

# Populate drop-down script

This script takes the pain out of populating the drop-down list items in form list boxes and combo boxes.

When creating forms in InDesign, populating the drop-down list in InDesign list boxes or combo boxes is a painstaking work. InDesign makes you add each item of the list individually by typing the items into a tiny field in the Buttons and Forms panel.

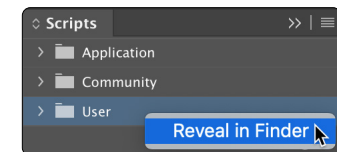
But what if you already have a list of items typed elsewhere, or obtained from a site such as [randomlists.com](http://randomlists.com) or [generatedata.com](http://generatedata.com)? This script allows you to populate the drop-down list in form list boxes and combo boxes.

## Installation

Follow the steps below to copy the script to the correct location:

1. Run InDesign.
2. Display the Scripts panel on the screen (*Window > Utilities > Scripts*).
3. Right-click the *User* folder in the panel, and choose *Reveal in Finder* (Mac) or *Reveal in Explorer* (Windows).
4. Copy the *Populate drop-down.jsxbin* file into the folder that is highlighted in the Finder/Explorer.
5. Return to InDesign, and you should see the script appear in the User folder in the Scripts panel.

More information on how to install scripts can be found at [adobe.ly/PgvxGB](http://adobe.ly/PgvxGB) and [creativepro.com/how-to-install-scripts-in-indesign/](http://creativepro.com/how-to-install-scripts-in-indesign/).



## Using the script

1. Create a temporary text frame somewhere that contains your list of items, with a return character separating each item.
2. Select the text frame, *and* a list box or combo box object.
3. Double-click the *Populate drop-down.jsxbin* script in InDesign's Scripts panel.

## Compatibility

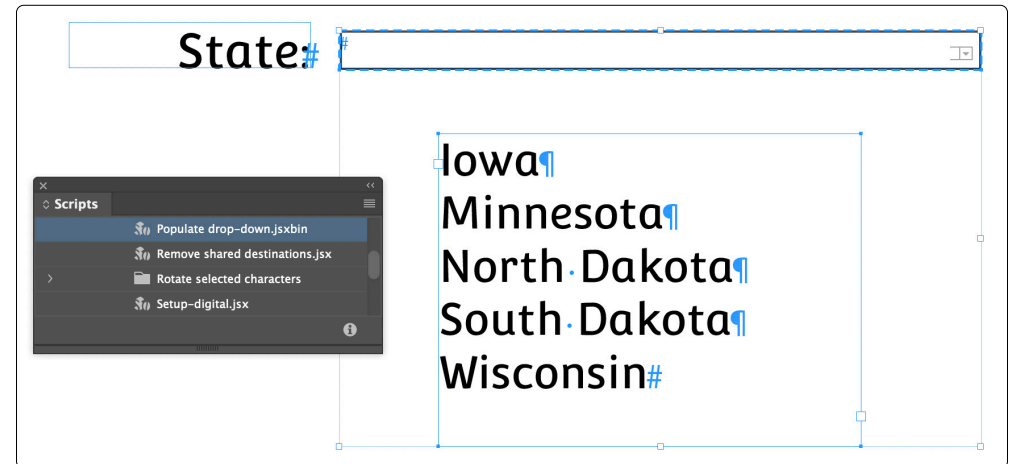
This script has been tested to work with Macintosh and Windows InDesign 2022 and later. It will most likely work with many older versions but this has not been tested.

## Disclaimer

These scripts are provided “as is”. Use at your own risk. No technical support for these scripts is provided.

## Is this useful?

If you find this script to be useful, you can show your appreciation by **buying me a cup of coffee**: [buymeacoffee.com/keithgilbert](https://buymeacoffee.com/keithgilbert).



**Keith Gilbert** is a design consultant, developer, educator, speaker, and author. His work has taken him throughout North America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. During his 35+ year career his clients have included Adobe, Apple, Target, Oracle, and the United Nations. He is the author of several popular titles for [LinkedIn Learning](#), [Adobe Press](#), and [CreativePro](#).

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