ITC 5104 DATABASE Design and SQL

Lecture 2

Chapter 8 Oracle 12c SQL

Restricting Rows and Sorting Data

Objectives

- Use a WHERE clause to restrict rows returned by a query
- Create a search condition using mathematical comparison operators
- Use the BETWEEN ... AND comparison operator to specify records within a range of values
- Specify a list of values for a search condition using the IN comparison operator
- Search for patterns using the LIKE comparison operator
- Identify the purpose of the % and _ wildcard operators

Objectives

- Join multiple search conditions using the appropriate logical operator
- Perform searches for NULL values
- Specify the order for the presentation of query results using ORDER BY, DESC, ASC and the SELECT clause

Introduction

- In chapter 2 we learned how to retrieve specific fields from a table
- Unless the UNIQUE or DISTINCT keywords were used, the results returned included every row from the table
- In some cases, you may only want to see records that meet a certain condition or conditions. This is a process called selection
- Selection reduces the number of records retrieved by a query
- We will use the WHERE clause with the SELECT statement and the ORDER BY clause to present selected results in a specific sequence

Syntax of Select Statement

```
SELECT [DISTINCT | UNIQUE] (*, columnname [ AS alias], ...)

FROM tablename
[WHERE condition]

[GROUP BY group_by_expression]

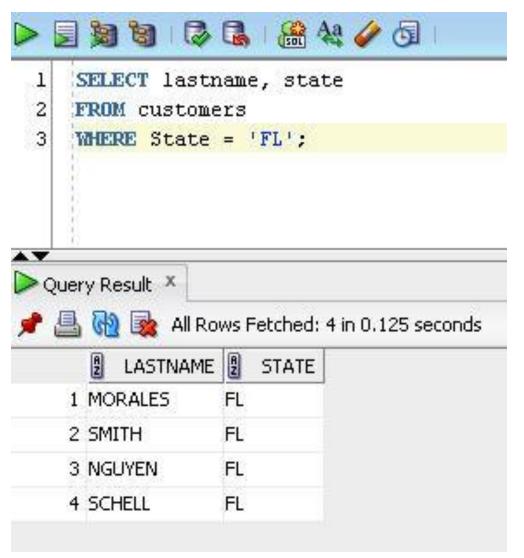
[HAVING group_condition]

[ORDER BY columnname];
```

WHERE Clause

- The WHERE clause is optional
- Listed beneath the FROM clause
- A condition identifies what must exist or a requirement that must be met
- Oracle 12c searches through each record to determine whether the condition is TRUE
- If the record meets the condition it will be returned in the results of the query
- WHERE clause uses the following format:
 - <column name> <comparison operator> <another column name
 or a physical value>

WHERE Clause



WHERE Clause

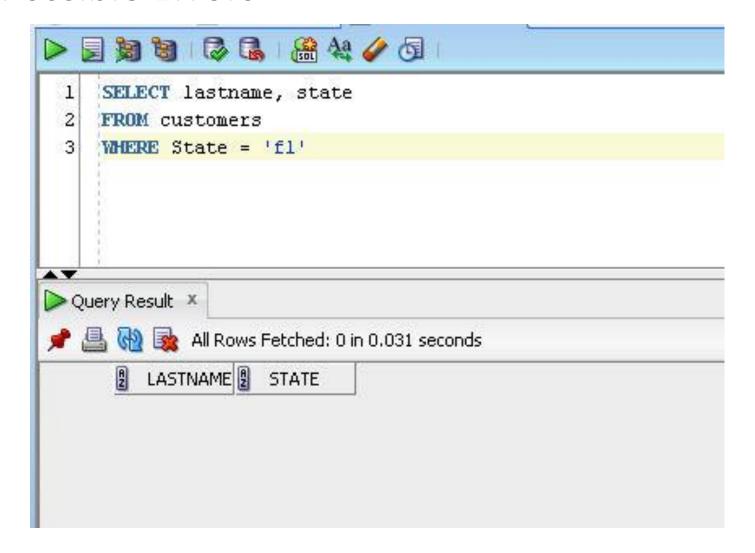
- This query specifies the Lastname and State columns stored in the Customers table as the data to be listed in the output
- However, you only want to see the records of the customers who have the letters FL stored in the State column
 - WHERE is the keyword
 - State is the name of the column being searched
 - = is the comparison operator
 - FL is the specific value being searched
- All character data for the Just Lee Books database is in uppercase because the original data was entered all in capitals

Possible Errors

```
SELECT lastname, state
     FROM customers
     WHERE State = "FL";
Query Result X
🏓 📇 🙌 🗽 Executing:SELECT lastname, stateFROM customersWHERE State = "FL" in 0.031 seconds
ORA-00904: "FL": invalid identifier
00904, 00000 - "%s: invalid identifier"
*Cause:
*Action:
Error at Line: 3 Column: 14
```

Can you figure out why the commands on the next three slides failed?

Possible Errors



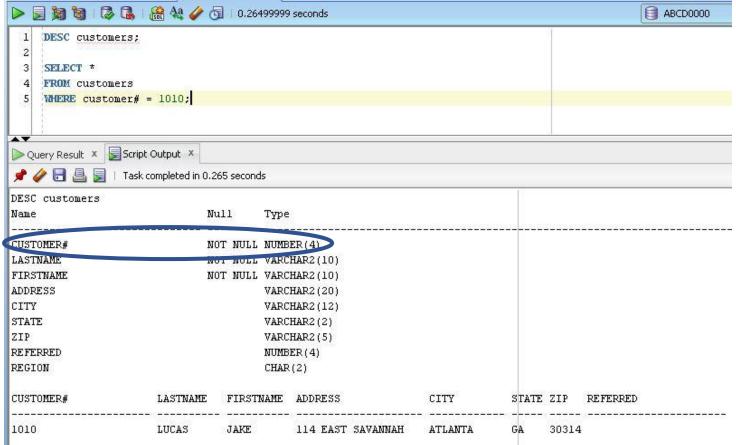
Possible Errors

```
SELECT lastname, state
    FROM customers
    WHERE State = 'FL '
AV
Query... ×
        All Rows Fetched: 0 in 0.015 seconds
       LASTNAME 2
                STATE
```

