Photoshop. As of now, I feel like I have a good handle on both programs. In Photoshop, I was able to figure out how to manipulate file sizes and colors, and I learned how to batch photos (although I did not choose to use this method in the end). In InDesign, I practiced my skills with various tricks, like setting up styles for paragraphs. I also learned all about interactive elements in PDFs. My guidebook has a few types of buttons, including rollover and tap. What I could not accomplish was creating an infographic due to time. Hopefully, though, my information is laid out nicely. There are a few pages that I'm not happy about, but I think most of it looks fairly presentable.

When I realized I probably couldn't do everything I wanted to do, I narrowed my design scope quite a bit. I referenced a couple of Oregon travel books and loved how they were laid out, but I knew that I wouldn't have the time to fill that much space. I tried to make my book look clean, and I used pictures that were taken by family, friends, and myself, so it feels more personal. As far as the interactive elements go, I kept things straightforward: I used rollovers to caption pictures and taps to jump around the information. As you know, I really wanted to incorporate the swipe aspect with pictures, but my version of Adobe is too old for that.

- Become more familiar with the Adobe Creative Suite (especially Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign): YES
- Learn about interactive PDFs: YES
- Create infographics and learn more about information design and presentation: NO

Evaluative Assessment:

Overall, I'm pretty happy. I like working with InDesign and interactive PDFs are pretty fun. What I really want to know now is how to make a PDF interactive without having to save it as a SWF, but I'll look into that another time. This version of the guidebook is seventeen pages long and includes information about six districts and some areas outside of Columbus. Within each district, I've highlighted some of my favorite things to do and good places to eat. What I would like to do is a) give a little description of each place, and b) include a link to each place's website. I didn't have time to do either in this version, but those would be good to include in the future.

- Is it functional? YES
- Is it understandable? YES
- Is it pretty? SOMETIMES