
Digital Commons - Heartland User Group + IR Day

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Case Study - A Call to Action: Migrating The Reveille to Digital Commons

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CASE STUDY - A CALL TO ACTION

MIGRATING *THE REVEILLE* TO DIGITAL COMMONS

Elizabeth Chance, Fort Hays State University
Jennifer Sauer, Fort Hays State University

Digital Commons – Heartland User Group
Missouri University of Science and Technology
October 12, 2017



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

- **Founded in 1902 as the Western Branch of the Kansas Normal School – 5 name changes over 115 years**
- **Regional Comprehensive University – 2016-17 enrollment 15,100**
- **Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission through AQIP Process**
- **Third largest institution in the Kansas Board of Regents system**
- **5 Colleges – 60+ programs, from Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (high school) through Doctorate in Nursing Practice**
- **Modalities**
 - **On-campus, online, International on-site partners in China and Cambodia**



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UNIVERSITY**

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FORSYTH LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS ...A BRIEF HISTORY

- **2004**
 - Forsyth Library requests Action Plan funds to install **CONTENTdm** software
 - Forsyth Library proposes partnership with **Cosmosphere International SciEd Center and Space Museum** to digitize primary source materials related to the human space race.
- **2008**
 - Purchase of **CONTENTdm** software is funded and installed on **FHSU** servers
 - **First Digital Collections Librarian** is hired
 - **Work begins on Forsyth Library Digital Collections**
Wooster, Cosmosphere, Dodge City Ledgers,
- **2013-2014** **CONTENTdm** moved to hosted service
- **2015** **FHSU** licenses **Digital Commons** platform from **bepress**
- **2016** **FHSU** **Scholars Repository** launches



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Paper of the Day

Annual Financial Report, June 30, 2010
Fort Hays State University

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Scholars Repository seeks to collect and preserve the creative and scholarly works of the FHSU community and to make these works available to a global audience. The repository is also home to a growing collection of historical documents about the university and surrounding region. The repository is a service of Forsyth Library.

At a Glance

Top 10 Downloads
All time

Recent Additions
20 most recent additions
Activity by year

📄 2,700 papers to date 📄 21,435 full-text downloads to date 📄 18,493 downloads in the past year

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PILOT PROJECTS

JIBBR

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AND INTERDISCIPLINARY
BUSINESS RESEARCH

Journal of
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2013-2014

Vol. 1
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JOHN HEINRICHS SCHOLARLY & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES DAY

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FACULTY AUTHORED OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES THE INTELLIGENT TROGLODYTE'S GUIDE TO PLATO'S REPUBLIC

The screenshot shows the FHSU Scholars Repository interface. The main content area displays the title 'The Intelligent Troglodyte's Guide to Plato's Republic' with a 'Download Full Text (1.2 MB)' button. Below the title is a description: 'The Republic of Plato is one of the oldest gateway texts into the study and practice of philosophy, and it is just the sort of text that has been able to attract and sustain lively interest that have spanned this, and centuries or more, and it can be able to do this in our own time, in something we can only describe as "our time".' The page also includes a 'Description' section, 'Publication Date' (2017), 'Discipline' (philosophy), and 'Creative Commons License' (CC BY-NC-SA). The right sidebar contains search and navigation options.



