

Both GET and POST methods were used for this assignment. The GET request is done when the user submits the country selection form. This allows the user to save their filtered results via browser bookmarking tools. The POST method is used when the page reloads itself after displaying the connection notification. This is done so that *something* is on-screen prior to the lengthy database population process: the user needs to know that something is happening, otherwise they may click away from the page thinking there is an error.

As for other design choices, the database population script was placed in a separate file (popDB.php) in order to compartmentalize code. Constants needed for both index.php and popDB.php were placed inside of head.php. This file loads the doctype and other necessary <head> elements as well. This assignment was deliberately submitted without including a prepared .db file in order to demonstrate the auto-population feature.