

Concat and substring - Text lecture

Section 2, Lecture 17

CONCAT - Use to add columns together for display

```
SELECT CONCAT(LAST_NAME, ' ', FIRST_NAME)
FROM actors;
```

Returns same number of rows, but with our calculated row.

SQL lets you rename columns for display as well:

```
SELECT CONCAT(LAST_NAME, ' ', FIRST_NAME) AS
ACTOR_NAME
FROM actors;
```

To grab certain data from the rows under a column (instead of all the data) you can use substring:

```
SELECT LAST_NAME, SUBSTRING(LAST_NAME,1,3)
FROM actors;
```

A useful query to generate user name from first_name and last_name columns:

```
SELECT FIRST_NAME
      ,LAST_NAME
      ,SUBSTRING(FIRST_NAME,1,1)
      ,CONCAT(SUBSTRING(FIRST_NAME,
```

```
1,1),LAST_NAME) AS USER_NAME  
FROM actors;
```

Select allows you to name columns with spaces using “”, you can create new columns, and calculate columns. You can reuse columns for basically anything.

```
SELECT CONCAT(LAST_NAME, ', ', FIRST_NAME) AS  
"Actor's Names"  
    ,LAST_NAME AS LNAME  
    ,FIRST_NAME AS "First Name"  
    ,CONCAT(SUBSTRING(FIRST_NAME,  
1,1),LAST_NAME) AS USER_NAME  
    ,'Any Text' AS Anything  
    ,1+2      AS Math  
FROM actors;
```