Amazon Function for MS Access Guide

Database v1.0
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This MS Access database contain two macros. The first one converts International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) which follow the 13 character standard (ISBN 31) to ISBN 10s. The second function looks up various fields such as title and author in Amazon's database and returns the relevant value.

This spreadsheet is designed to help people create a list of their personal books or to help a librarian of a small collection.

1. Register for a free Amazon Web Service (AWS) account and then register for a free Amazon Associates Account. Both can be done here:
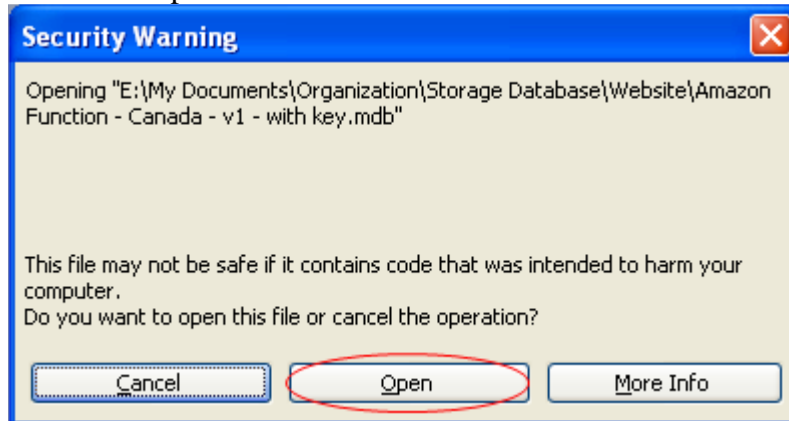   http://aws.amazon.com/associates/
    This will give you an Amazon Access Key. The Amazon Access Key is 20 characters long and will give you free access to Amazon's database of books and other products. Sorry, each user needs their own Amazon Access Key.
2. Double click file to open.
   AmazonFunction-Canada-v1.xls
3. Click "Open".

Security Warning

Opening "E:\My Documents\Organization\Storage Database\Website\Amazon Function - Canada - v1 - with key.mdb"

This file may not be safe if it contains code that was intended to harm your computer.
Do you want to open this file or cancel the operation?

Cancel   Open   More Info

4. Click on "Tables", then "tblAmazonAccessKey" and enter your Amazon Access Key in the table. You only have to do this the first time you use the database.
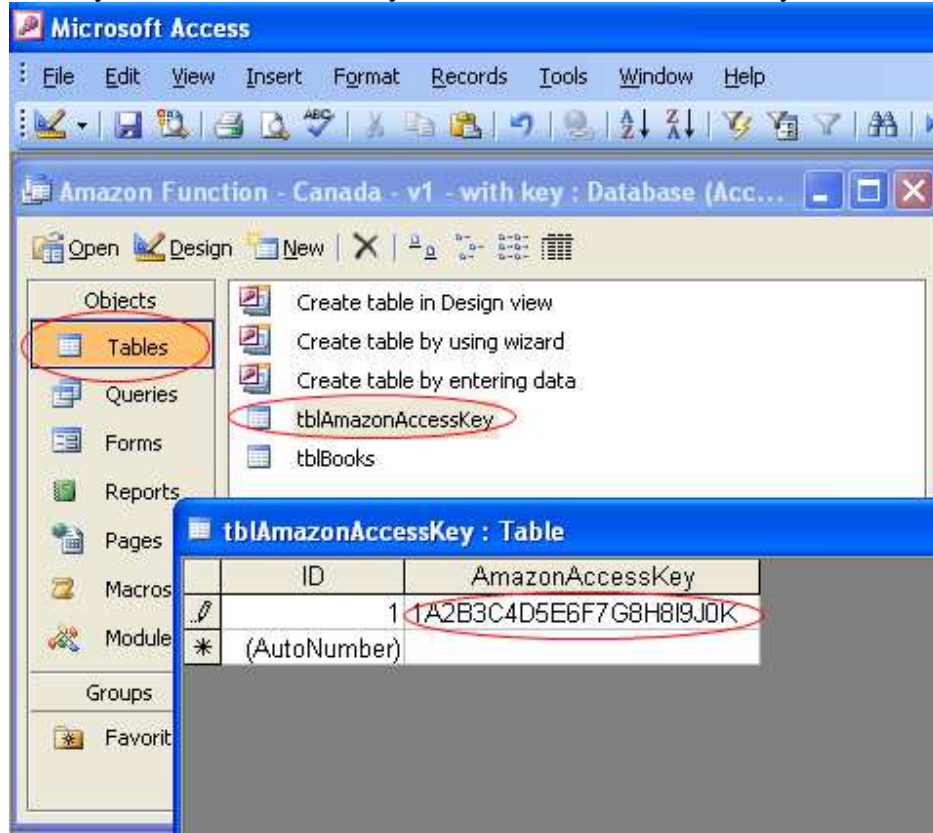