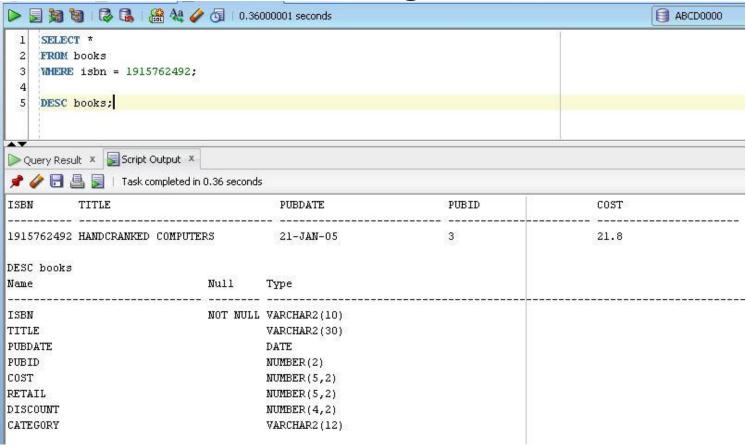
Errors

- In the first example, the value of FL was entered in double quotation marks, these are reserved for column alias's
- In the second example, the letters FL are entered in lowercase, but the
 data is stored in uppercase in the table. A string entered in the search
 condition must be in the same case as it is stored. Although the Oracle
 12c syntax is not case sensitive, the data stored in the record is case
 sensitive
- In the third example, although the search condition is in uppercase, a blank space was added so it does not exactly match because of the extra space in the search condition

- As shown in the previous SQL command, the value of FL is shown in single quotation marks. Whenever a string literal is used as part of a search condition, it must be enclosed in single quotation marks
- It will be interpreted exactly as listed inside the single quotation marks
- If the target value contains only numbers, the single quotation marks are not required
- If you entered the previous query with no single quotation marks you would get an error



The value 1010 for the Customer# column is not enclosed in single quotes because it is defined as a numeric column



Look at the output of this query. In addition to the description of the books table, do you notice anything peculiar?

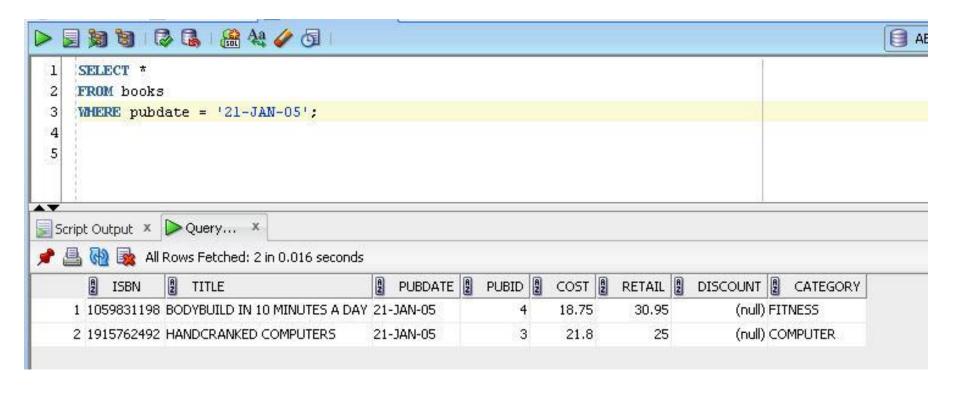
- The ISBN of the BOOKS table is defined as a character (VARCHAR2) or text field rather than a numeric field, since some ISBN values could contain letters
- In this particular instance, none of the values stored in the ISBN contain any letters
- This means you can search the field using a search condition specified as numeric (without any quotation marks)
- However, if one of the records being searched contained a letter in the ISBN field, an error would have been returned by Oracle 12c

- In other words, it did work in this case, but it might not always work
- Using single quotation marks ultimately depends on whether the field is defined to hold text or only numeric data
- Therefore, always use single quotation marks if the column is defined as anything other than a numeric field
- Remember, if you don't know if a column is defined to hold numeric values, use the DESCRIBE table_name command to see the table columns definitions

Rules for Dates

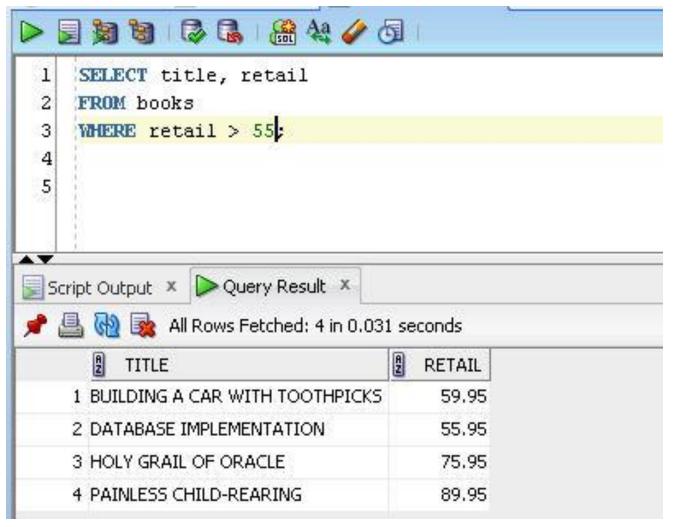
- Sometimes, you might need to use a date as a search condition
- Oracle 12c displays dates in the default format of DD-MON-RR, with MON being the standard three letter abbreviation for the month, you will see it in our text book as DD-MON-YY, RR is the Y2K compliant value for the date and Oracle considers it to be the default
- In the BOOKS table, the PUBDATE field contains letters and hyphens
- Dates are not considered numeric values when Oracle 12c performs searches
- This means date fields must be enclosed in single quotation marks

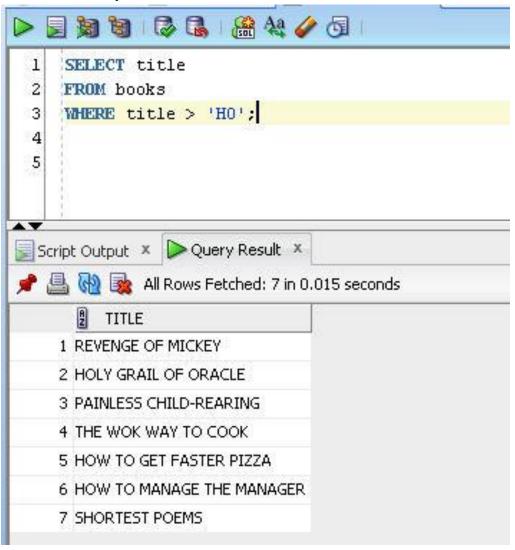
Rules for Dates

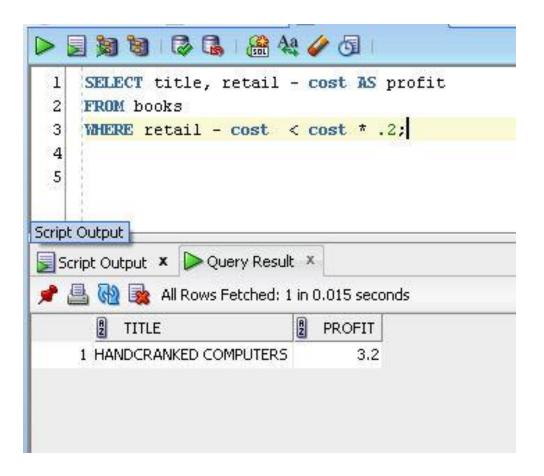


Operator	Description
=	Equality, equal to
>	Greater than
<	Less than
<>, !=, ^=	Not equal to, syntax can be entered three different ways
<=	Less than or equal to
>=	Greater than or equal to

