

An associative table in DBMS, also known as a junction table or bridge table, is a special type of table used to establish a many-to-many relationship between two other tables. Since relational databases do not support direct many-to-many relationships, an associative table breaks this relationship into two one-to-many relationships. It typically contains foreign keys referencing the primary keys of the related tables, and it may also include additional attributes that describe the relationship. For example, in a database containing Donations and Beneficiaries tables, an associative table named DonationBeneficiaries can link donations to the beneficiaries who receive support. This table would store each donation-beneficiary pairing and may include extra information such as the amount received, the date of distribution, or the type of aid provided. Associative tables are essential for maintaining data integrity and supporting complex queries involving linked entities.