

PHP MySQL ORDER BY Clause

In this tutorial you will learn how to sort and display the data from a MySQL table in ascending or descending order using PHP.

Ordering the Result Set

The **ORDER BY** clause can be used in conjugation with the **SELECT** statement to see the data from a table ordered by a specific field. The **ORDER BY** clause lets you define the field name to sort against and the sort direction either ascending or descending.

The basic syntax of this clause can be given with:

```
SELECT column_name(s) FROM table_name ORDER BY column_name(s) ASC|DESC
```

Let's make a SQL query using the **ORDER BY** clause in **SELECT** statement, after that we will execute this query through passing it to the PHP **mysqli_query()** function to get the ordered data. Consider the following *persons* table inside the *demo* database:

id	first_name	last_name	email
1	Peter	Parker	peterparker@mail.com
2	John	Rambo	johnrambo@mail.com
3	Clark	Kent	clarkkent@mail.com
4	John	Carter	johncarter@mail.com
5	Harry	Potter	harrypotter@mail.com

The PHP code in the following example selects all rows from the *persons* table and sorts the result by the *first_name* column in the alphabetically ascending order.

Example

Procedural

Object Oriented

PDO

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```
<?php
/* Attempt MySQL server connection. Assuming you are running MySQL
server with default setting (user 'root' with no password) */
$link = mysqli_connect("localhost", "root", "", "demo");

// Check connection
if($link === false){
    die("ERROR: Could not connect. " . mysqli_connect_error());
}
```

```
// Attempt select query execution with order by clause
$sql = "SELECT * FROM persons ORDER BY first_name";
if($result = mysqli_query($link, $sql)){
    if(mysqli_num_rows($result) > 0){
        echo "<table>";
        echo "<tr>";
        echo "<th>id</th>";
        echo "<th>first_name</th>";
        echo "<th>last_name</th>";
        echo "<th>email</th>";
        echo "</tr>";
        while($row = mysqli_fetch_array($result)){
            echo "<tr>";
            echo "<td>" . $row['id'] . "</td>";
            echo "<td>" . $row['first_name'] . "</td>";
            echo "<td>" . $row['last_name'] . "</td>";
            echo "<td>" . $row['email'] . "</td>";
            echo "</tr>";
        }
        echo "</table>";
        // Close result set
        mysqli_free_result($result);
    } else{
        echo "No records matching your query were found.";
    }
} else{
    echo "ERROR: Could not able to execute $sql. " .
    mysqli_error($link);
}

// Close connection
mysqli_close($link);
?>
```

After ordering the result, the result set will look something like this:

id	first_name	last_name	email
3	Clark	Kent	clarkkent@mail.com
5	Harry	Potter	harrypotter@mail.com
2	John	Rambo	johnrambo@mail.com
4	John	Carter	johncarter@mail.com

	1		Peter		Parker		peterparker@mail.com	
+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-

Tip: By default the ORDER BY clause sort the results in ascending order. If you want to sort the records in a descending order, you can use the DESC keyword.