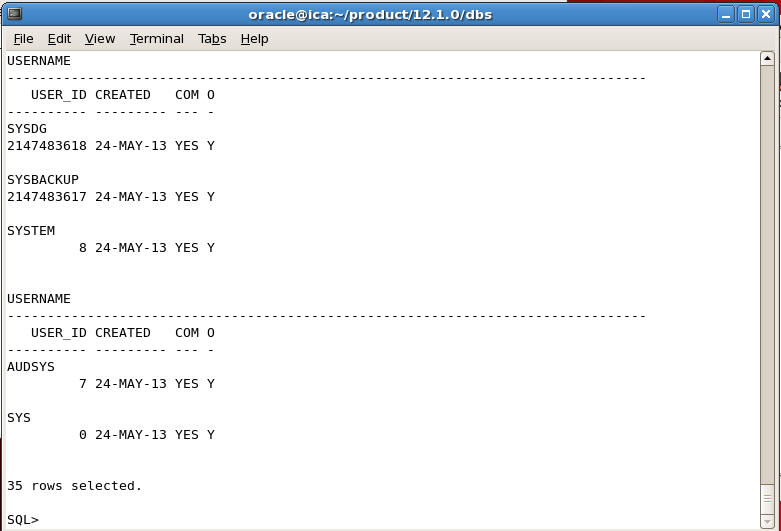
**Simple and useful hints for formatting output in SQL\*Plus**

While using Oracle SQL\*Plus for interacting with the database you must have many times seen unstructured output for SQL queries. i.e. the output is hard to interpret.     
  
Like for example if you give a query like this

 SQL> select \* from all\_users;

You will get a output like this

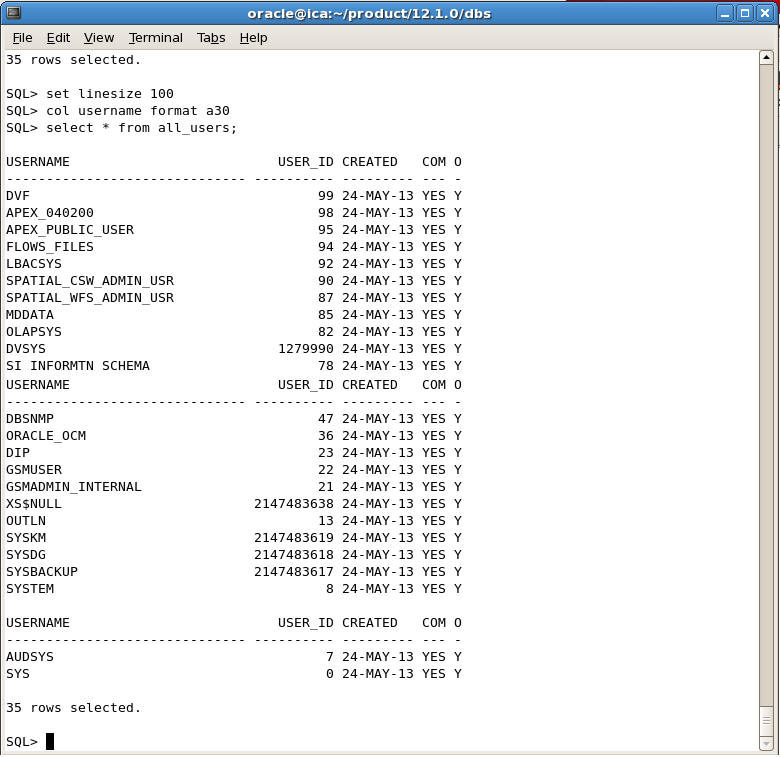


You can easily structured the output by adjusting the line size and formatting the column by typing the following commands

SQL> set linesize 100  
SQL> col username format a30



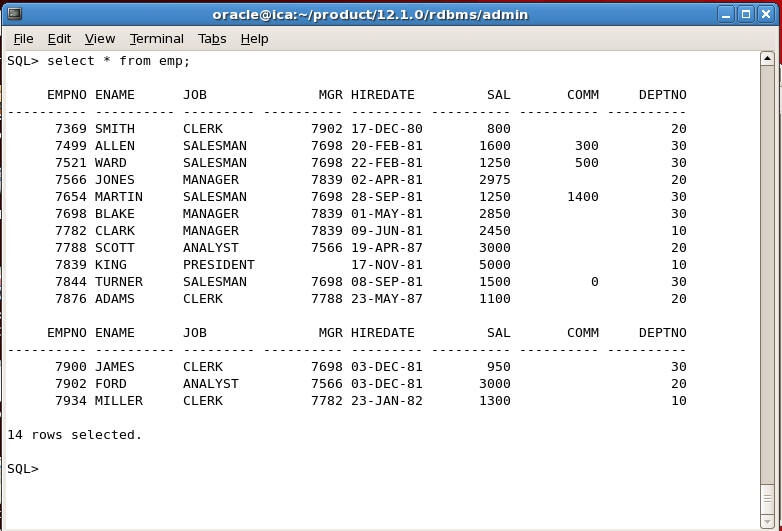
And then again give the same query, you will see the output in well structured format as shown below



**Formatting Number Values in SQL Plus**

You can also set Number format so see the numeric values with commas for easy reading.