5. Double-click on "tblBooks" and enter the ISBN13 numbers of your books in the table.
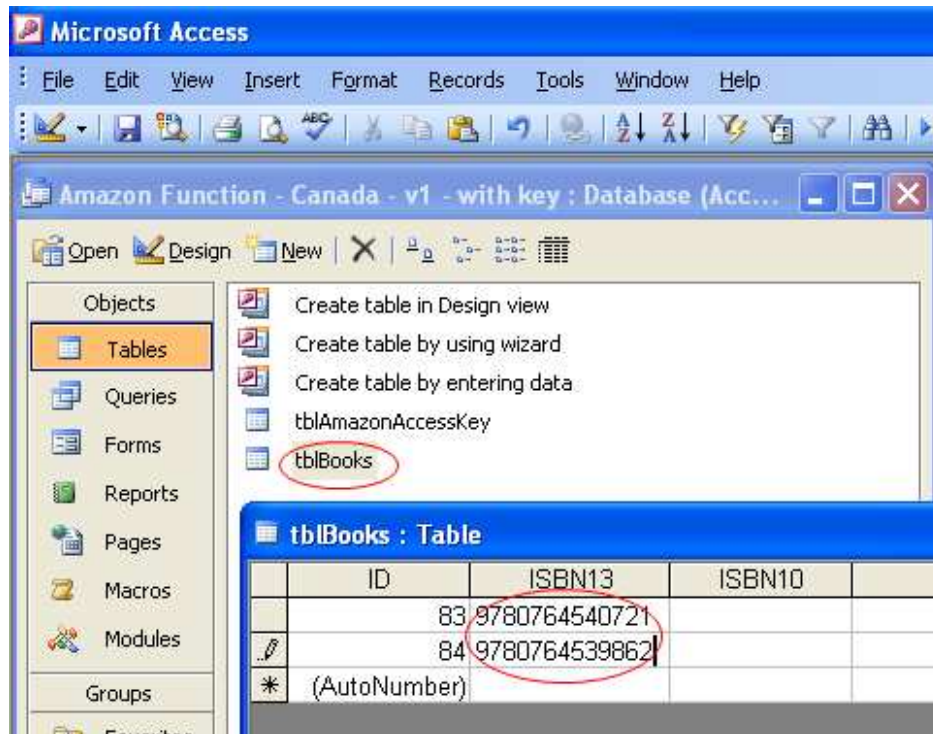
6. After you have entered a few ISBN13s, click on "Queries" and "qryISBN13to10". This will add the ISBN10s to the tblBooks table. This is required because the Amazon website will only accept ISBN10s as inputs, not ISBN13s. You could also just enter the ISBN10s directly.
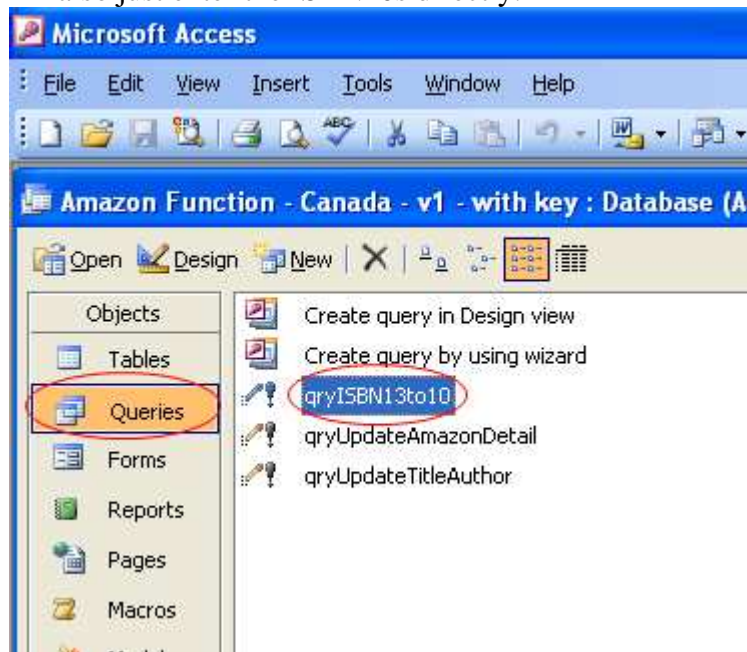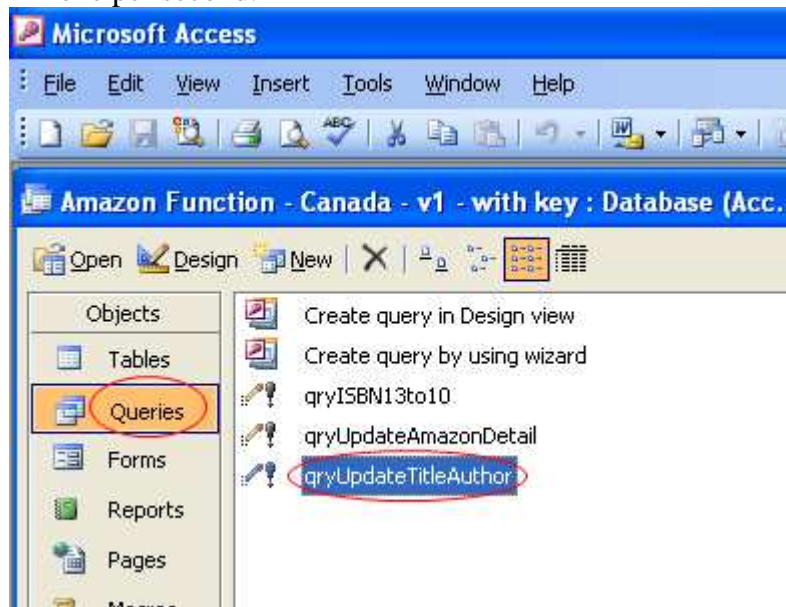