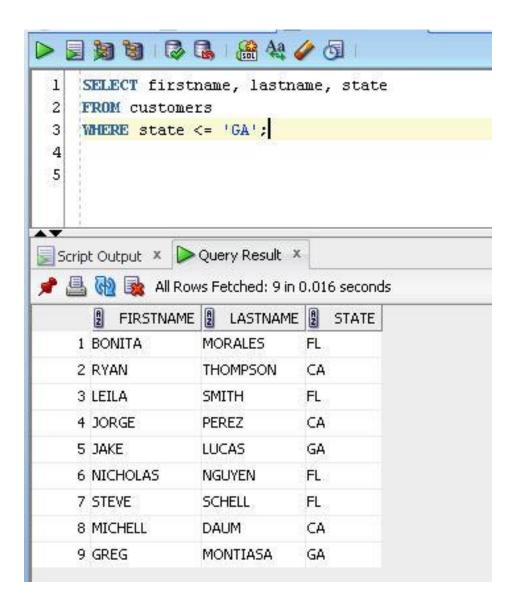
- So far, we have used the equal sign (the equality operator) to evaluate search conditions
- Oracle 12c has returned results containing the exact value that was provided
- There are many situations that are not based on an "equal to" condition
- A comparison operator indicates how the data should relate to a given search value
- When working with dollar amounts, remember that Oracle 12c does not have a currency data type. Therefore, you cannot use search conditions with \$ or , in the search condition

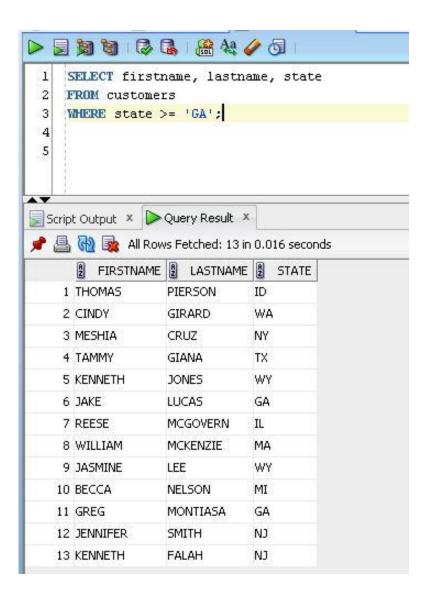


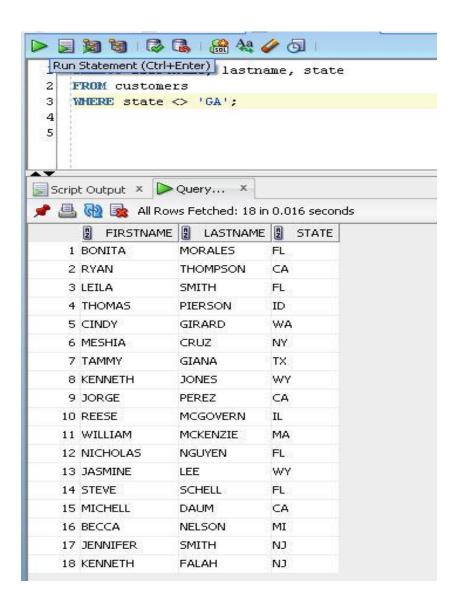




Comparison operator used between two expressions







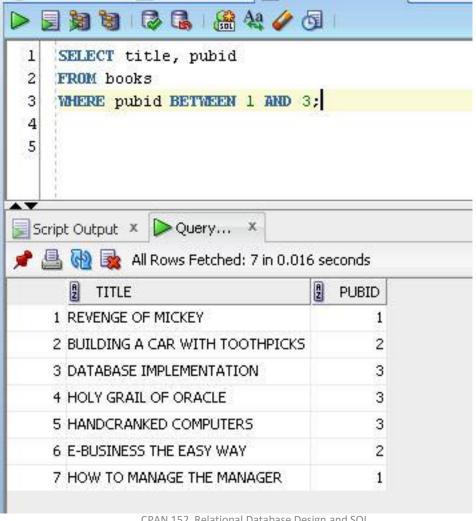
Other Comparison Operators

Operator	Description
[NOT] BETWEEN x AND y	Allows a user to specify a range of values
[NOT] IN (x, y,)	Similar to the OR operator
[NOT] LIKE	Use for searching patterns, uses the wildcards of % and _
IS [NOT] NULL	Allows users to search for records that have no entry in the specified field

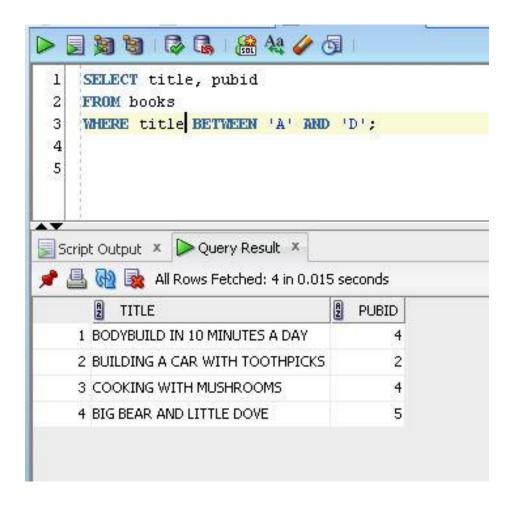
BETWEEN ... AND Operator

- Searches a range between a low boundary and a high boundary
- Boundaries must be specified in that order
- Begin and end points are inclusive