Browse by Research Unit, Center, or Department

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- Archives Online
- Biology
- English
- Forsyth Library
- Graduate School
- History
- Informatics
- Journal of Business & Leadership (2005-2012)
- Journal of International & Interdisciplinary Business Research
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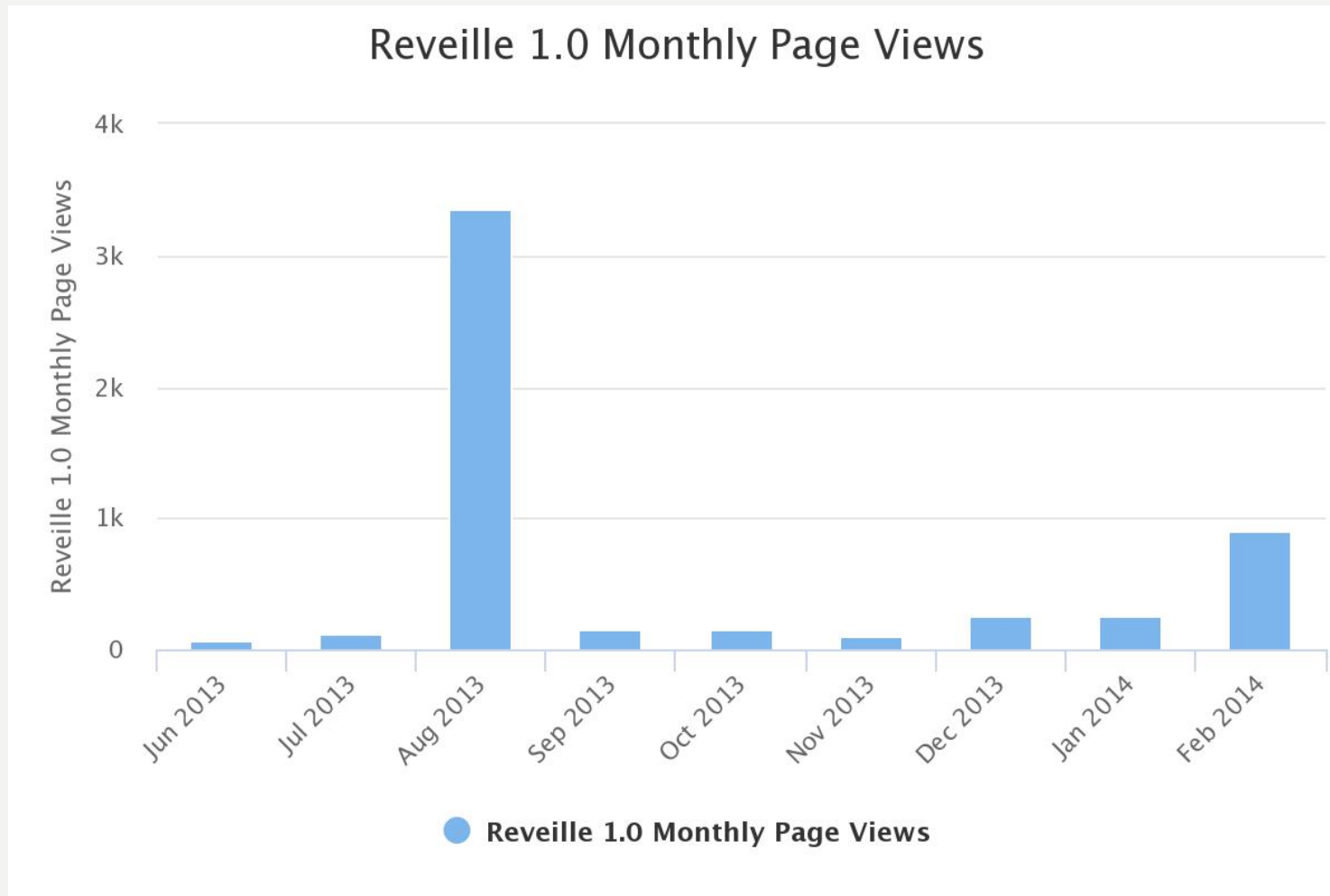
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THE REVEILLE

- **Official Yearbook of Fort Hays State University**
 - **Published from 1914-2003**
- **Initially Digitized in 2009: Reveille 1.0**
 - **Presented as its own collection in CONTENTdm**
- **Library leadership expressed a desire to get more out of this collection**
 - **Wanted to see increased usage**
 - **Wanted to see improved user experience**

