### query (Query For Data Source Records To Merge)

This element contains the Structured Query Language string that shall be run against the specified external data source to return the set of records from the external data which shall be imported into merged WordprocessingML documents when the mail merge operation is performed.

If this element is omitted, then no query shall be associated with the current data source.

[Example: Consider a WordprocessingML document that has been connected to an external database. In addition, consider that the data specifies that the [table](table.docx) within the database titled Documentation shall be the specific [table](table.docx) whose data is imported. This shall be specified in WordprocessingML as follows:

<w:query w:val="SELECT \* FROM Documentation" />

The query element specifies the syntax for the data source query via its val attribute. end example]

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| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [mailMerge](mailMerge.docx) (§) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (String Value) | Specifies that its contents will contain a string.The contents of this string are interpreted based on the context of the parent [XML](XML.docx) element.[Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment:<w:[pPr](pPr.docx)> <w:[pStyle](pStyle.docx) w:val="heading1" /> </w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>The value of the val attribute is the ID of the associated paragraph style's styleId. However, consider the following fragment:<w:[sdtPr](sdtPr.docx)> <w:[alias](alias.docx) w:val="SDT Title Example" /> ...</w:[sdtPr](sdtPr.docx)>In this case, the decimal number in the val attribute is the [caption](caption.docx) of the parent structured document tag. In each case, the value is interpreted in the context of the parent element. end example]The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_String](ST_String.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

The following [XML](XML.docx) Schema fragment defines the contents of this element:

<complexType [name](name.docx)="CT\_String">

 <attribute [name](name.docx)="val" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_String](ST_String.docx)" use="required"/>

</complexType>