

### Project #3 Reflection

This project consists of creating an autocomplete box or live search box. The idea is to have suggestions pop up when a user is typing into the field. Languages used for this project were php, sql and javascript. It utilizes ajax to be able to load the suggestions right in front of the user without having to refresh the rest of the page.

I implemented a javascript script into the header of the page that stores an anonymous function when the document is ready and loaded. This anonymous function houses another function that listens for input into the text field of the autocomplete box. I created a variable that points to the id of the text field in the html document and retrieves whatever is being typed by using the "this" value. I also created another variable called "minlength" to write a cleaner code and keep things simpler inside the second function. The conditional statement within the second function tells the browser to do nothing if the input is equal to the minlength variable, which is zero. Otherwise, which would be when values are being typed into the field, it sends the information to the suggest.php file. The suggest.php file retrieves the information from the database and the function then places that information to the id that I labeled as "results."

The suggest.php file includes a connection to the database and a new variable called "q," which houses the information contained in the variable name. The name variable was created in the function in the javascript script. A query is run against the database to select all names from it that match the letters that are being typed into the autocomplete box. While that is true, it prints out or echoes all the corresponding names (by first and last name). Otherwise, it tells the browser that nobody is found and gives you the option to just view the database in table format.

Initially, I tried using the \$.ajax method for sending the information to the suggest.php file. For some reason, and after several attempts, I couldn't get it to work. Theoretically, it should work though. The \$.ajax method is used to perform all requests and not just posting or getting. I ended up using the \$.get method though, since that is the one that worked for me and it was suitable for the task. The \$.get method requires the url, data type and function to be called. This was suggest.php, name and a function created to input the data into the html id.

I would have liked to implement something where you could use the arrow keys to highlight whichever name you want, and then hit enter and have it populate the autocomplete box. I couldn't figure out how to do this though. It was too deep into the javascript for my understanding and most of the guidance that I found online was using syntax that I wasn't familiar with or methods that were too advanced for me at this point.

Autocomplete boxes have been revolutionary with website in the last several years. I'm not sure if Google was the first to implement this, but it has greatly increased efficiency in what we do several times per day, every day. So the value of having this functionality is immeasurable. It saves you time and effort with any kind of queries you're running online. And there's also the possibility of autocomplete suggesting ideas that you hadn't thought of previously, thus broadening your horizons.