THE REVEILLE 1.0 USAGE

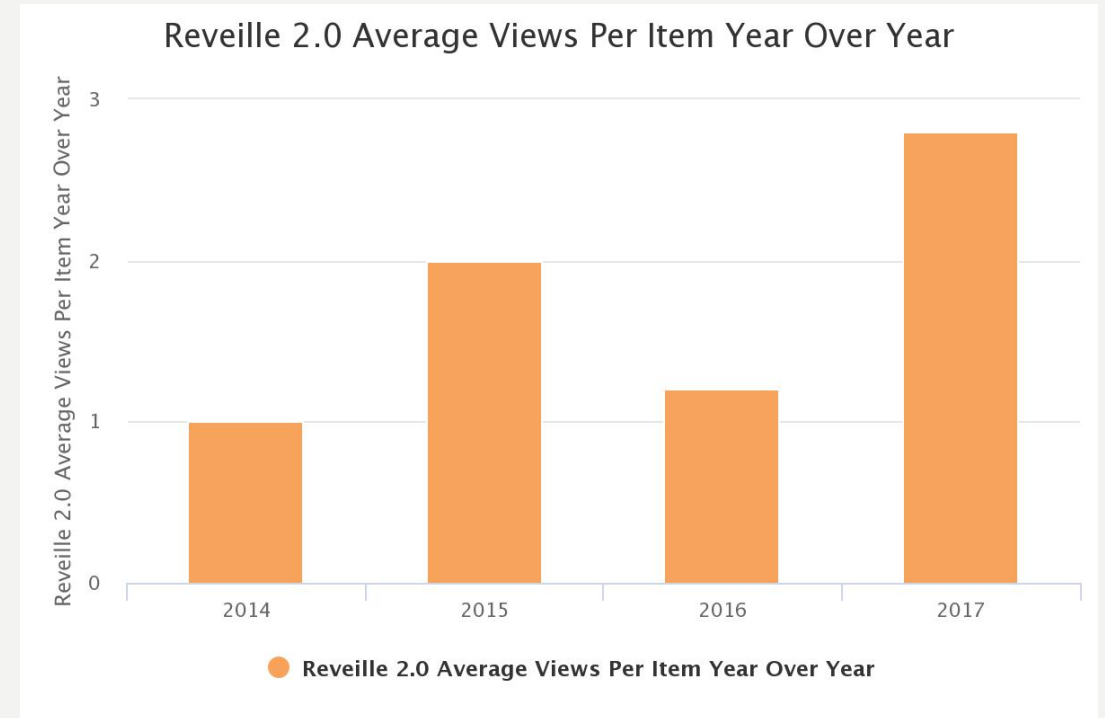
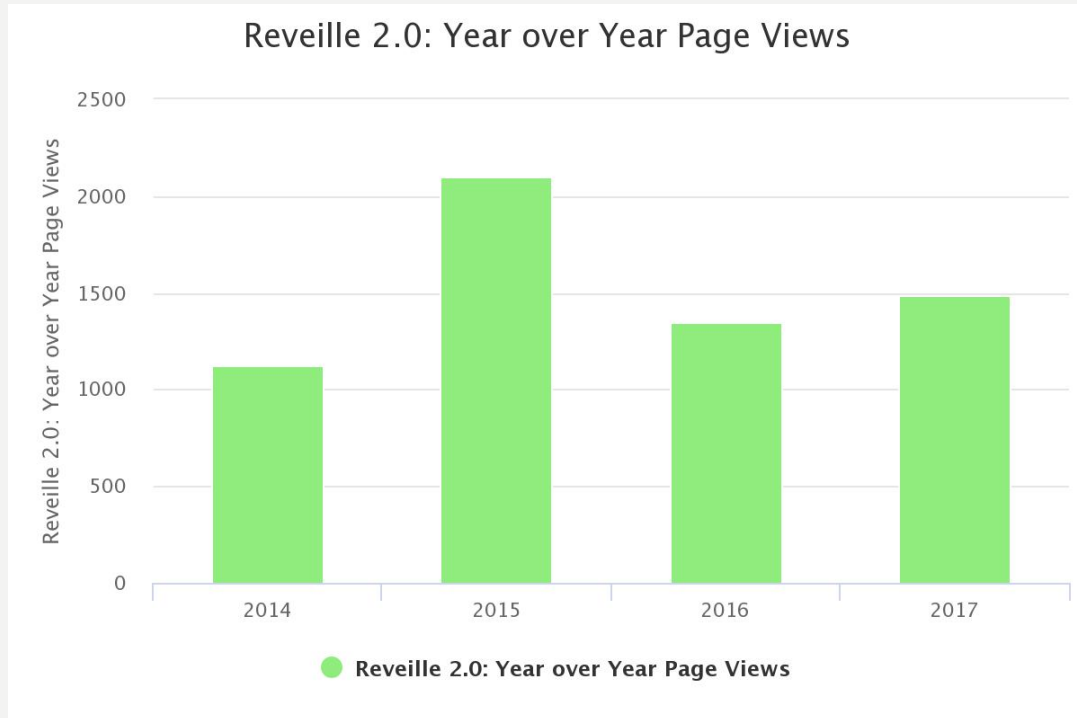


