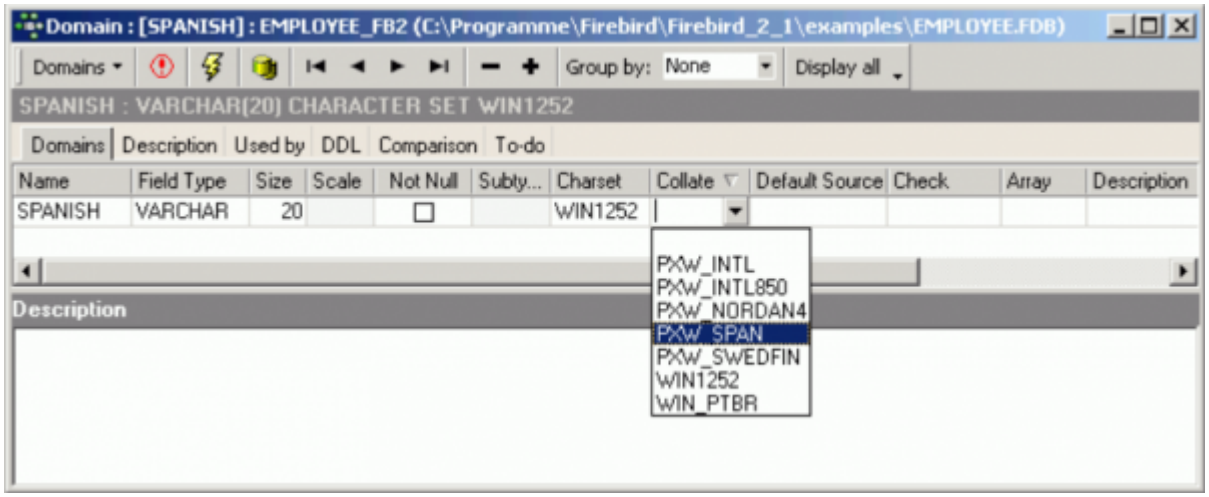
Collate / Collation

Collations define the sort ordering for things like ORDER BY. Collations also define the casing rules for things like UPPER() and LOWER().

A special collation sequence can be specified for CHAR and VARCHAR field columns; the COLLATE parameter allows fields to be collated according to a certain language/group of languages e.g. collate according to the German language when using Win1252. A full list of collations for database version used, can be found in the system table, RDB$COLLATIONS (the RDB$CHARACTER_SET_ID refers for which character set the collations are for.

In IBExpert the collation sequence can be specified when defining the character set for a domain or field:



The collation options are offered in IBExpert in a drop-down list, after specifying the character set.

In DDL it is specified using the keyword COLLATE and the respective character set table, for example:

```
CREATE DOMAIN dom_city VARCHAR(20)
COLLATE PXW_INTL850;

CREATE DOMAIN User_Name VARCHAR(20)
CHARACTER SET DOS437
DEFAULT USER
NOT NULL
COLLATE PDOX_ASCII
```

The parameter sequence is important, as the collation sequence must be specified last.

Since Firebird 2.5, there is also a collation option for numerals (only in Unicode collation):

```
NUMERIC-SORT={0 | 1}
```

The default, 0, sorts numerals in alphabetical order:

```
1
```

```
10
100
2
20
```

The parameter, 1, sorts numerals in numerical order:

```
1
2
10
20
100
```

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