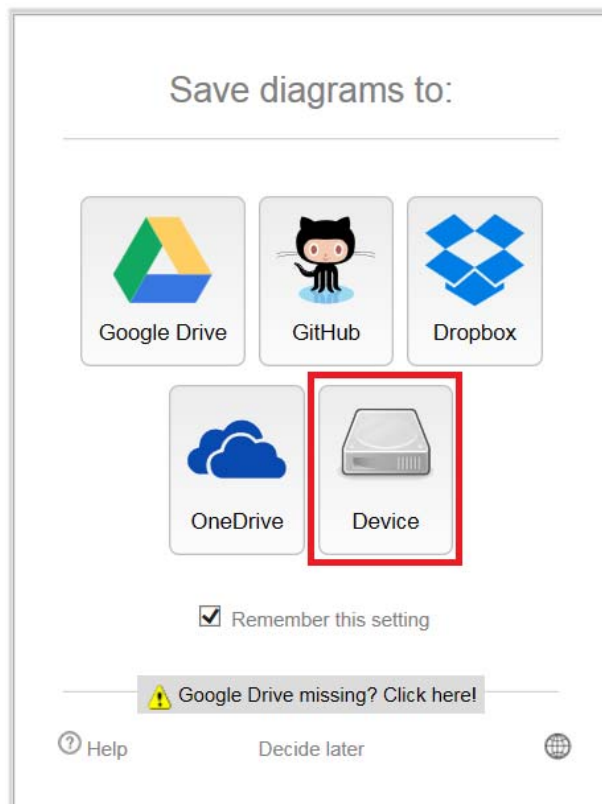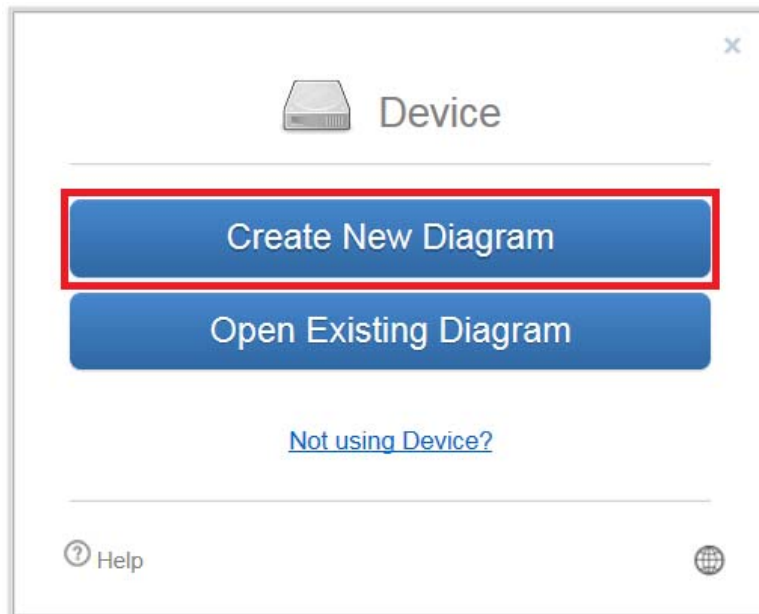# How to Draw an Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)

You can use any software (online/offline) of your choice, such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, to produce an ERD for any case study (set of business rules) in this course. We have given two options below. Between these two options, we believe the second option (online at https://www.draw.io/) will be more useful and easier to produce an ERD.