- **Incomplete historical usage data**
 - Data only available from June 2013-February 2014
- **Documentation for this collection was also limited**
 - No application profile documentation
 - No change logs
- **Usage**
 - 5,365 views over that 9 month period
 - When the August 2013 data is omitted usage = 3 views per item per month.

THE REVEILLE 2.0

- **Decision makers felt the Reveille 1.0 was under performing**
- **In 2014 the collection was remastered**
 - **Scanned rather than photographed**
 - **New files were much larger than they were in Reveille 1.0**
 - **The files themselves were text-searchable but that was never integrated into CONTENTdm**
 - **Organized in CONTENTdm as compound objects**
 - **Metadata for pages within the parent item was never completed**

THE REVEILLE 2.0 - USAGE



- High of 2100 views in all of 2015

- 2015 average views per item = 2
- 2017 high of 2.8 views per item is skewed reflecting work in the collection

Usage numbers of Reveille 2.0 never recovered to their pre-update Reveille 1.0 levels

THE REVEILLE 2.0 ON THE GROUND

- Slow loading
- Essentially unsearchable outside of discovering the year of each yearbook
- Metadata was inconsistent and incomplete
- Two choices going forward
 - Try to fix the collection as it existed
 - Go for a Reveille 3.0 and start over again

Fixing the Reveille 2.0

- Pdfs were too large for CONTENTdm
 - 300+ pages in some cases
- Re-upload the items to CONTENTdm as a traditional image-based compound object
 - Create metadata for all pages within the compound object
 - Transcribe name data to make the collection text searchable

Reveille 3.0

- Create a new collection in Digital Commons
- Use the pdfs created for Reveille 2.0
- Take advantage of Digital Commons' text search capabilities to reduce the need for metadata creation

DESIGNING REVEILLE 3.0

- Book Gallery to highlight cover art
- Used the collections tool to create decade sorted sub-galleries
- Embedded a book reader



REVEILLE YEARBOOKS

The Reveille was the official Fort Hays State University yearbook. The first edition was published in 1914 by the Fort Hays Kansas State Normal School in Hays, Kansas. It was then published annually with the exception of 1918 and 1919 when it was released as a two year "Victory Edition" in the spring of 1919. In 1923 the Fort Hays Kansas State Normal School changed its name to the Kansas State Teachers College of Hays. In 1931 the name again changed to the Fort Hays Kansas State College. In 1977 the name changed a final time to Fort Hays State University. The last edition of The Reveille was published by FHSU in 2003.