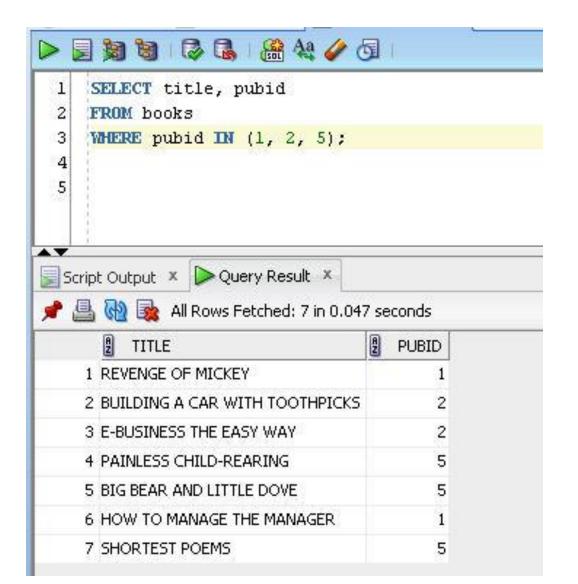
BETWEEN ... AND Operator

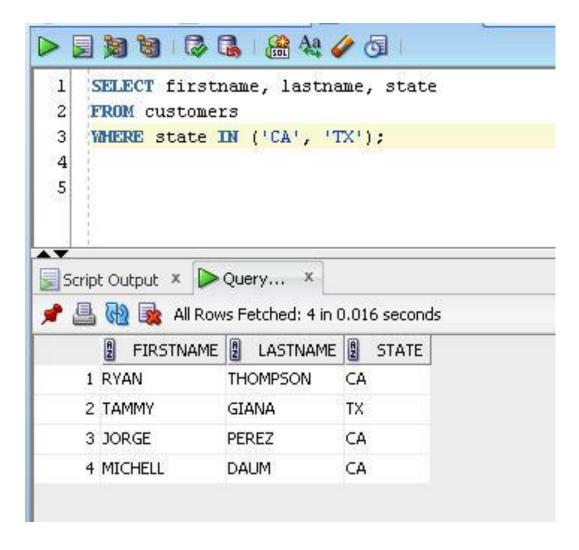


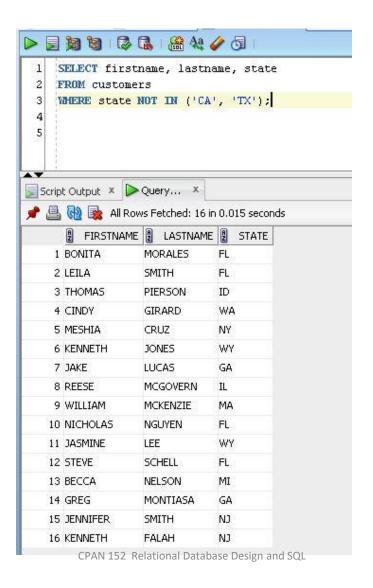
BETWEEN ... AND Operator



- Returns values that match one of the values specified in the value list
- List must be enclosed in parentheses and the values in the list must be separated by commas



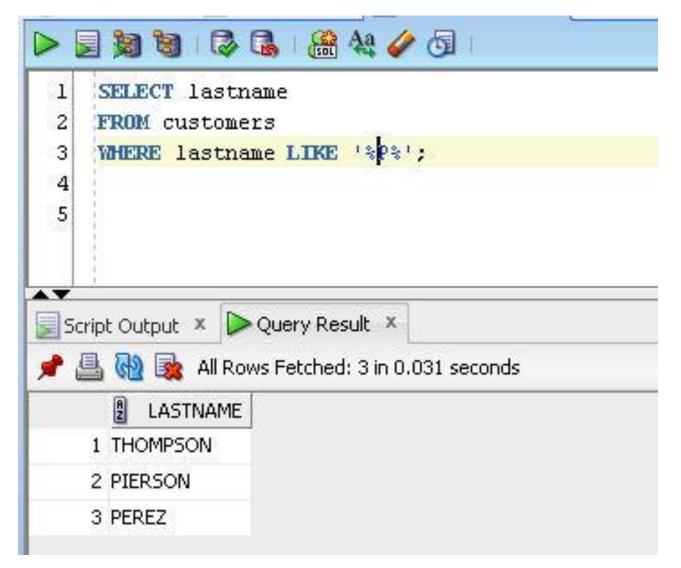


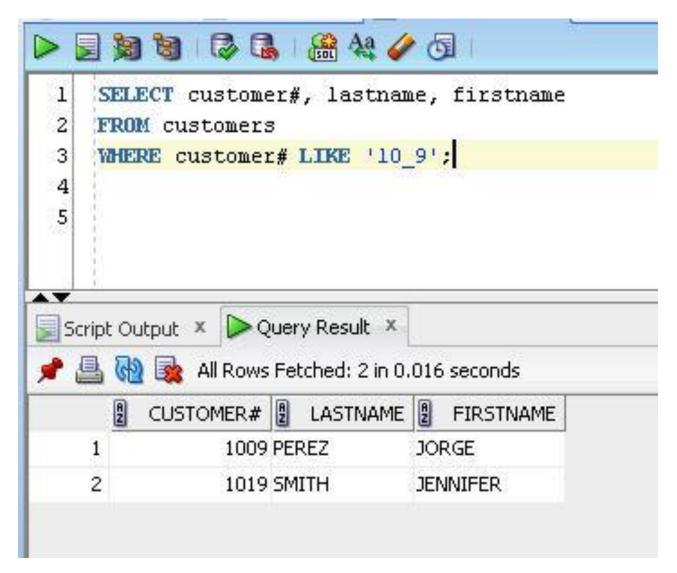


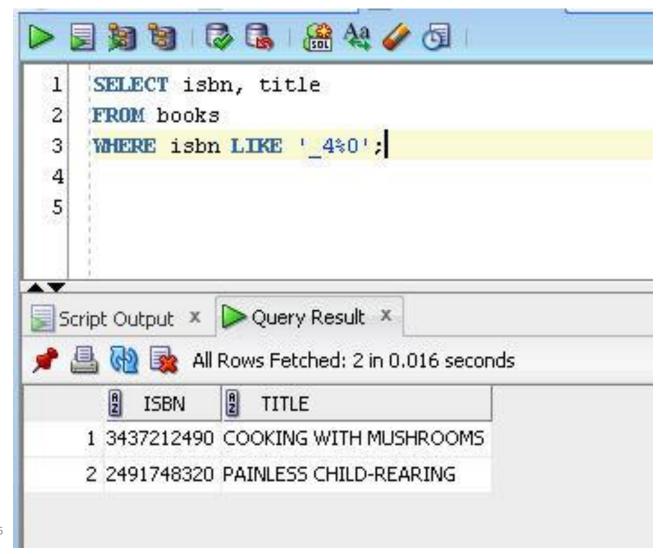
LIKE Operator

- The LIKE operator is used with wild cards to search for patterns
- Wildcard characters can be used to represent one or more alphanumeric characters
- The wildcard characters available for Oracle 10g are % and underscore
- •% is used to represent any number of characters, while underscore is used to represent exactly one character

```
SELECT lastname
    FROM customers
    WHERE lastname LIKE 'P%';
Script Output 🗴 🕞 Query Result 🗴
📌 📇 🙌 🗽 All Rows Fetched: 2 in 0.016 seconds
       LASTNAME
    1 PIERSON
    2 PEREZ
```