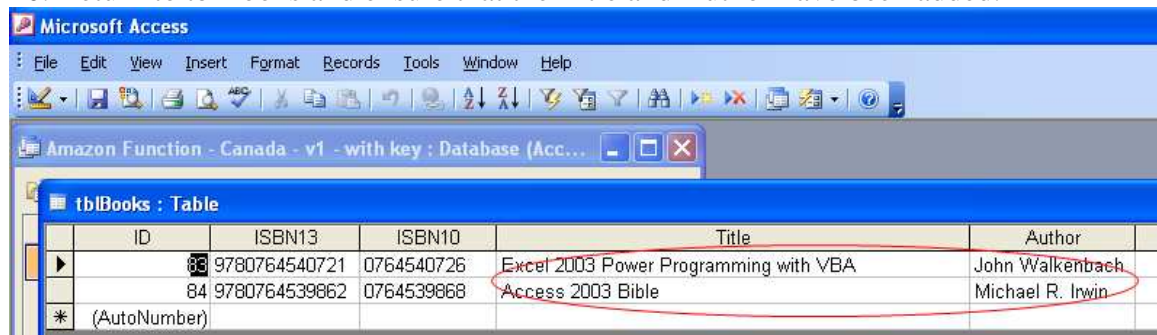7. Return to "tblBooks" and confirm the ISBN10s have been added.
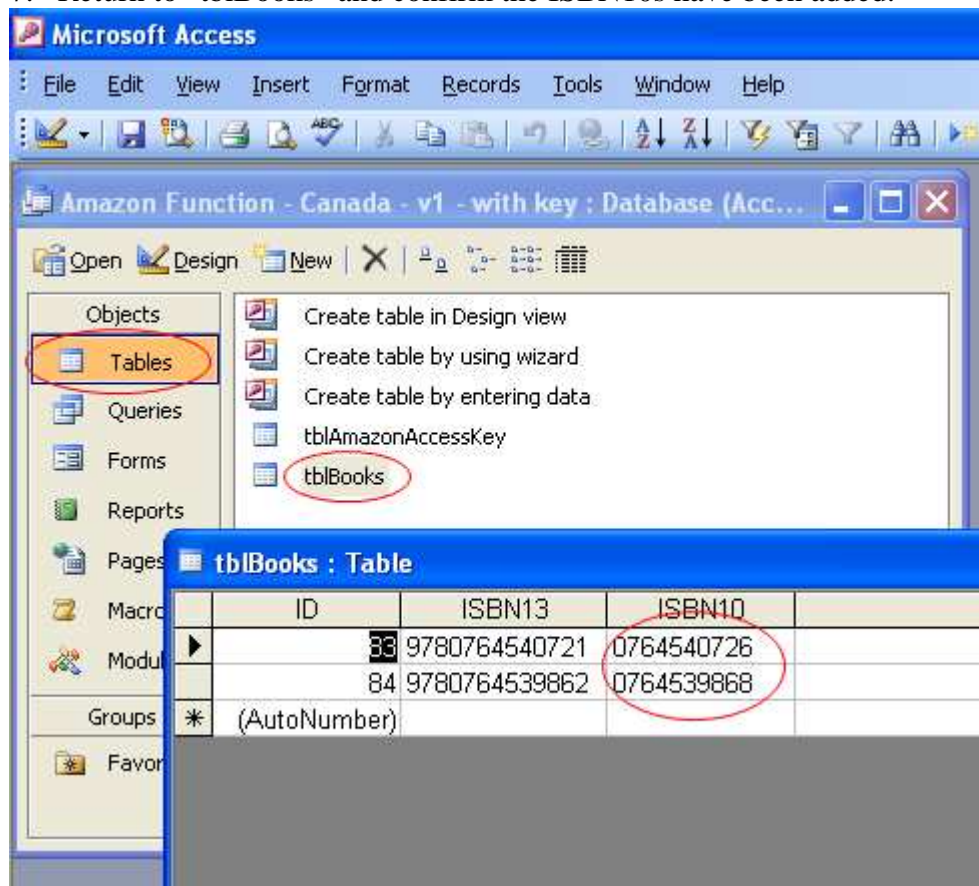
8. Scroll to the right of tblBooks and ensure that ISBN10Update is checked. This will prevent the query from running on these