String Operations

In order to compare an attribute with a string, it is required to surround the string by apostrophes.

Pattern Matching

A powerful operator for pattern matching is the like operator.

Two special characters are used with **like**:

1. The percent sign % (also called wild card), it means that any (sub)string is allowed there, even the empty string.

2. The underline _, also called position marker, stands for exactly one character. Thus the condition where DNAME like '%C C%' would require that exactly one character appears between the two Cs.

Character Functions accept character input.The input may come from a column in a table or from any expression.

Character Functions List

1	ASCII(x)	returns the ASCII value of the character x.
2	CHR(x)	returns the character with the ASCII value of x.
3	CONCAT(x, y)	concatenates y to x and return the appended string.
4	INITCAP(x)	converts the initial letter of each word in x to uppercase and returns that string.
5	INSTR(x, find_string [, start] [, occurrence]).	searches for find_string in x and returns the position at which find_string occurs
6	INSTRB(x)	returns the location of a string within another string, but returns the value in bytes for a single-byte character system.
7	LENGTH(x)	returns the number of characters in x.
8	LENGTHB(x)	returns the length of a character string in bytes, except that the return value is in bytes for single-byte character sets.
9	LOWER(x)	converts the letters in x to lowercase and returns that string.
10	LPAD(x, width [, pad_string])	pads x with spaces to left, to bring the total length of the string up to width characters.

11	LTRIM(x [, trim_string])	trims characters from the left of x.
12	NVL(x, value).	returns value if x is null; otherwise, x is returned
13	NVL2(x, value1, value2).	returns value1 if x is not null; if x is null, value2 is returned
14	REPLACE(x, search_string, replace_string)	searches x for search_string and replaces it with replace_string.
15	RPAD(x, width [, pad_string])	pads x to the right.
16	RTRIM(x [, trim_string]).	trims x from the right
17	SUBSTR(x, start [, length])	returns a substring of x that begins at the position specified by start. An optional length for the substring may be supplied.
18	SUBSTRB(x)	Same as SUBSTR except the parameters are expressed in bytes instead of characters to handle single-byte character systems.
19	TRIM([trim_char FROM) x)	trims characters from the left and right of x.
20	UPPER(x)	converts the letters in x to uppercase and returns that string.

I. Oracle Funtions

Helps to manipulate the data item and returns the values. Function will accept user supplied variables or constrains and operates on them.

1. String functions

a.

Lower():Returns string with all letters in lowercase.

Syntax: Lower(string)

Example: Select lower('alchemist') "lower" from dual;

b.

Upper():Returns string with all letters in uppercase.

Syntax: Upper(string)

Example: Select upper(‘alchemist’) “upper” from dual;

c.

INITCAP(): Returns the string with the first letter in uppercase.

Syntax: INITCAP(string)

Example: Select INITCAP(‘alchemist’) “INITCAP” from dual;

d.

Substr(): Returns a portion of string starting from mth position to nth number of places.

Syntax: Substr(string,m,n)

Example: Select substr(‘beginners luck’,11,4) from dual;

e.

Length(): Returns the length of the string.

Syntax: length(string)

Example: Select length(‘right’) from dual;