Project 2

Yunxia Wang   yw747

Form Checking and Data Validation

Name:

I allow users to input only letters, numbers and spaces for the name entry. No special characters are allowed and it cannot contain only white spaces, because for a name of "language of roses", it should be a standard name. Duplicates are allowed, because people tend to give similar names to similar meanings they are familiar with. I would give different error warnings to user to help them chose a right name format.

Color:

The color entry is a selection box. User must select one of the colors.

Count:

The count entry type is number. User must specify a number which should be bigger than 0, because number of roses cannot be minus.

Meaning:

The meaning entry is a text area. User can type in any strings but no longer than 200 character length. Also, spaces only are not allowed.
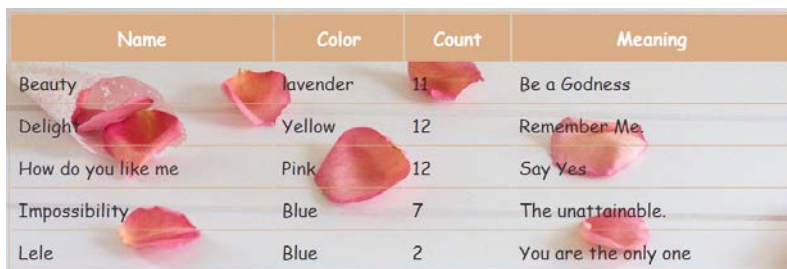
Notes:

I use PHP functions to do all the check, and return check status as true/false. One of the problems that I encountered when writing PHP functions is the scope of variables. I predefined some global variables so that they can be used through multiple PHP files. When I wanted to use them in functions, I did not realize that I have to use $_GLOBALS[ ]. I also found that it is better to return variables rather than "true/false" themselves for PHP functions. The format of regular expression is also very tricky. I need to use "/ /" even for variables.

Search Form

I implemented an "AND" search at the first place, but I think when users search through lots of language of roses, they may not have very strict or specific conditions for that. So I change it to an "OR" search. When users want to choose "red" color and maybe "12" roses, they would want to know how many meanings are there for either the criteria. I use the "GET" method for search, so user can actually see their search criteria.

Search examples:

1. Name: Beauty, Color: Blue, Count: 2. (show results)

Name	Color	Count	Meaning
Beauty	lavender	11	Be a Godness
Delight	Yellow	12	Remember Me.
How do you like me	Pink	12	Say Yes
Impossibility	Blue	7	The unattainable.
Lele	Blue	2	You are the only one

2. Name: What. (do not show results)

WOW:

I implemented the PHP functionality for sorting entries. Every time reading from the file (refreshing main table or showing search results), the entry would be sorted in the array, and then be listed.