

# An Introduction to Writing Reports Using SQL\* Plus

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## ☒ Page and Line Size

- i **set linesize** *n* – determines the width of the report. Common settings are 80 and 132
- i **set pagesize** *n* – determines the length of the report. Set to 30 to see page breaks. Other common settings are 55 and 60.

## ☒ Page Titles (Headers) and Page Footers (Bottoms)

**ttitle** – default settings like centered output and inclusion of page number and current date are sufficient for common tasks. The vertical bar character (|) helps to output more than one lines in the report title. For e.g., ttitle 'System X Incorporated | Guwahati' will result in the report header being –

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System X Incorporated  
Guwahati

**bttitle**- places something on the bottom of the report. Usage is same as title, but output restricted to single line. Default placement is center, which can be changed using the right/left keyword with the bttitle command

👉 Switch off the ttitle and bttitle by using the commands set ttitle off or set bttitle off as the case may be.

## ☒ Formatting Columns

**column** – formats column display. Usage is column *column\_name* format “ “. Multiple column statements may be used.

Format Character	Example	Description
9	format 9999999	Determines the display width based on the number of digits entered. In case of overflow, shows '#####'. No leading zeroes showed
0	format 099999	Displays leading zeroes
	format 999990	Shows 0 when value is zero, instead of blank space
\$	format \$999999	Places a dollar sign in front
B	format B9999	Displays a zero as blank
PR	format 9999PR	Places <> around a negative number

	format 99,9999	To place comma at appropriate place
	format 99.999	To place point with suitable truncation
MI	format 99999MI	Displays a minus sign for negative values

Format Text	Example	Description
wrap	format a18 wrap	Display specified number of characters before going to next line
word_wrap	format a18 word_wrap	Same as before but doesn't split words, i.e., moves to next line before splitting
truncate	format a18 truncate	Truncates if overflows
justify	justify center/right/left	Controls column heading alignment
heading	heading 'SX   Inc.'	Change column heading

## 🔧 Break Logic and Skip

**break on** *column\_name* – formats output by grouping similar values. Multiple break on statements may be used.

🔑 To implement break logic, order the query by the same column as on which break on command is used.

**skip** *n*– leaves one or more blank lines before displaying the new break column value.

For e.g., break on age skip 2, where age is a column name of some table.

## 🔧 Computing column values at break

**compute sum** – formats output by adding values .

For e.g., compute sum of sales on state, forces totals to be printed for a state when a new state code is printed. compute sum of sales on report is special in the sense that a report total is forced at the end of the output. Multiple compute sum statements may be used.

🔑 Use break on and skip with this command for effective results.