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Rationale

For the user inputs for book and author, I chose to use preg_match because I only want the users to be able to input very specific things. Books only have words, spaces, and commas, and the author name (generally), should just be a first name and last name with capital first letters. There are, of course, exceptions, but keeping it to first name last name would encompass most options while limiting the possibility for tampering with data. As for the genre and rating, the options are preset, so we don't have to worry about those. As for the review, a filter is used because I don't want to control the input too much, but make it a little safer and give the user a little creative freedom.

I only allow letters and spaces (mainly) and not special characters because it's very rare for books or author names to have special characters in them, so it's best not to allow them altogether. I don't allow duplicate entries that have the same author and book name because those two aspects together are unique identifiers for books.

Example of search over multiple categories:
This search consists of only the author: John Green.

SEARCH BAR:
PICK AT LEAST ONE ELEMENT.

BOOK NAME:

AUTHOR:

GENRE:

RATING:

SEARCH RESULTS:

AUTHOR: JOHN GREEN

NAME	AUTHOR	GENRE	RATING	REVIEW
THE FAULT IN OUR STARS	JOHN GREEN	ROMANCE	★★★★★	THIS BOOK MADE ME CRY.
PAPER TOWNS	JOHN GREEN	YOUNG ADULT	★★★★★	THE LANGUAGE IS IMPECCABLE.
AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES	JOHN GREEN	YOUNG ADULT	★★★★☆	

This search consists of author: John Green and genre: Young Adult

NAME	AUTHOR	GENRE	RATING	REVIEW
PAPER TOWNS	JOHN GREEN	YOUNG ADULT	★★★★★	THE LANGUAGE IS IMPECCABLE.
AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES	JOHN GREEN	YOUNG ADULT	★★★★☆	

The book that does NOT show up because its genre is romance is “The Fault in Our Stars.”

The multiple search fields is an “or” search because it’s possible for the user to search all the fields independently and still have the search make sense i.e. none of the search results depend on each other for clarity.

In order to keep the website consistent, I used the same font to tie the pages and aspects together. As for additional functionality, the search results will tell you which aspects you searched as well as tell you if the formatting for the search was incorrect. There is also a reset button to show all the books should the user decide they want to cancel their search. In addition, if the criteria that the user sets out for the search are not met (i.e. 0 books meet the criteria), then the table doesn’t show up and instead a line of text shows up that says, “No results matched your search.” In addition, I also allow the user some freedom by making sure that even if they type “the fault in our stars” it matches as the same title as “The Fault in Our Stars”.

My wow elements are the ability to clear the whole data.txt file with the button “clear” on the index page and the ability to delete individual books on the add page.