

## Working with DataAssist Search

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DataAssist Search allows you to add advanced search functionality to your site. This Solution Recipe shows you how you can add an advanced DataAssist Search to your site.

### What Do You Need to Start?

- Dreamweaver CS3 or 8
- DataAssist 2.0 or higher
- Dreamweaver dynamic site (ASP-JS, ASP-VB, ColdFusion or PHP)
- Solution Recipe Support Files located in Order History.

### Using the DataAssist Search Wizard

The DataAssist Search Wizard requires two pages to work, the search and results pages. DataAssist Search works by attaching itself to a recordset behavior that has already been applied to the page.

#### Creating the Recordsets

1. From the Files panel, open the **Results** page.
2. Form the Server Behaviors panel, select **Add**.
3. Choose **Recordset**.
4. Enter **rsItems** in the recordset name field.
5. Select your database connection.
6. Select **items** from the Table menu list.
7. Click **OK**.
8. Press **Ctrl (or Cmd) + S** to save the results page.

The next step is to create another recordset on the search page.

9. Open the **Search** page from the Files Panel.
10. Form the Server Behaviors panel, click **Add**.
11. Select **Recordset**.

**Note:** This recordset is necessary since our category list references a different database table than the items table.

12. In the name field, enter **rsCat** as our recordset name.
13. Select your database connection.
14. From the Table menu list, select **itemcategory**.
15. Click **OK**.
16. Press **Ctrl (or Cmd) + S** to save the search page.

Now that both recordsets have been created, you can run the DataAssist Search Wizard.

### Creating the Category Search form

1. First, close the **Search** page and return to the Results page.
2. From the WebAssist category of the **Insert toolbar**, select the **DataAssist Search Wizard** option.
3. In step 1 of the wizard, make sure that the **rsItems** recordset is selected.
4. From the Database type menu, select the appropriate database type.
5. Click Next.
6. Select the **Existing Search Page** radio button.
7. Select the browse for file icon.
8. Select the **Search** page.
9. Click **OK**.
10. Select the **New form** option.
11. In the New form text field enter **SearchForm**.
12. From the Editable region menu, select **PageBody**.
13. Click **Next**.
14. To add a new search element, click the **Add** button.

Our first search element will be to add a menu list that will provide our category options.

15. From the search type list select **Exact Match**.
16. Click **Next**.
17. From the Category menu, select **ItemCatID**.
18. From the Column type menu list select **Number/Boolean**.
19. Enter **catSearch** in the New form field text field.
20. From the New form field menu list, choose **Select**.
21. Click **Next**.

Your new search element is now summarized in this window.

### Creating the Price Range search fields

1. Click the **Add** button to create another search element.

**Note:** The next search element to be added is the price range search fields.

2. From the Search type list, choose **Price Range**.
3. Click **Next**.
4. From the Column menu list, select **ItemPrice**.

**Note:** When using a Price range search the contents of the database column being used must be numeric and should not contain any text or date information.

The Price Range search inserts two form fields onto your page. The first is for specifying a minimum value and the second is to specify a maximum value.

5. In the first **New form** field text field, enter **minPrice**.
6. Enter **maxPrice** in the Maximum price form field entry.
7. Make sure that text is shown in both of the adjacent text fields.
8. Click **Next**.
9. Click **Finish** to close the DataAssist Search Wizard.
10. Press **Ctrl or Cmd + S** to save your page.

## Customizing the Category menu list

Now that the DataAssist Search Wizard has completed, you should have three new form fields on your Search page. The next step is to customize the category menu list so that the appropriate categories are displayed.

1. From the Files panel, open the Search page.
2. Select the category menu list.
3. From the Properties inspector, select the Dynamic button.
4. In the Options from recordset menu, select **rsCat**.
5. In the Values menu, make sure that **ItemCatID** is selected.
6. In the Labels menu, select **ItemCatName**.

*Optional:* You may also want to add a blank static option at the top of your menu list values. This way no category will be selected by default.

7. In the static options area, click the **Add** button.
8. Click once in the value area of this option, and press **Delete** on your keyboard to remove this text.
9. In the Label field, enter **Select a Category**.
10. Click **OK**.

## Defining your Search results

The next step is to customize the results page to determine what results are displayed.

1. From the Files panel, open the **Results** page.
2. Notice that a simple table with four columns has already been created for this example.
3. Place your cursor in the cell below the **Product ID** heading.
4. From the Bindings panel, expand the **rsItems** recordset.
5. Select the **ItemID** option.
6. Click **Insert**.

Repeat this step for the other 3 columns.

7. Place your cursor in the **Name** cell.

8. From the Bindings panel, select **ItemName**.
9. Click **Insert**.
10. Place your cursor in the **Description** cell.
11. From the Bindings panel, select **ItemShortDesc**.
12. Click **Insert**.
13. Place your cursor in the **Price** cell.
14. Select **ItemPrice** from the Bindings panel.
15. Click **Insert**.

**Note:** If you wished to include additional results on your page, simply create additional columns in the table, and repeat these same steps.

The next step is to create a repeat region that will repeat the results so that more than the first search result is displayed.

16. From the tag inspector, select the **<tr>** tag to select the row that contains the search results.
17. From the Server Behaviors panel, click **Add**.
18. Select **Repeat Region**.
19. In the Repeat Region window, select the **All Records** option.
20. Click **OK**.

### Handling empty search results

Now that you have applied the search to your page, you will need to ensure that something friendly appears if no search results are found.

1. Place your cursor after the results table.
2. Press **Enter** on your keyboard.
3. With the insertion point in the desired location Enter **Sorry, no items matched your search criteria**.
4. From the tag selector, select the **<p>** tag to highlight your newly entered text.
5. In the Server Behaviors panel, click the Add button.

6. Select **Show Region**.
7. Choose **Show Region if Recordset is Empty**.
8. Make sure that **rsItems** is selected.
9. Click **OK**.

Next, to ensure that the results table will not display if there are no results, you will need to repeat this process for that element.

10. Select the results table.
11. From the Server Behaviors panel, click **Add**.
12. Select **Show Region**.
13. Select **Show Region if Recordset is Not Empty**.
14. Make sure that **rsItems** is selected and then click **OK**.
15. Press **Ctrl or Cmd + S** to save your page.

## Conclusion

Your search and results page should now be properly configured.

1. Press **F12** to preview your search page and test out your search.

This concludes this Solution Recipe, for more information on DataAssist Search please visit our Community Forums.