In your lab activities or assessments, put a screen shot of your ERD. Make sure you crop unnecessary outside parts of the screen. Only put the ERD that produce.
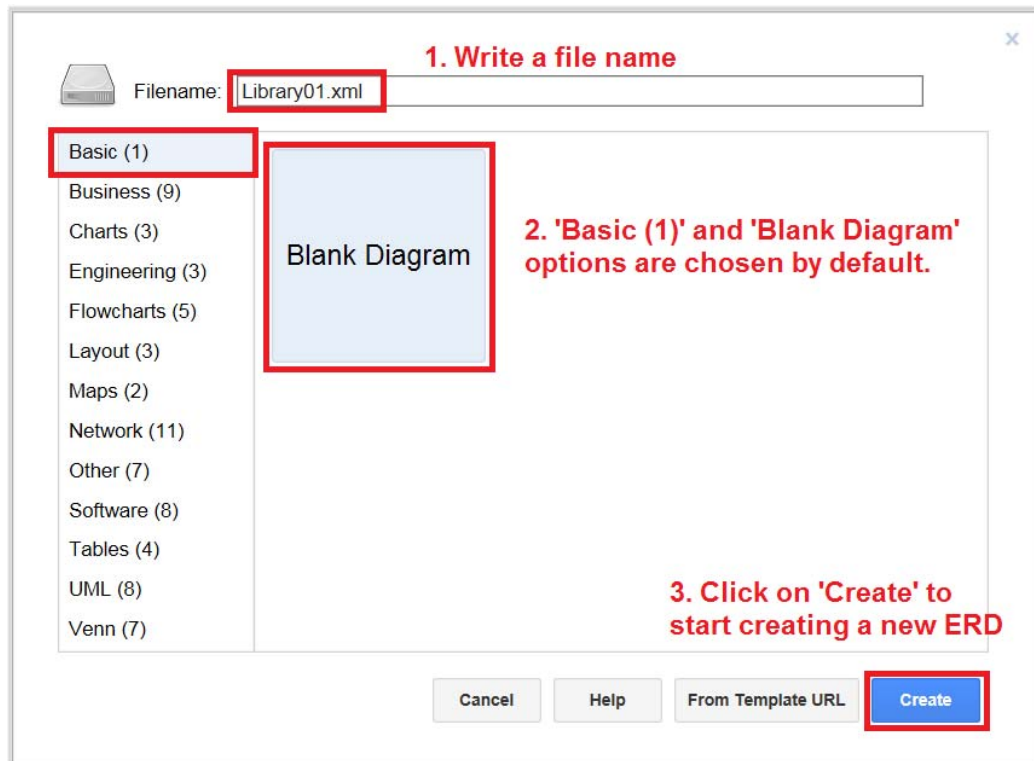
1. **MS PowerPoint:** A short video has been uploaded into the course website (under Week 3 Concept Material) on how to use MS PowerPoint to draw an ERD. This software is available in Lab computers.

2. **At https://www.draw.io/**
   a. Go to https://www.draw.io/
   b. Select the location where you like to create and save the ERD you want to produce. For example, **'Device'** is chosen here to save into my computer.
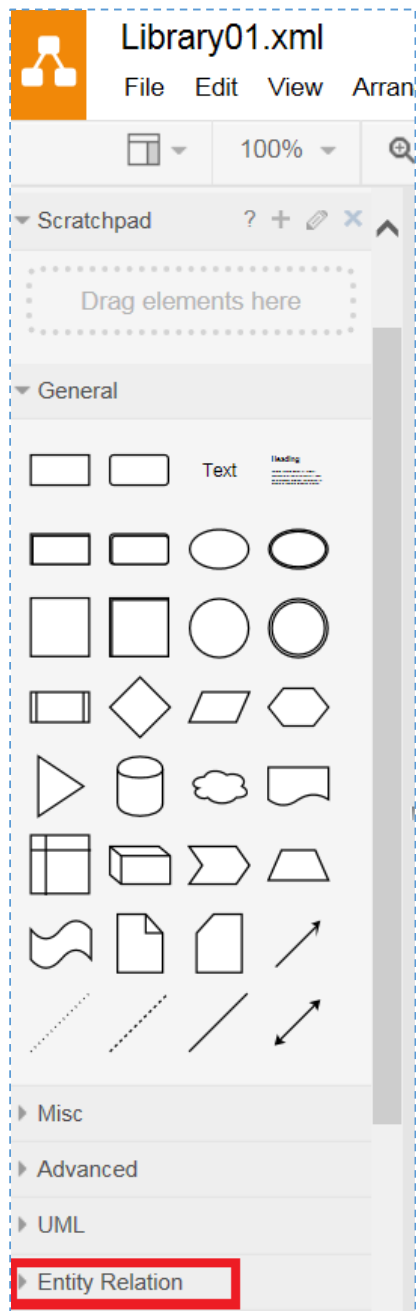
c. Select an option in the next screen: **'create new diagram'** (first option) is chosen here. To open an already created and saved ERD, click on the second option.