records in the future, speeding up future processes.
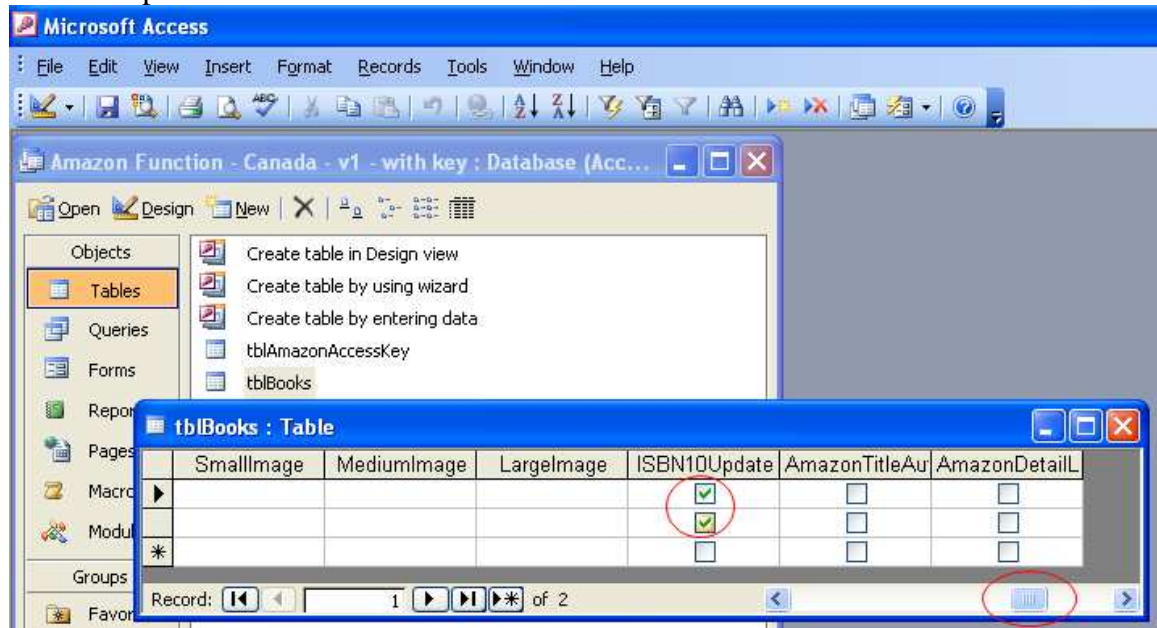
9. Return to "Queries" and double click on "qryUpdateTitleAuthor". This will take at least 2 seconds per book to run because Amazon's website limites requests to one per second.

