This is a tutorial from the librarians at Lone Star College. The purpose of this tutorial is to teach users how to search multiple EBSCO databases at the same time.

About half of the library’s databases are provided by EBSCO, an information management company. There’s a quick way that will permit you to search multiple EBSCO databases, or even all of them, at the same time. This is handy if you ever need to search across multiple databases or if you’re trying to find as much information as possible about a particular topic.

Any of the EBSCO databases can take you there, but it’s helpful to start with Academic Search Complete since it’s listed at the top in the alphabetical list of library databases.

Once you’re on an ESBCO database, click on Choose Databases.

What you see now is a list of all of the EBSCO databases to which the library currently subscribes. Since we entered this interface through Academic Search Complete, it’s already selected. You can also select other databases that are relevant. There are databases on many different topics. For example, Agricola addresses agricultural issues. The Vocational and Career Collection is helpful for career research. Computer Source provides information on computer technology. If you wish, you can select all of the databases. But be aware that databases may return information that is completely irrelevant to your search.

For example, let’s say that you’re searching for information on Shirley Jackson’s famous short story “The Lottery.” If you search for “Jackson and Lottery” in a literary criticism database, you would probably find return relevant articles. But a database of popular newspapers may instead return articles about lottery winners in Jackson, Mississippi. Searching all of the databases at the same time can be helpful, but not always.

Once you’ve selected databases for your search, click on OK.

Now you’re searching multiple databases. The name of our original database is at the top, but you can see a complete list by clicking on Show all.