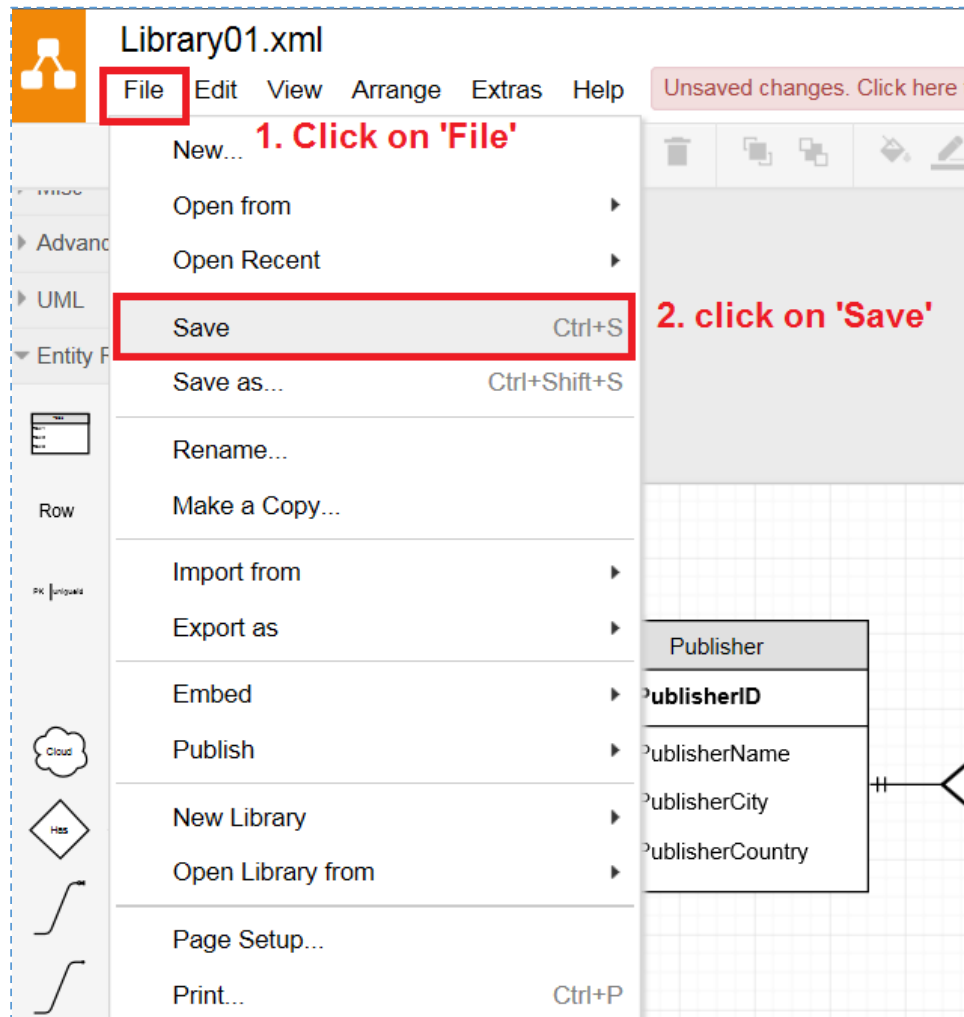d. Write a new file name and then click on **'Create'** button with options shown below:

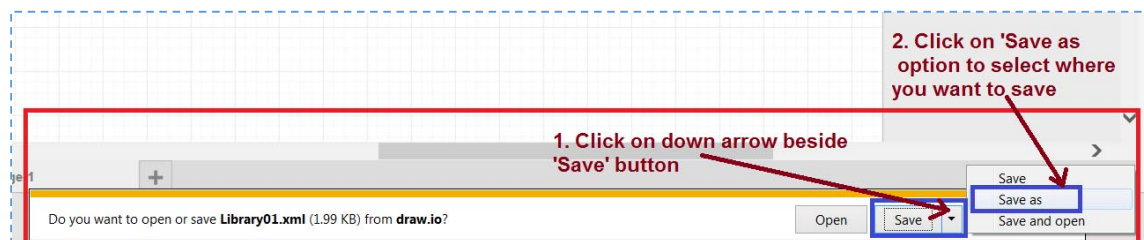e. On the left hand side Click on **'Entity Relation'** for tools available for ERD.

f. You will see the tools available for your ERD:

g. You can now try drawing a simple Library database with two entities: Publisher and Book. See its business rules in Week 2 lecture slide.