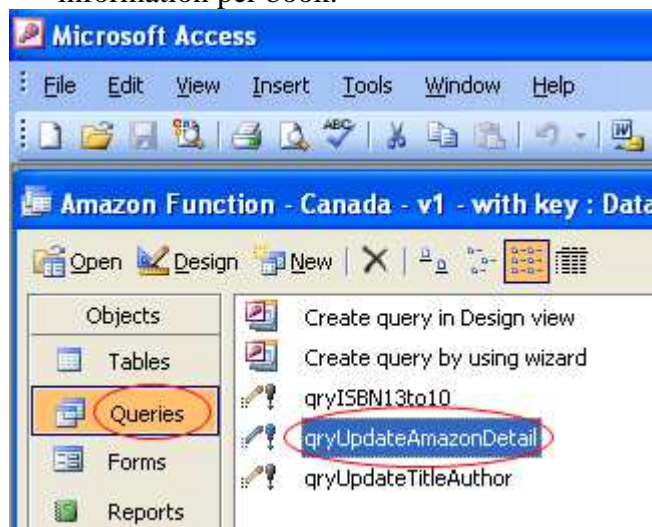10. Return to tblBooks and ensure that the Title and Author have been added.

11. Return to "Queries" and double click on "qryUpdateAmazonDetail". This will take at least 15 seconds per book to run because it is looking up 15 pieces of information per book.

12. Return to tblBooks, check that the details have been added and that "AmazonTitleAuthorLookup" and "AmazonDetailLookup" have checkmarks so the lookup function won't run on those books next time.
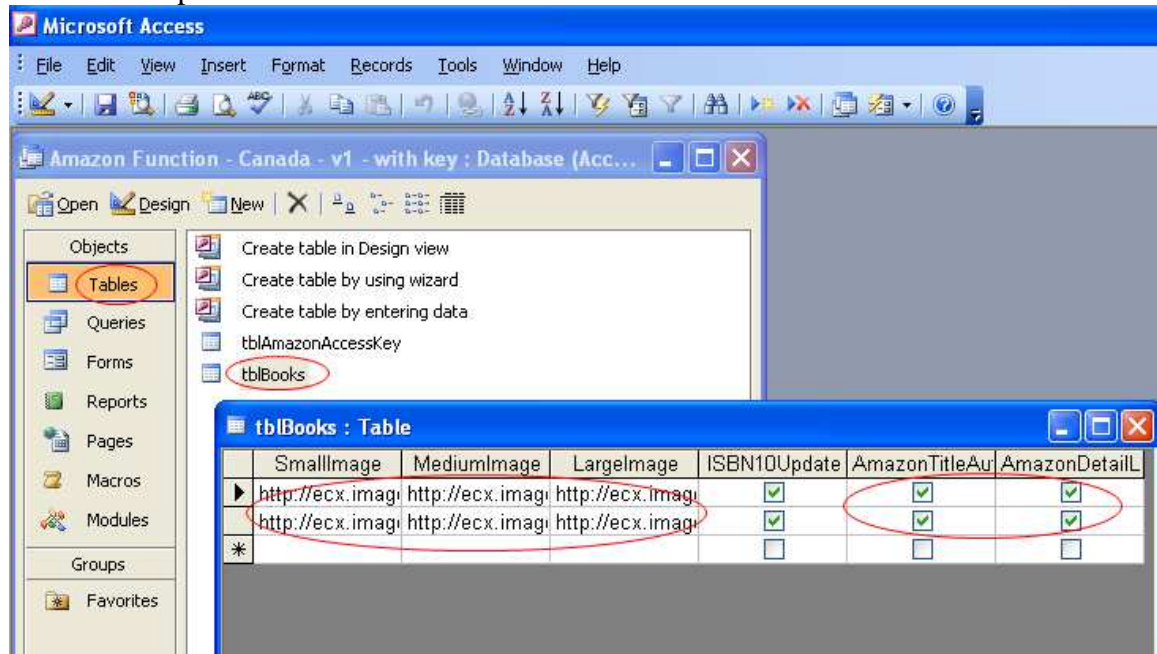
13. Manually enter any details that are missing. Amazon does not have every book catalogued.

The MS Access database and some of the code was developed by Andrew Morgan. You can reach me at Andrew.morgan@utoronto.ca. The database is hosted at: www.andrewm.ca/amazonfunction.html

Credits:
The ISBN13to10 code was adapted from:
http://weblogs.asp.net/fmarguerie/archive/2007/12/23/isbn-13-to-isbn-10.aspx
The Amazon Function was adapted from:
http://www.s-anand.net/Web_lookup_using_Excel.html