

DBMS Lab - Getting Started with SQLite

Welcome to the DBMS Lab! This guide will help you set up your environment and start working with SQLite databases using the Chinook sample database.



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Prerequisites

1. **VS Code** - Download from code.visualstudio.com
2. **SQLite3** - Usually pre-installed on macOS/Linux. For Windows, download from sqlite.org
3. **DB Browser for SQLite** - Download from sqlitebrowser.org/dl

Setup Instructions

1. Install SQLite Viewer Extension in VS Code

1. Open VS Code
2. Go to Extensions (⌘+Shift+X on Mac, Ctrl+Shift+X on Windows/Linux)
3. Search for "**SQLite Viewer**" or "**SQLite**"
4. Install the extension by alexcvzz or qwtel
5. Restart VS Code if needed

2. Install DB Browser for SQLite

1. Visit sqlitebrowser.org/dl
2. Download the installer for your operating system:
 - **macOS**: Download the .dmg file
 - **Windows**: Download the .msi installer
 - **Linux**: Use package manager or download Appliance
3. Install and launch the application

3. Set Up Chinook Database

The **Chinook database** is a sample database representing a digital media store with tables for artists, albums, tracks, customers, invoices, and more.

Database already included: `chinook.db` is in this repository

To download fresh copy:

- Visit sqlitetutorial.net/sqlite-sample-database
- Download the chinook.db file
- Place it in your project directory

Working with Chinook Database

Method 1: Using SQLite Viewer in VS Code

1. Open the `chinook.db` file in VS Code
2. The SQLite Viewer extension will display the database structure
3. Click on tables to view their contents
4. Right-click on a table to run queries

Method 2: Using DB Browser for SQLite

1. Open DB Browser for SQLite application
2. Click "**Open Database**"
3. Navigate to and select `chinook.db`
4. Explore tabs:
 - **Database Structure:** View all tables and schemas
 - **Browse Data:** See table contents
 - **Execute SQL:** Run custom queries

Method 3: Using Terminal/Command Line

Open terminal in VS Code and run:

```
sqlite3 chinook.db
```

Basic SQLite Commands

Inside SQLite Shell

```
-- List all tables
.tables

-- Show table schema
.schema table_name

-- Show all table schemas
.schema

-- Enable better formatting
```

```
.mode column
.headers on

-- Execute a query
SELECT * FROM artists LIMIT 10;

-- Exit SQLite
.quit
```

Run Queries from Terminal

```
# Run a single query
sqlite3 chinook.db "SELECT * FROM artists LIMIT 5;"

# Execute SQL file
sqlite3 chinook.db < query.sql

# Save output to file
sqlite3 chinook.db -column -header < query.sql > results.txt

# Better formatted output
sqlite3 chinook.db -column -header "SELECT * FROM albums LIMIT 5;"
```

Sample Queries

Explore Database Structure

```
-- List all tables
SELECT name FROM sqlite_master WHERE type='table';

-- Count rows in each table
SELECT 'artists' as table_name, COUNT(*) as row_count FROM artists
UNION ALL
SELECT 'albums', COUNT(*) FROM albums
UNION ALL
SELECT 'tracks', COUNT(*) FROM tracks;
```

Basic SELECT Queries

```
-- View all artists
SELECT * FROM artists LIMIT 10;

-- Find customers from USA
SELECT FirstName, LastName, Email FROM customers
WHERE Country = 'USA';

-- Get unique countries
SELECT DISTINCT Country FROM customers ORDER BY Country;
```

JOIN Queries

```
-- Artists with their albums
SELECT artists.Name as Artist, albums.Title as Album
FROM albums
JOIN artists ON albums.ArtistId = artists.ArtistId
ORDER BY artists.Name;

-- Tracks with album and artist info
SELECT
    tracks.Name as Track,
    albums.Title as Album,
    artists.Name as Artist,
    tracks.Milliseconds / 60000 as Minutes
FROM tracks
JOIN albums ON tracks.AlbumId = albums.AlbumId
JOIN artists ON albums.ArtistId = artists.ArtistId
LIMIT 10;
```

Aggregate Queries

```
-- Count tracks by genre
SELECT genres.Name as Genre, COUNT(*) as TrackCount
FROM tracks
JOIN genres ON tracks.GenreId = genres.GenreId
GROUP BY genres.Name
ORDER BY TrackCount DESC;

-- Total sales by country
SELECT
    customers.Country,
    COUNT(DISTINCT customers.CustomerId) as Customers,
    ROUND(SUM(invoices.Total), 2) as TotalRevenue
FROM customers
JOIN invoices ON customers.CustomerId = invoices.CustomerId
GROUP BY customers.Country
ORDER BY TotalRevenue DESC;
```

Database Schema Overview

The Chinook database contains the following tables:

- **albums** - Album information with links to artists
- **artists** - Artist names and IDs
- **customers** - Customer information
- **employees** - Employee records
- **genres** - Music genres
- **invoices** - Purchase invoices

- **invoice_items** - Line items for each invoice
- **media_types** - Types of media formats
- **playlists** - Playlist information
- **playlist_track** - Tracks in each playlist
- **tracks** - Individual track details

Pre-made SQL Query Files

This repository includes several SQL query files you can execute:

1. **query_artists_albums.sql** - Artists ranked by album count
2. **sales_report.sql** - Sales analysis by country
3. **popular_tracks.sql** - Most purchased tracks

Run them with:

```
sqlite3 chinook.db -column -header < query_artists_albums.sql
```

Tips for Students

1. **Start Simple:** Begin with basic SELECT queries before moving to JOINS
2. **Use LIMIT:** Always use LIMIT when exploring large tables
3. **Format Your Code:** Write readable SQL with proper indentation
4. **Experiment:** Try modifying existing queries to learn
5. **Save Your Queries:** Keep useful queries in .sql files for reuse
6. **Check Data Types:** Use `.schema table_name` to understand table structure
7. **Use Comments:** Add `--` comments to explain your SQL logic

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Forgetting to use quotes around string values: `WHERE Country = 'USA'`
- Missing GROUP BY when using aggregate functions
- Not using table aliases in complex JOINS
- Forgetting semicolons at the end of statements (in files)

Additional Resources

- **Chinook Database:** sqlitetutorial.net/sqlite-sample-database
- **DB Browser:** sqlitebrowser.org/dl
- **SQLite Tutorial:** sqlitetutorial.net
- **SQLite Documentation:** sqlite.org/docs.html
- **SQL Practice:** sqlzoo.net

Quick Reference Card

Command	Description
<code>.tables</code>	List all tables
<code>.schema TABLE</code>	Show table structure
<code>.mode column</code>	Format output in columns
<code>.headers on</code>	Show column headers
<code>.quit</code>	Exit SQLite shell
<code>LIMIT n</code>	Restrict results to n rows
<code>ORDER BY col</code>	Sort results
<code>WHERE condition</code>	Filter rows
<code>GROUP BY col</code>	Aggregate by column
<code>JOIN</code>	Combine tables

Happy querying! 🚀

For questions or issues, please refer to the course materials or ask your instructor.