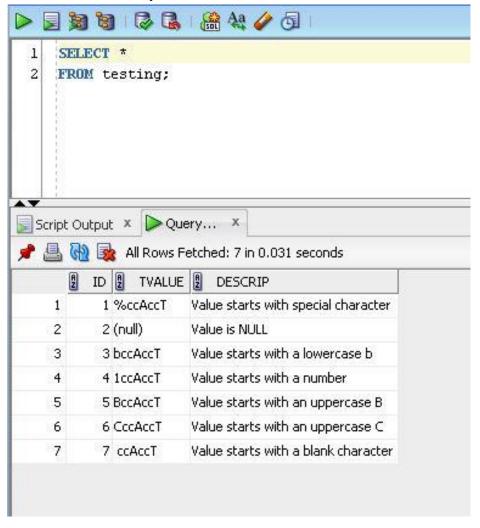






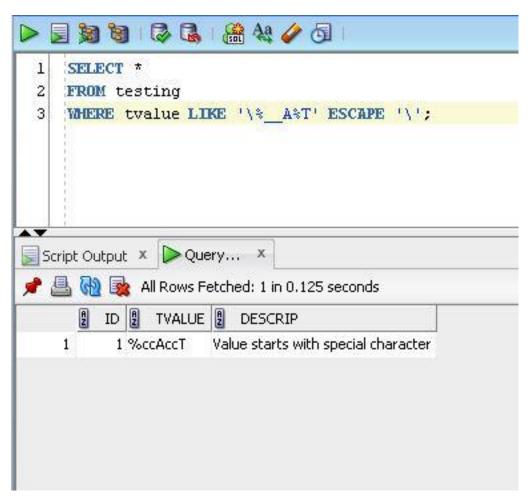
- What if you need to use the LIKE operator to search for patterns but also need to search for a wildcard character as a literal in your value
- You need to search value that starts with a % symbol, and contains an uppercase A as the fourth character, and ends with an uppercase T
- In this query you need to use the wildcard characters _ and % with the LIKE operator but you also need to search for a literal % symbol as the first character

- The LIKE operator includes the ESCAPE option for indicating when wildcard symbols should be used as literals rather than translated as wildcard characters
- This option allows the user to select the escape character
- The escape character must precede any wildcard characters in the search pattern that should be interpreted literally, not as wildcard characters



Notice the first row in this table, it begins with a % symbol

This table is not part of the Just Lee script, I will provide a new script for you to run to create this table



Notice the \ character in front of the first % symbol

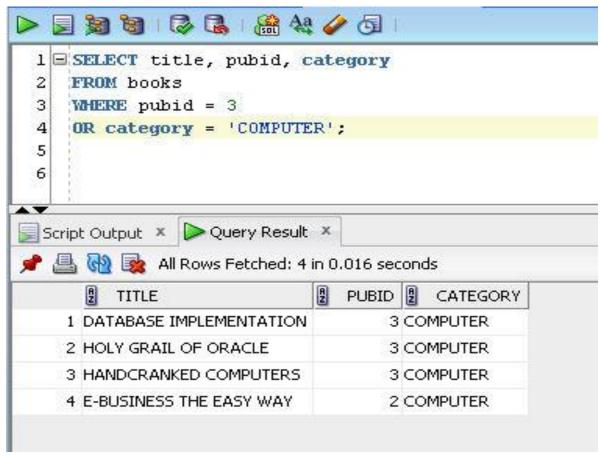
This is the ESCAPE character, its function is defined with the ESCAPE keyword followed by the \ symbol defining it as the escape symbol

The first % symbol is taken as a literal % symbol, where the second % in the statement is used a wildcard because the ESCAPE symbol is not used in front of it

- There may be times when you need to search for records based on two or more search conditions
- You use logical operators to combine search conditions
- The logical operators AND and OR are the most common
- The NOT operator we mentioned earlier is also a logical operator. It is used to reverse the meaning of a search condition, rather than to combine them

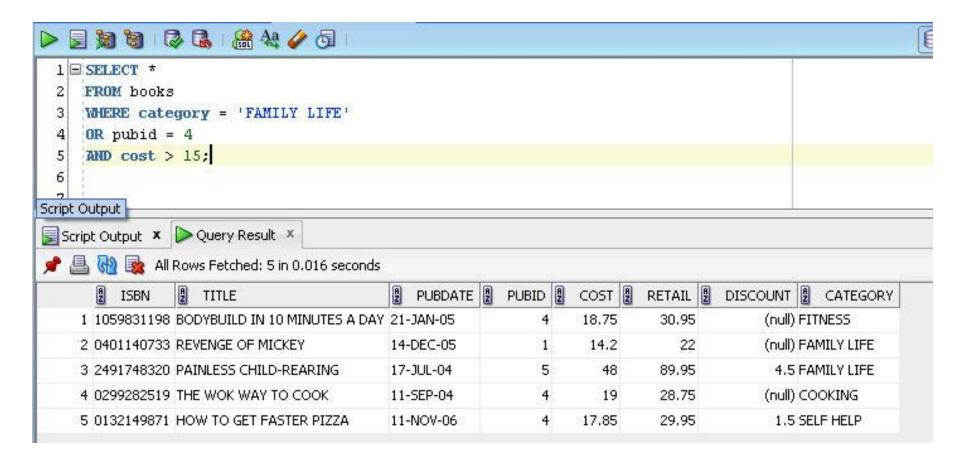
- When queried with a WHERE clause, each record in the table is compared to the condition
- If the condition is TRUE when compared to a record the record is included in the results
- When the AND operator is used in a WHERE clause, both conditions (combined by the AND operator), must evaluate as being TRUE for the record to be included in the results

