Cheat Sheet: Text Functions

SUBSTR:
Extracts a portion of a string.

Syntax:
SUBSTR(original_string,position[,substring_length])

It returns a portion of *original_string*, beginning at *position*, *substring_length* characters long.

If *position* is negative Oracle counts backward from the end of the original string.

The *substring_length* parameter is optional. If it is omitted, the function returns all characters to the end of *original_string*.

UPPER:
Returns the string with all letters uppercase.

Syntax:
UPPER(original_string)

LOWER:
Returns the string with all letters lowercase.

Syntax:
LOWER(original_string)

INITCAP:
Returns the string with the first letter of each word in uppercase, all other letters in lowercase.

Syntax:
INITCAP(original_string)

REPLACE:
Returns the string with every occurrence of *search_string* replaced with *replacement_string*. If *replacement_string* is omitted or null, then all occurrences of *search_string* are removed from the original string.

Syntax:
REPLACE(original_string,search_string,replacement_string)

TRANSLATE:
Returns the string with every occurrence of each character in *from_string* replaced with its corresponding character in *to_string*. If *to_string* is an empty string or null, the function returns null. Characters at the end of *from*_string that don't have a corresponding character in *to_string* are removed from the original string.

Syntax:
TRANSLATE(original_string,from_string,to_string)

LENGTH:
Returns the length of the string.

Syntax:
LENGTH(string)

INSTR:
Returns the position in which one string is found within another string.

Syntax:
INSTR(main_string,substring[,position[,occurrence]])

The *position* and *occurrence* parameters are optional. If *position* is omitted the search starts at the beginning of the main string. If *occurrence* is omitted the function returns the position of the first occurrence of the *substring*.

If *position* is a negative number, then the start position is counted backwards from the end of the string.

If the *substring* is not found within the main string the function returns 0.