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 Issues & Controversies.

Issues & Controversies is a database that provides articles about current, controversial political, social, economic, and cultural issues. Facts On File – the company that owns the database – writes these articles to help explain different sides of these issues.

If you’re looking for a current issue to research, you can use the subject index to browse different topics. For example, let’s look at the issues related to sports. Click on “Sports”.

The database offers four different subtopics about sports. Let’s say that we’re interested in the subject of athlete salaries. Click on “Salaries and Compensation”.

Here is a list of different articles about athletes’ salaries. The list provides the titles of each article, followed by the dates on which they were published. The fourth article appears to be on topic, and was written fairly recently. So click on the title to open the article.

Here is the article. To print the article, click on “Print”. To email the article, click on “Email”.

Now let’s use the database a different way. Let’s assume that you already have a topic in mind, so you don’t need to browse for one. As an example, let’s look for information about legalizing drugs. Type “drug legalization” into the search bar. Now click on “Go”.

Here is the search results page. The database has returned 31 articles. The first 25 are listed on the page. The titles of the articles are on the left, and the dates on which they were written are listed on the right.

The second article “Update: Drug Legalization” was written fairly recently and appears to be on topic, so click on the title to open that article.

Here is the article. If you’d like to print the article, click on “Print”. To email the article, click on “Email”.