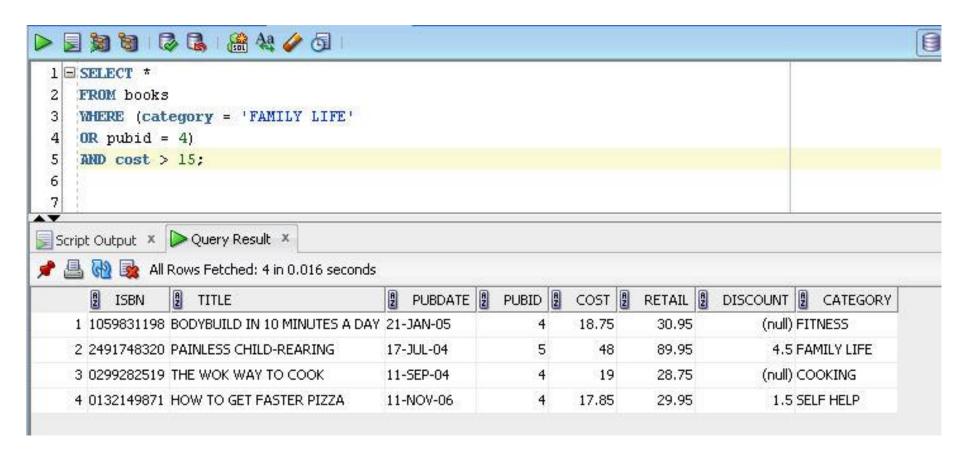
```
1 ■ SELECT title, pubid, category
    FROM books
    WHERE pubid = 3
    AND category = 'COMPUTER';
 5
 6
AY
Script Output 🗴 🕟 Query Result 🗴
      🙀 🏂 All Rows Fetched: 3 in 0.016 seconds
                              PUBID 2
        TITLE
                                      CATEGORY
    1 DATABASE IMPLEMENTATION
                                 3 COMPUTER
    2 HOLY GRAIL OF ORACLE
                                 3 COMPUTER
    3 HANDCRANKED COMPUTERS
                                 3 COMPUTER
```



If you are interested in a list of books published by Publisher 3 OR in the COMPUTER Category, you can use the OR operator

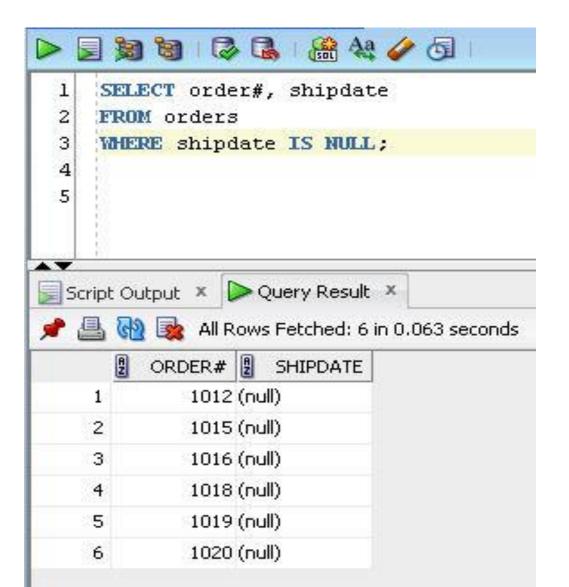
- With the OR operator only one of the conditions must evaluate to TRUE to have the record included in the results
- Using a series of OR logical operators to join conditions that are based on the same column is identical to using the IN comparison operator

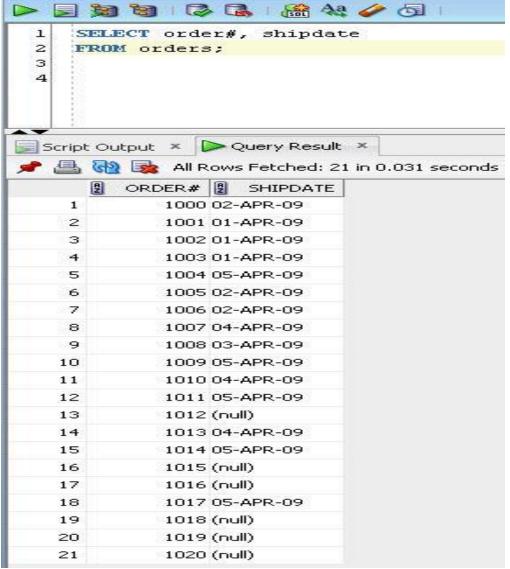




- The order of the logical operators is important
- The WHERE clause can contain multiple types of operators. You have to know the order in which they are resolved:
 - Arithmetic operations are resolved first
 - Comparison operators (<, >, =, LIKE, etc) are solved next
 - Logical operators are lower in precedence and are evaluated last – in the order of NOT, AND and then OR
 - To change the order of evaluation, parentheses are used

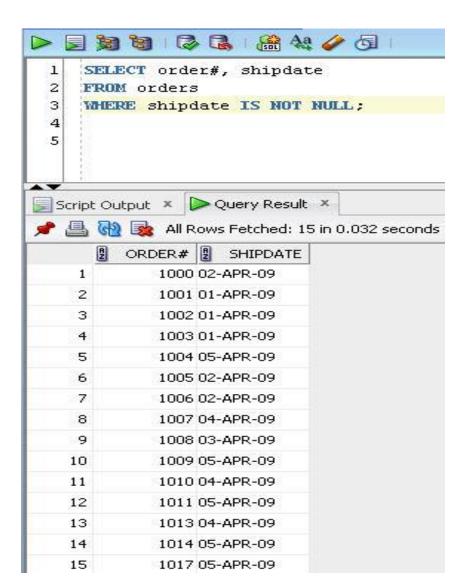
- When performing arithmetic operations or search conditions, NULL values can return unexpected results
- A NULL value simply means that no value has been stored in a particular field
- A NULL is not a blank space. It is an unknown value since a value has not been supplied to a field
- When searching for NULL values you cannot use the = sign because there
 is not a value available to use for comparison in the search condition.
 This is where IS NULL is used

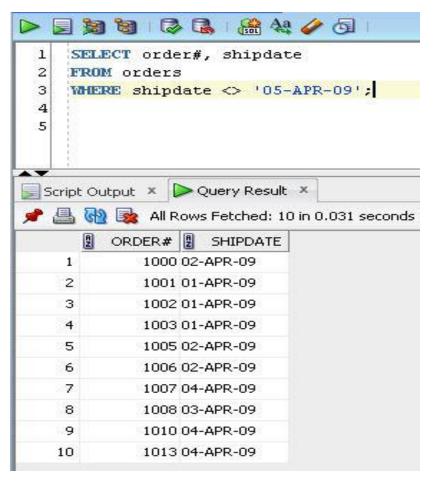




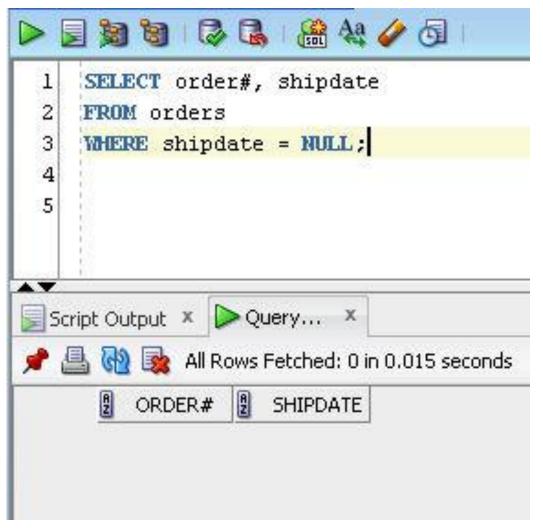
Notice ORDER# 1012, 1015, 1016, 1018, 1019, and 1020 all have a NULL value for the SHIPDATE

