This is a tutorial from the librarians at Lone Star College – North Harris. The purpose of this tutorial is to teach library users how to use the database Biography Reference Bank.

Biography Reference Bank is a database of more than 380,000 biographical profiles and articles and 36,000 images.

One way to search for information is to type in the name of a person. As an example, let’s look for information about the American painter Norman Rockwell. Type “Norman Rockwell” into the search bar. Now click on “Search”.

The database has returned 283 search results. The second item in the list appears to be a magazine article about our topic. Let’s find out more about it. Click on the title.

Here is the article record. It provides information about the article. To view the full text of the article, you can click on either “HTML Full Text” or “PDF Full Text.” The PDF version will include any pictures in the article, so let’s try that method. Click on “PDF Full Text.”

Here is the full text of the article. So save the article, click on floppy disk icon. To print the article, click on the printer icon. To email the article, click on the envelope icon.

Now let’s try a different type of search.

Another way to search this database is to find people who fit certain descriptive characteristics.

For example, let’s say that you’d like to find a female Canadian politician. In the “Occupation/Activity” area, type “politician.” In the “Place of Origin” area, type “Canada.” In the Gender menu, select female. Now click on “Search”.

The database has returned 10 search results. The last one is for Kim Campbell, who is described as a Prime Minister of Canada. Click on the name to open her biographical profile.

Here is her profile. You can find a biographical sketch in the area marked “About.” Notice that it has been truncated to two lines. To read the rest of her biographical sketch, click on “Read More.”

Here is the rest of her biographical sketch. If you’d like to print it, click on “Print”. If you’d like to email the document, click on “Email”. If you’d like to save the document, click on “Save”. 