Browse The Reveille by decade:

- [1910s](#)
- [1920s](#)
- [1930s](#)
- [1940s](#)
- [1950s](#)
- [1960s](#)
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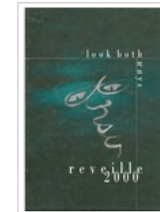
2003



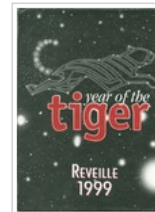
2002



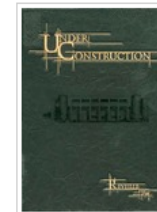
2001



2000



1999



1998



1997



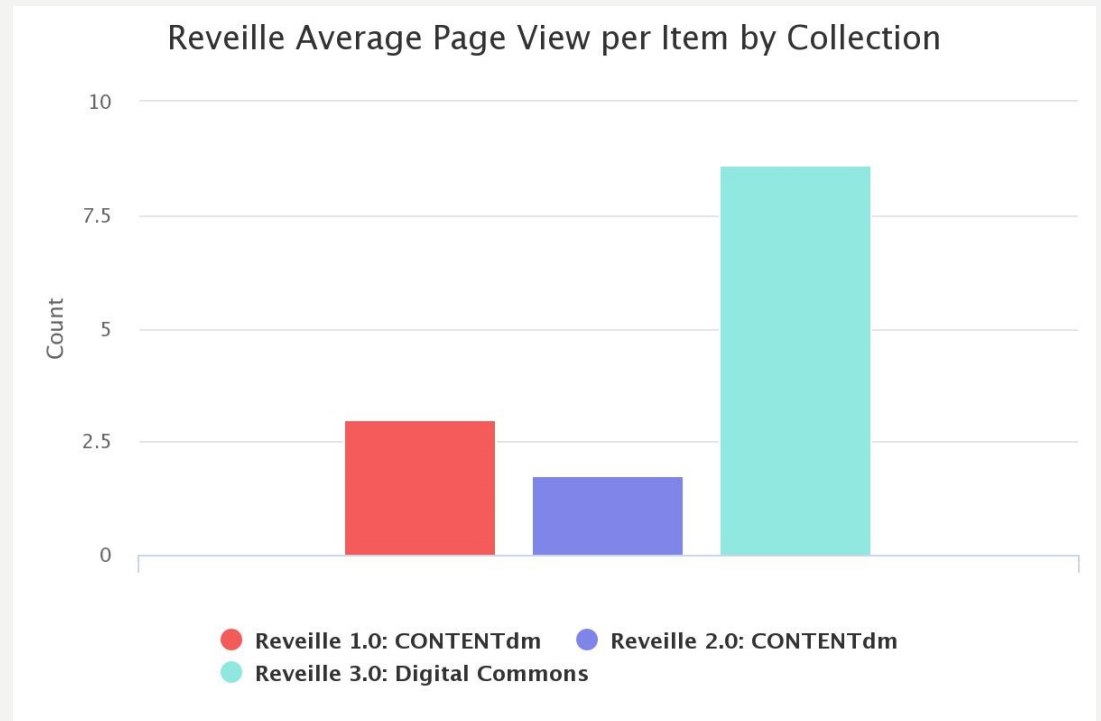
1996

REVEILLE 3.0 - USAGE

- Needed to find a way to compare usage.
 - CONTENTdm tracks “page views”
 - Digital Commons tracks “downloads”
 - Chose “metadata page hits” as our preferred metric to reflect the fact that most users will view the item using the book reader and not download the full issue

How's She Doing?