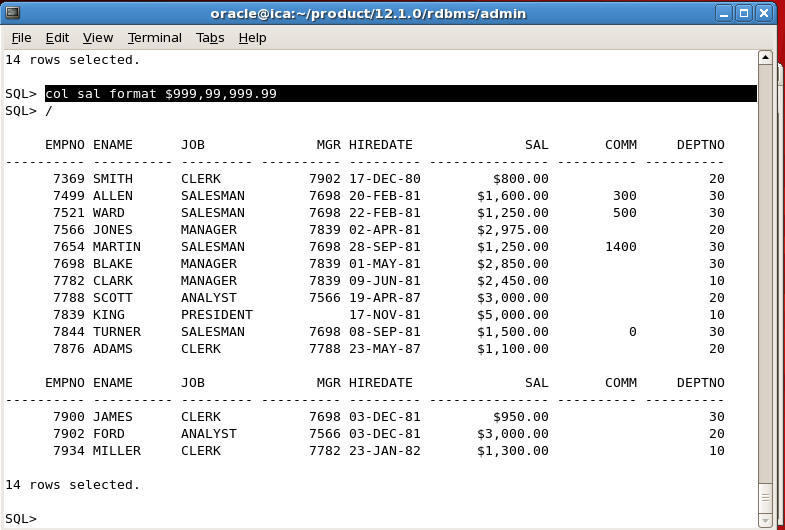
For example if you select the rows from scott emp table you will see the output like this



In the above output the salary column is shown without any formatting which is the default in SQL Plus. If you want to format numeric column values with commas, you can format it like this for example

SQL> col sal format $999,99,999.99

and now you will get the output like this



Similarly you can also format all numeric values by giving the following command

SQL> set numformat "999,99,999.99"

Remember the above command will format all numeric values i.e. even empno, deptno etc will be shown in the format, which you don't want in most case.

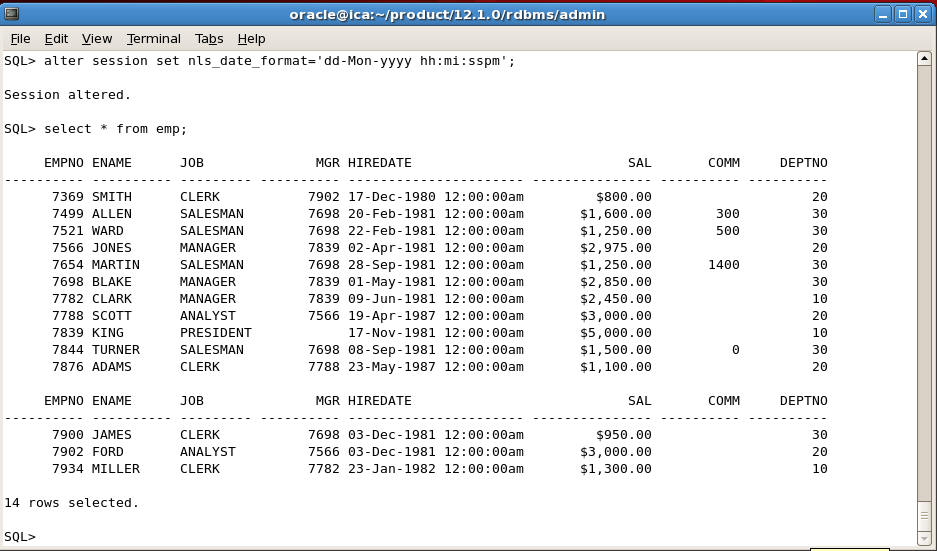
**Format DATES in SQL Plus**

Similarly you can also format date values in whatever date format you want by setting the session variable NLS\_DATE\_FORMAT

For example if you set it to the following

SQL> alter session set nls\_date\_format='dd-Mon-yyyy hh:mi:sspm';

You will get the output like this

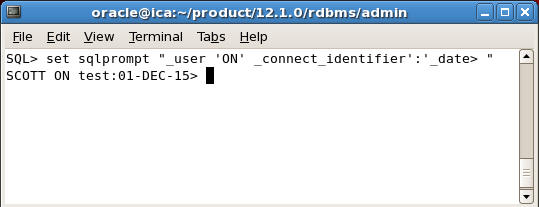


**Changing SQL Prompt in SQL PLus**

You can change the default SQL> prompt in SQL Plus to something more meaningful like you can show username and SID and date in the prompt by giving the following command

SQL> set sqlprompt "\_user 'ON' \_connect\_identifier':'\_date> "

Then SQL Prompt will change to the following



This is particularly useful if you work on multiple databases.