This was confirmed on the previous slide





Notice that the records for ORDER# 1012, 1015, 1016, etc. are not visible since these do not contain a value for SHIPDATE



Be aware that using = NULL will never return an error

However it always returns no rows

- The ORDER BY clause is used for displaying the results of a query in sorted order
- The ORDER BY clause is listed at the end of the SELECT statement
- You can sort output in either ascending (ASC) or descending (DESC) sequence

```
SELECT [DISTINCT | UNIQUE] (*, columnname [ AS alias], ...)

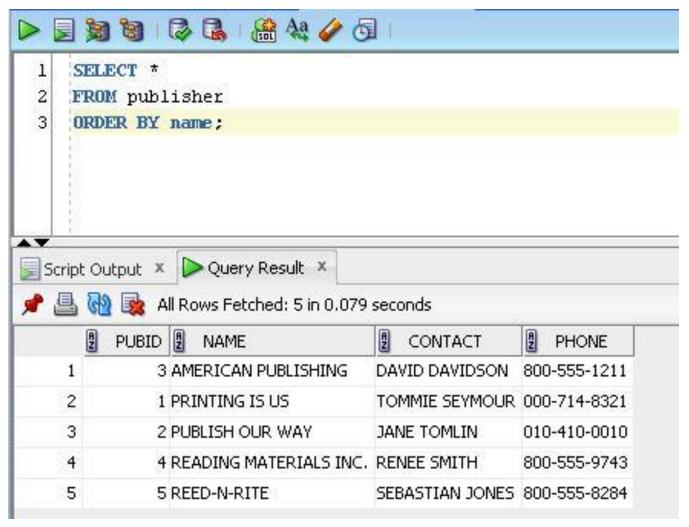
FROM tablename
[WHERE condition]

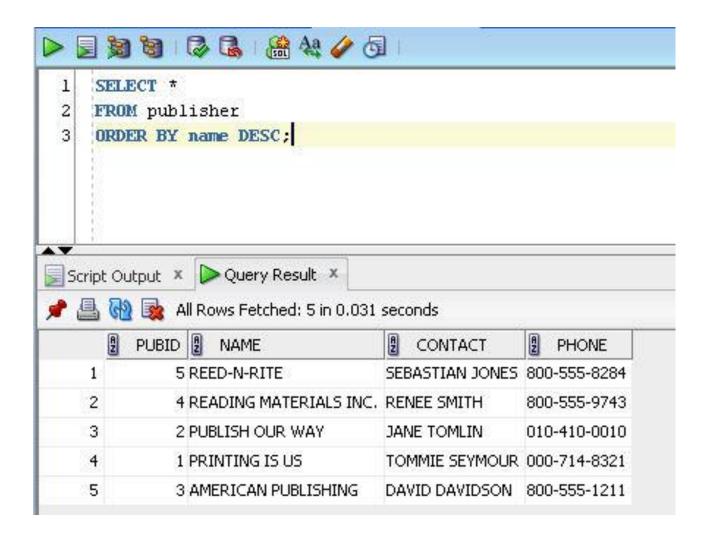
[GROUP BY group_by_expression]

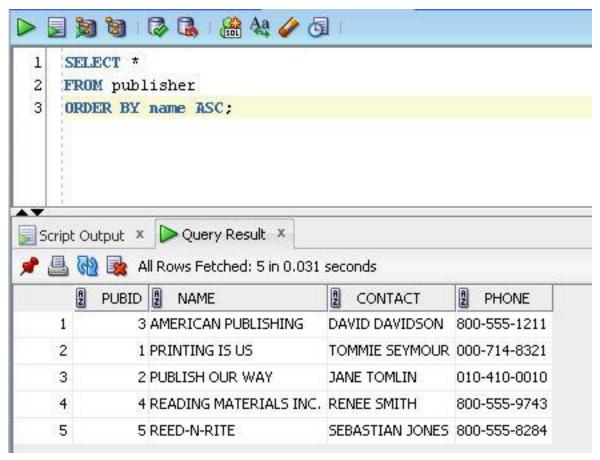
[HAVING group_condition]

[ORDER BY columnname];
```

- When sorting in ascending order, values will be listed in this sequence:
 - Numeric values
 - Character values
 - NULL values
- If the order is not specified, ASC is the default



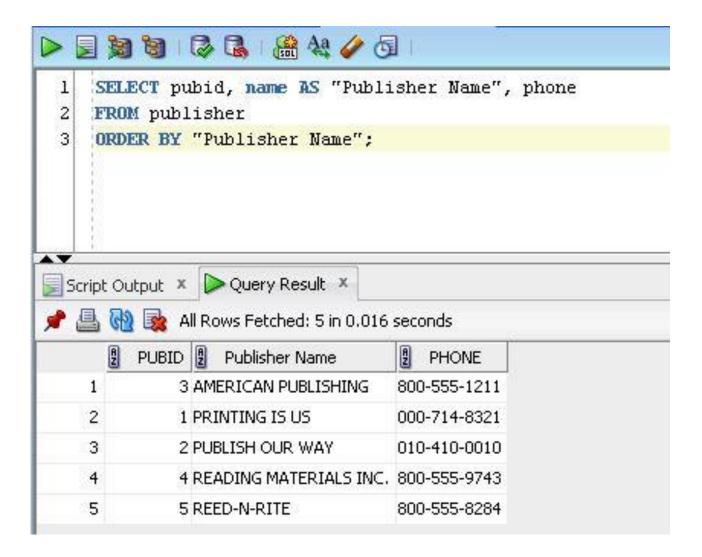


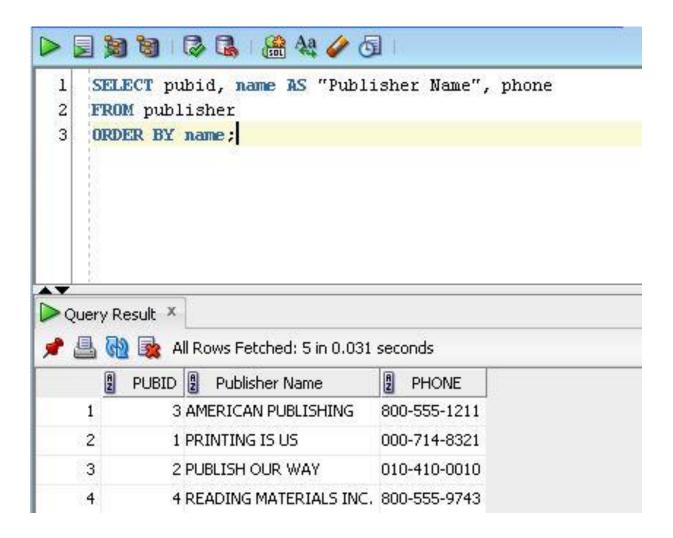


It is common to use the ASC keyword with the ORDER BY clause to eliminate any possible confusion

