apply best practices to cursor variables, bidirectional cursor access, and error messages. i have a stored procedure that uses a ref cursor parameter to return a result set as a cursor variable. how can i call that procedure and then insert the rows identified by the cursor variable into a table, using forall? fetch the rows of a cursor variable's result set just as you would fetch the rows identified by an explicitly declared cursor. you can in particular use bulk collect against a cursor variable to deposit into a collection all the rows identified by the result set. you can then reference that collection in a forall insert statement. let's take a look at the kind of code you would write to achieve your goal. i will use the jokes and joke_archive tables as my example data structures: create table jokes (joke_id integer, title varchar2(100), text varchar2(4000)) / create table joke_archive (archived_on date, old_stuff varchar2(4000)) / i will place two jokes in the jokes table, as shown in listing 1. code listing 1: inserting jokes into the jokes table begin insert into jokes values (100, ' why does an elephant take a shower? ,' why does an elephant take a shower?' ||' because it can' t fit into the bathtub!'). insert into jokes values (101 ,' how can you prevent diseases caused by biting insects? ,' how can you prevent diseases caused by biting insects? ||' don' t bite any! '). commit. end. i now need to write a procedure that will identify joke text or titles that need to be moved to the joke_archive table.

here is the header of my procedure: create or replace procedure get_title_or_text (title_like_in in varchar2 ,return_title_in in boolean ,joke_count_out out pls_integer ,jokes_out out sys_refcursor) i pass in a string (title_like_in) that acts as a filter to identify the rows in the jokes table to be moved to the archive. i specify whether i want to retrieve titles (return_title_in => true) or text (return_title_in => false). i then return the total number of rows identified by the result set (joke_count_out), as well as the result set itself (joke_out). i use the system-defined weak ref cursor type, sys_refcursor (available in oracle9i database release 2 and later).

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