

# Web Data Collection with R

## HTML Forms

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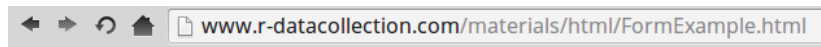
## HTML Forms

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# How HTML forms work

- ▶ HTML forms are a collection of HTML nodes/tags (<form>, <input>, <select>, <textfield>)
- ▶ those elements
  - ▶ collect data as textfields, radio buttons, calendars, checkmarks, ....
  - ▶ describe location
  - ▶ and HTTP method with which
  - ▶ data is to be send
- ▶ html forms are a way to interact with the server
- ▶ <http://www.r-datacollection.com/materials/html/InputTypes.html>

# HTML forms



## You Shall Not Pass!

The Magical Password:

# HTML forms

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>No pasaran!</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h3 id="heading" >You Shall Not Pass!</h3>
    <form name="submitPW" action="Passed.html" method="get">
      <fieldset>
        The Magical Password:
        <input name="pw" type="text" value="">
        <input type="submit" value="Passing Anyways">
      </fieldset>
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

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important information about HTML form to fill out and send forms

- ▶ which method does it demand - POST or GET -> use `httr`'s `GET()` and `POST()` respectively
- ▶ if method POST is used, is a `enctype` given ('application/x-www-form-urlencoded' is the default and 'multipart/form-data' the one that should be used when uploading any kind of file) -> use `httr` function's `encode="form"` or `encode="multipart"`
- ▶ which are the inputs (inputs can be , , there parameter name is given by the `name` attribute) -> use either `httr`'s `GET(..., query=list(param1="value", param2="value2"))` or `POST(..., )`
- ▶ where should the data be end to (the value of the `action` attribute) -> use it as URL in your function call