

# Form Processing Functions

## April 21, 2006

```
// The two functions below are designed to make it easy to look at the  
// values returned by a form using method="get".  
// Use these on your pages that process form results.  
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// Smith College, 13 April 2005
```

```
// Reports whether a particular key appears in the form results  
// Unchecked buttons and radio boxes will not appear.
```

```
function keyExists(key) {  
    var results = '&' + window.location.search + '&'  
    var key2 = '&' + escape(key.split(' ').join('+')) + '='  
    return (results.indexOf(key2) > -1)  
        // if key2 not found, indexOf() will return -1
```

```
/ Returns the value associated with a particular key (if any)
```

```
function formValue(key) {  
    var results = '&' + window.location.search.slice(1) + '&'  
    var key2 = '&' + escape(key.split(' ').join('+')) + '='  
    var loc = results.indexOf(key2)  
        // if key2 not found, indexOf() will return -1  
    if (loc > -1) {  
        loc = loc + key2.length // value begins after key  
        var value = results.substring(loc, results.indexOf('&', loc))  
        return unescape(value.split('+').join(' '))  
    } else {  
        return null  
    }  
}
```

Make sure every **key=value** pair has an & before and after.

Set up our search pattern: **&key=**  
It will only appear in the results if the form reported a value for this particular key.

Do pattern matching search through the results for our key.

If our key was found, extract the value following it (up to the next & symbol).