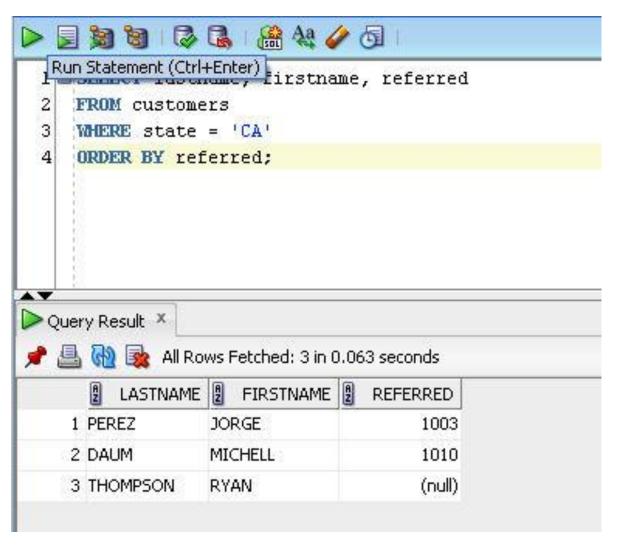
- When sorting is ascending order, values are listed in this order:
 - 1. Blank and special characters
 - 2. Numeric values
 - 3. Character values (uppercase first)
 - 4. NULL values

- •If a column alias is given to a field in the SELECT clause, and that field is also used in the ORDER BY clause, you can use the column alias in the ORDER BY clause, although it is not required
- This is shown on the next two slides

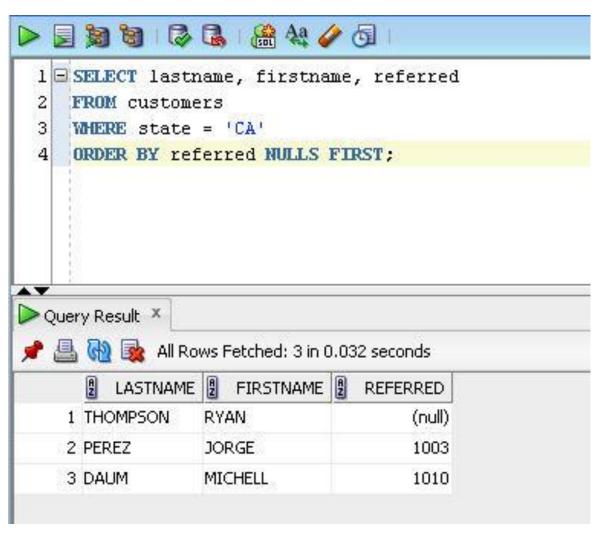




- The ORDER BY clause can be used with the optional NULLS FIRST or NULLS LAST keywords to change the order in which the NULL values will be listed
- By default, nulls are listed last when the results are sorted in ascending order, and first when sorted in descending order



The NULL value is listed last in the output for REFERRED, this is the default



The NULL value is listed first in the output for REFERRED, when NULLS FIRST is specified

ORDER BY Clause - Secondary

- When you only specify one clause in the ORDER BY, it is referred to as a primary sort
- In some cases, you may also want to include a secondary sort
- A secondary sort provides an alternative field to use if an exact match occurs between two or more rows in the primary sort
- The limit on the number of columns that can be used in the ORDER BY clause is 255

ORDER BY Clause – Secondary Sort

Notice the output, first of all look at the STATE column, it is sorted in descending sequence, so WYOMING (WY) is listed first

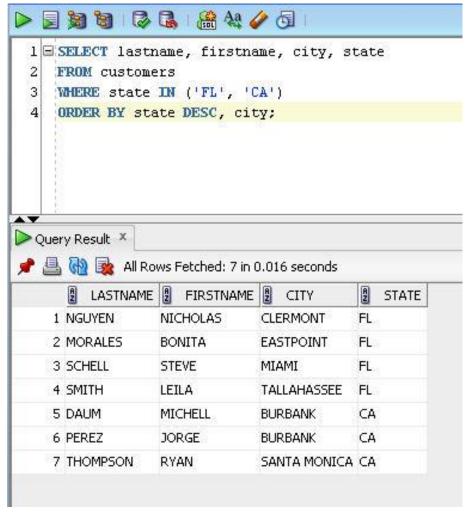
Now look at the CITY column, it is sorted in ascending sequence within each state, so CHEYENNE is listed before CODY for WYOMING (WY)



Sorting By SELECT Order

- Another alternative for specifying the sort order is to use the selected column number rather than the column name
- This is also referred to as ordering by column ordinals

Sorting By SELECT Order

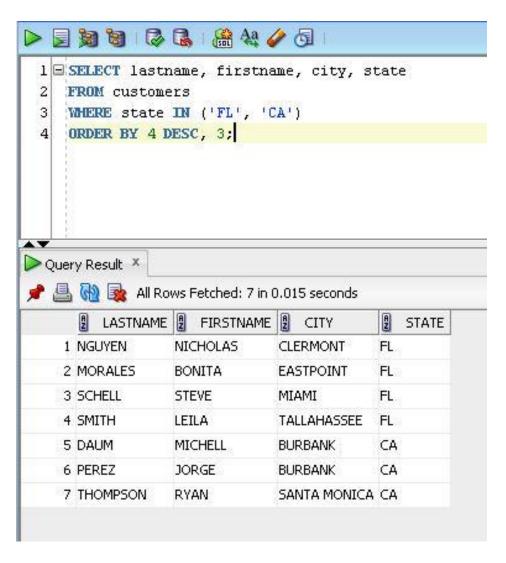


Another example showing a WHERE clause to restrict the rows being displayed to FL and CA

Again STATE is in descending sequence and CITY is in ascending sequence

This is the standard method we have used so far

Sorting By SELECT Order



Another example showing the WHERE clause to restrict the rows being displayed to FL and CA

Again STATE is in descending sequence and CITY is in ascending sequence

This method is using the column ordinals so the sort is being done by the fourth column listed in the SELECT (STATE) and then the secondary sort on the third column listed in the SELECT (CITY)