Changes and Fixes since Part I of the Project

Since part 1 of the project, I learned PHP, MySQL, AJAX, and more JavaScript. I learned how to use APIs, about cookies and databases, object-oriented coding in PHP, and became more familiar with JavaScript.

Using this new knowledge, I added more JavaScript features, namely the DNA that spins when you scroll down the page and the camera that flashes when hovered over. I found out that there is a JavaScript event listener for scrolling and used that. I also added a database for the contact form using PHP, MySQL, and AJAX, which might only work on Safari. After the long struggle to get the database to work, I eventually figured out that MySQL simply did not like my editor’s apostrophes and that writing out what I wanted in phpMyAdmin and then copying that code into my database file, handle\_submit.php, made the database work on at least Safari.

I reformatted the documents a bit by removing redundancy, such as by moving the nav tag containing the navigation bar that was in every html document to its own php document. The nav bar was then included on every document using include\_once. Every html document was changed to a PHP document to allow me to do this for one. I then added a title div to the new nav php document and used PHP to get the name of the document currently executing, then displayed the name of the document using <? filename ?>. In other words, the title div displays the name of the page the user is viewing, such as Home on the home.php page. I similarly added a footer file and included it in every page of the site. The addition of a title and footer on each page really made my website more aesthetically pleasing.

Perhaps the major contributor to my website’s improved appearance comes from using a color scheme from <https://blog.crazyegg.com/2012/07/11/website-color-palettes/>. This was done in the CSS document, where I also fixed some HTML and CSS elements during this portion of the project. I stopped the nav bar elements from moving when one was hovered over due to the bolded font on hover and fixed the messed up arrow sizes on the carousel on the About page. A simple error in, if I recall correctly, a closing tag was what caused the carousel’s arrows to be messed up on all but Safari, which seemed to have automatically fixed the error. I slightly changed the contact form’s appearance and added simple input verification for it on the JavaScript side as well.

Finally, one of the bigger changes was the creation of the entire Research page. Before, I had an Events page, but not a Research page. I was struggling with PHP enough that I scrapped the Events page and replaced it with the Research page after I thought of the idea for one.

As can be seen, my website is much improved since Part I.