- 1,847 Metadata Page Hits since July 6, 2017
- 6.91 views per item per month
 - Reveille 1.0 overall page view per item per month = 3
 - Reveille 2.0 overall page view per item per month = 1.75



CHALLENGES WE FACED AND WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THEM

- **Determining what was actually wrong with the collection in the face of limited data**
 - Preserve historical usage data
 - Document your process: **What did you do and why?**
- **Finding a way to address problems with the resources available**
 - Looking at other collections from similar institutions was a key activity
 - Talking to other librarians who had faced the same issues was also key
- **Determining how much time and effort we wanted to spend on this collection**
 - Showcase vs. Research collections
- **Determining what was really important when moving the collection**
 - File preservation
 - Historical metadata preservation

Case Study – A Call to Action: Migrating the Reveille from CONTENTdm to Digital Commons

Abstract

Forsyth Digital Collections presents their content on more than one platform. Since the acquisition of Digital Commons and the launch of the FHSU Scholars Repository in January 2016, there has been an institutional effort to determine which platform is best suited to displaying existing content. Beginning in 2009, the FHSU Reveille Yearbooks collection had been hosted in CONTENTdm. This collection suffered from issues relating to access and user experience. In 2014 additional effort was put into improving the collection though those efforts did not achieve the desired result. In the spring of 2017 it was determined that the Reveille Yearbooks were a good candidate for moving from CONTENTdm to Digital Commons. The purpose of this case study is to examine the thought process in determining why this collection was unsuited to CONTENTdm, why Digital Commons was the better platform, what choices we made in presenting this collection in Digital Commons, the practical difference between the two platforms, and a retrospective comparison of usage between the two platforms.

Presenters

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Thought Process

Why Digital Commons? *Reveille 3.0* Design

- Ability to handle large .pdf files.
- Better support for in-text searching.
- Required less metadata creation per item due to in-text search capabilities.
- Support for embedded book reader technology.
- Created as a book gallery to highlight cover artwork of individual issues.
- Designed as a browsing collection organized by year with the ability to sort into individual decades.
- A book reader was embedded using the Internet Archive to preserve the feeling of flipping through a yearbook.

Discussion

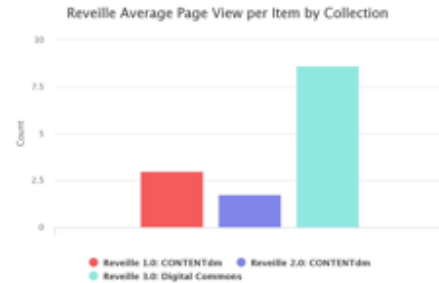
Comparing Usage

CONTENTdm does not provide detailed usage data. The main metric of “page views” can provide an incomplete picture of collection usage. Google Analytics can supplement this information but historical data was not preserved. Digital Commons focuses on “downloads” as the main usage metric. However, in collections with an embedded book reader, users are less likely to download issues because they can access it in the browser. It was determined that “metadata page hits” was the most comparable metric for comparing usage between the two platforms.

Reveille 3.0 Usage

- The *Reveille 3.0* has been live since July 2017.
- Since then it has received 1,903 metadata page hits. This surpasses the total yearly page views of any year for *Reveille 2.0*.
- Most of these hits came in July after a publicity push from the library and University Relations.
- As of September 30, 2017 average page view per item for the *Reveille 3.0* is 6.91 views per item up from 3 views per item in *Reveille 1.0* and 1.75 views per item in *Reveille 2.0*.

Comparison of Usage



Conclusion

- Decisions made nearly a decade ago may no longer be the best choices given the current state of technology.
- Access and discoverability were the greatest drivers in deciding that the *Reveille* should be moved from CONTENTdm to Digital Commons.
- A detailed analysis of past efforts at improving the *Reveille* showed that efforts did not result in increased collection usage.
- Making conscious decisions based on data before expending resources altering an existing collection is key.
- Preserved historical data is vital to making well-informed decisions.
- Identifying barriers to usage (long load times, lack of in-text searching) and then addressing those problems represented the greatest challenge in this project.

Works Cited

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THANK YOU!

Elizabeth Chance, *Fort Hays State University*

Jennifer Sauer, *Fort Hays State University*

www.fhsu.edu/library

<http://scholars.fhsu.edu/>

http://scholars.fhsu.edu/library_facpub/2/