Letter Generation for Banner 7

Job Aid: Defining Variables (GLRVRBL)

Introduction

Use the Variable Rules Definition Form (GLRVRBL) to define, maintain, and copy variable rules.

Banner form

Procedure

Follow these steps to use the Variable Rules Definition Form (GLRVRBL).

Step	Action
1	Access the Variable Rules Definition Form (GLRVRBL).
2	Use the table as a guideline to completing the fields on first three blocks of the form.

Field	Description
Application	Enter the name of your application.
Variable	Create a name for your variable, beginning your variable name with an asterisk (*). Note: The same variable name can be used with different applications and defined with different rules.
Description	Enter a description for your variable, up to 30 characters.
Type	Use the drop-down list to designate the type of variable. This field is not required and can be left blank. If you select a "first" type variable, you want to be sure to choose a field that will always contain information such as first name or last name.
Sequence	These are system-generated fields that identify the number of pieces of information being selected from the database. The first number defines the sequence number of the record currently displayed. The second number defines the total number of records defined for the variable (for example, 1 of 3).
Select	Enter the database column from which data will be extracted, literal text, or a combination of both, for example: 'Dear' || SPRIDEN_FIRST_NAME || SQL functions (such as MAX or MIN) are allowed in the **Select** field. Database columns entered here are not validated against the data dictionary, so be careful to enter the names correctly. Use upper case.
From	Enter the names of all tables that are referenced in the **Select** field. Use the format <owner>.<table><alias>, separating multiple table names with commas.

Procedure, continued

Step	Action
3	Continue completing the fields, using the table as a guideline.

Field	Description
Order By	Enter the names of the database columns used to sort multiple records returned from the database. Use commas to separate multiple column names. These database column names *are* validated against the data dictionary. SQL functions (such as MAX or MIN) are *not* allowed with these field names.
Group By	Enter the names of the database columns used to group multiple records returned from the database. Use commas to separate multiple column names. These database columns *are* validated against the data dictionary. SQL functions (such as MAX or MIN) are *not* allowed with these field names.
Description	Enter an optional description of this selection within the variable. This is an 80-character field.

Procedure, continued

Step	Action
4	Access the Rules block of the form. Note: You will use the Rules block to enter the selection rules that determine how data is selected. PIDM join rules are not required except for a Manual type variable.
5	Use the table as a guideline to completing the fields on the Rules block of the form.

Field	Description
'(' ')'	Use open and closed parentheses to group nested statements for logical evaluation. You can use up to three levels of nested statements. The number of open parentheses on a line must equal the number of closed parentheses.
Data Element	Enter the name of the database column used in the selection rule. The name must be a valid database column in the data dictionary. SQL functions (such as MAX or MIN) are *not* allowed with these column names.
Operator	Enter a SQL operator (=, <>, >, <, and so forth). The operator is used to compare the **Data Element** and **Value** fields.
Value	Enter the value that is compared with the **Data Element** based on the **Operator**. This can be a constant literal, another database column name or alias, combination of a constant literal and database column name, dynamic parameter, or subquery. Use upper case. Note: Do not enter a value if the **Operator** contains *NULL* or *IS NOT NULL*.
AND/OR	Enter the connector that links rules with AND or OR logic. All lines in the Rules block, except the last line, must contain a connector.

6	Click the **Save** icon.
7	Click the **Exit** icon. Result: You will see a message that the variable is compiling. If it successfully compiles, the form will close and you will be returned to the Banner main menu. If it does not successfully compile, you will receive an error message.