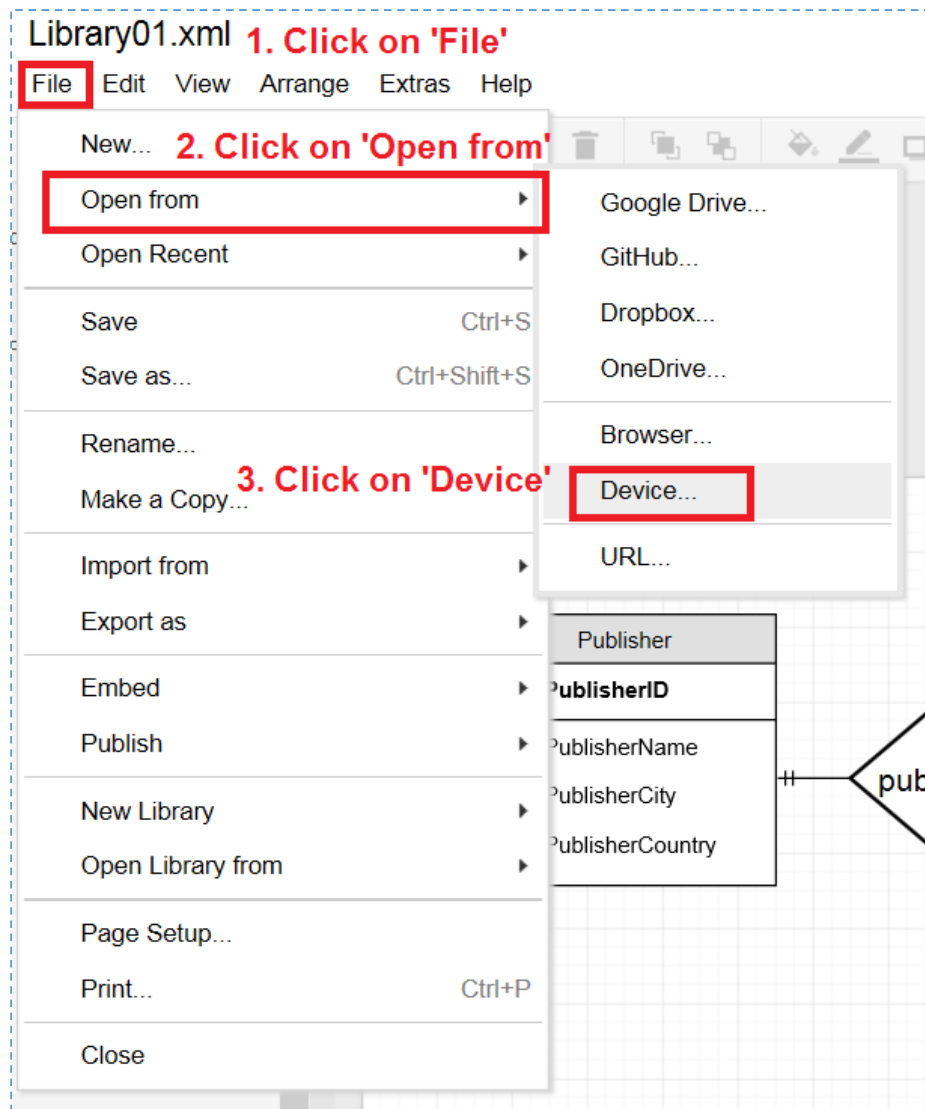h. In order to save, go to '**Flie' > 'Save'** and click on **'Save'**.

Then, see the pop-up option shown at the bottom of your browser, and follow options as shown below.

You will be able to choose your hard disk or USB locations where you want to save the ERD file.

i. To open a previously saved ERD, follow options below:

You will be given option to browse your file location.