When Bob Imrie, an Associated Press reporter in Wausau, WI, went searching for information about hunting accidents, he ended up right on target. The state filed hardcopy reports on every accident detailing information such as weather, topography and the number of pieces of orange the victim was wearing. Imrie had no way of digging out trends from the voluminous hard-copy reports and he had never used a computer database. But with some help over the phone from some nerdy colleagues, he created his own database to look at trends in hunting accidents in Wisconsin.

The record layout, which is the map to any database, is below. It shows the fields Imrie created in the database, whether they were characters or numbers and the width of each field:

1 CASE Character 10 This is an identifier he created
2 DATE Date 8 Date of accident
3 TIME Numeric 4 Time of accident
4 COUNTY Character 11 County of accident
5 AREA Character 6 Region of state (he created the areas)
6 WOUND Character 6 Part of body wounded
7 INJURY Character 5 Severity of injury
8 TYPE Character 2 Self-inflicted, or other (si=self-inflicted, sp=second person)
9 CAUSE Character 30 Description of cause
10 SAGE Numeric 2 Age of shooter
11 VAGE Numeric 2 Age of victim
12 FIREARM Character 7 Type of firearm
13 FACTION Character 6 Faction of gun
14 ALCOHOL Character 3 Alcohol involved
15 ALCOLEV Numeric 5 Alcohol level
16 WEATHER Character 11 Weather
17 TOPOGRO Character 10 Typography
18 SEXPER Numeric 2 Years of shooter's experience
19 VEXPER Numeric 2 Years of victim's experience
20 SGRADUATE Character 3 Shooter graduate of safety school
21 VGRADUATE Character 3 Victim graduate of safety school
22 SSEX Character 1 Sex of shooter
23 VSEX Character 1 Sex of victim
24 GUNBRND Character 13 Brand of gun
25 GUNGAUGE Character 10 Gauge of gun
26 TEMP Numeric 2 Temperature
27 MUZDIS Numeric 5 Muzzle distance
28 LAND Character 3 Private or public
29 VORANGE Numeric 1 Number of pieces of orange worn by victim
30 GUNLIGHT Character 5 Open, scope or other
31 VACTIVITY Character 10 Victim's activity
32 LOCATION Character 6 Location of victim
33 PRECIP Character 3 Precipitation