12 Dec. 2019

Database Improvement Suggestions

1. On the top of the search page there is a space to query called ‘SQL: Select \* From PlantData Where’.

This can be eliminated. We only use the ‘Word Search in PlantData’ query.

2. The ‘Database ID’ field is not used by us and is confusing to some. Can you make this field invisible.

3. Change the name of the field ‘PlantType’ to ‘Signage’.

4. It would be better if we could put a date in the ‘YearAdded’ field instead of the year. Change the integer type to text. Same thing with ‘YearRemoved’.

5. Make the boxes on the edit page longer so I don’t have to scroll thru them.

6. The ‘Description / Comments:’ field starts in the middle of the box and the text doesn’t wrap. Make the text start at the top and wrap when it reaches the end of the box.

7. At the bottom of the edit page, there is a previous and next button that takes you to the previous or next Database ID#. This is of no use. It would be better if it took us to the previous or next Plant ID#.

8. In every other database I have used, when you enter data in a field and hit enter or tab, the entry is saved and jumps to the next field. Although this works when I hit tab, when I hit enter (by habit), it jumps to another record and all the data I entered for the record I was working on is lost and I have to search for the record again and start over. Every time a field entry is made, it would be good if it was saved when ‘focus is lost’.

9. Right now to back up the program, it has to be exported as a spreadsheet in csv. format. It would be better if it would just backup the database.

10. When exporting to a spreadsheet, it would be better if it was saved in xlsx. format, so no special characters are lost.

10. When trying to sort data on the search page, you can only sort one field. It first sorts it in reverse alphabetical order. Then it has to be sorted again to put it in alphabetical order. The database should be capable of sorting multiple fields at one time.

11. In database I created for the Buffalo Museum of Science, there are several tables and forms. I can view and enter data into any of the forms or tables I choose. This is very helpful when cleaning data or adding multiple records with similar information. We should be able to do the same with the Gardens database.

12. The Gardens often acquire several identical plants at one time. They often get moved around a lot and are placed in different houses. Currently, I can only specify that they are in one house.

13. Several times a day, a message comes up “The connection was reset”. I then have to exit the program, restart it, and begin all over.

14. A drag and drop feature for photos in the edit page would make entry more efficient.

15. When looking at a plant on the view page, you have to keep hitting the plus or minus button to zoom in or out. Could you make it scroll in and out with the mouse wheel?

16. An extra button to search for a specific record by ‘PlantID’.

17. A short cut key to enter the current date in the ‘LastUpdated’ field.