

Library

My research combines two topic areas...

Question: “I’m doing my research on how team members communicate with each other. Should I use a database that’s focused on business topics, one that’s focused on my specific business field, or one that focuses on communication?”

Answer: All of the above. Here’s how you can do that...

Database content

Database companies build content for a specific database based on journal relevance to a particular field of study. A “business” database will have articles on all aspects of business, while a “communications” database would focus on publications that cover all aspects of communication. While there are journals that are unique to a particular database, certain journals might be included in both a “business” database and a “communication” database based on their content.

Adding databases to your search

Most database companies have the functionality to search more than one of their databases at a time. In this example, we will start with a single EBSCO database, **Business Source Premier**, and then add other EBSCO databases to expand the coverage of our search.

1. Starting at the Library homepage, click the **Articles & Databases** link.
2. Navigate to the **Business Source Premier** database by choosing either the letter “B” in the alphabetical list, or the subject group **Business**.

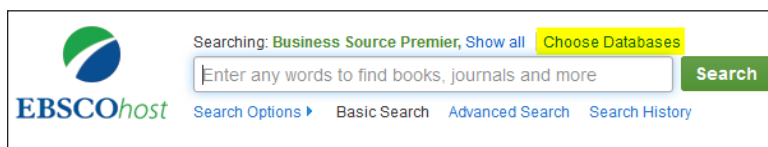
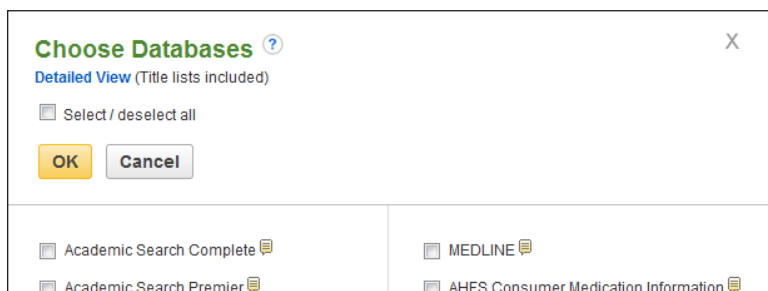


Figure 1 - Basic search page highlighting the Choose Databases link.



3. On the **Business Source Premier** basic search page, click the **Choose Databases** link located above the search box (Figure 1 highlight).
4. On the **Choose Databases** pop-up (Figure 2), add databases by clicking the checkbox next to the database’s name. Hovering over the yellow page icon will open a description of the database’s content.

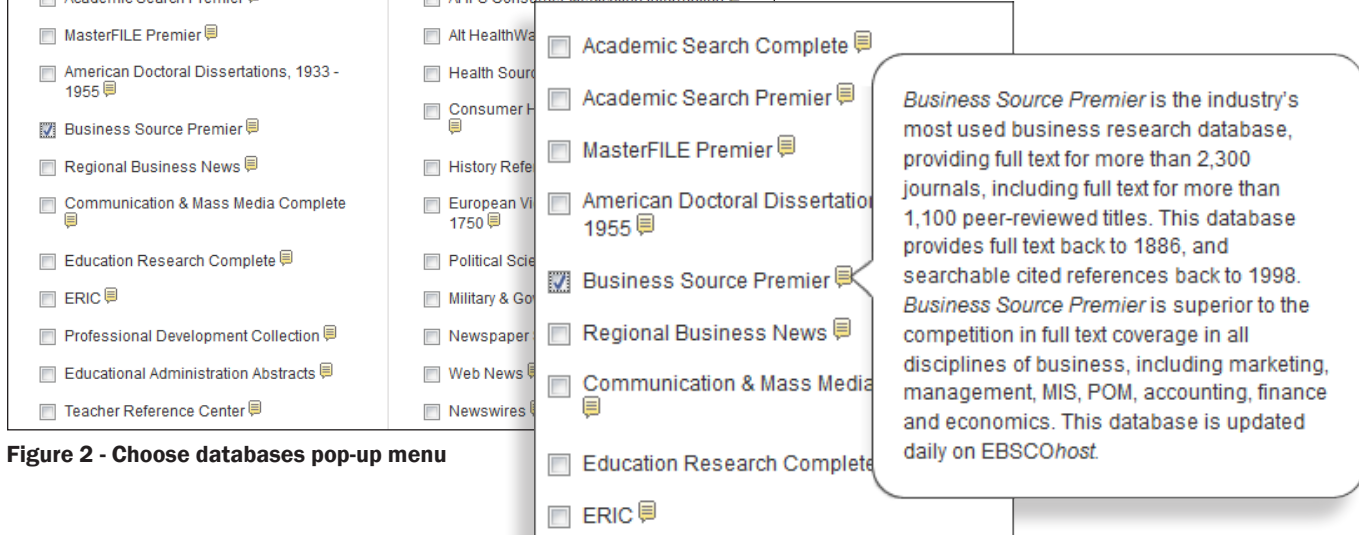


Figure 2 - Choose databases pop-up menu

Limiting results

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, the search query is "business AND teams AND communication". The left sidebar contains various filters: "Refine Results", "Limit To" (Full Text, References Available, Scholarly), "Source Types" (All Results, Journals, Academic Journals, etc.), and "Database" (All Databases, Business Source Premier, Communication & Mass Media Complete, PsycINFO, SocINDEX with Full Text). The main area displays search results for "1 - 10 of 11", including titles like "Studying teamwork and team", "The Hype and Reality of Social Networks", and "Using Team Learning in Business".

For this example, four databases have been selected: **Business Source Premier**, **Communication & Mass Media Complete**, **SocINDEX**, and **PsycINFO**. The search phrase used was “business AND teams AND communication”.

Once you’ve done the search, you can use the “limiting” tools found on the left side of the results page. The list of limiters will change based on the selected databases. Common limiters include **Publication Date**, **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals**, and **Source**.

The **Database** limiter comes into play when multiple databases are searched simultaneously. It will indicate how many results are found for each database used in the search. The checkboxes are used to choose which database’s results are shown. For example, in Figure 3 Communication & Mass Media Complete is selected, so the system will only display the 1,212 results found in that database. You may choose any combination of checkboxes. To return to all results, click the **All Databases** checkbox.

By looking at one database’s results, you may get a better idea about what kinds of articles are available in that database. Once you’ve selected one of the databases, ask yourself:

- Is the perspective of the articles what you thought it might be?
- Do you see additional descriptive words that might help you find additional articles?
 - Keep in mind that subjects (or descriptors) used for the articles may vary based on the particular database.

The close-up shows the "Database" limiter dropdown menu. It lists the following options with checkboxes:

- All Databases
- Business Source Premier (9,332)
- Communication & Mass Media Complete (1,212)
- PsycINFO (955)
- SocINDEX with Full Text (337)

 A "Show More" link is visible at the bottom of the menu.

Figure 3 - Limiters