

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS in Library & Information Work

Third edition

A C Montgomery



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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS **in Library & Information Work**

A reference handbook of British usage

Third edition

Compiled and edited by

A C Montgomery



The Library Association · London

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Published by Library Association Publishing Limited,
7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE

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First published 1975
Second edition 1982
Third edition 1986

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Montgomery, A.C.

Acronyms and abbreviations in library and
information work. — 3rd ed.

1. Library science — Abbreviations
2. Information science — Abbreviations

I. Title

020'.148 Z1006

ISBN 0-85365-946-X

Camera-ready copy produced by the compiler

Printed in Great Britain by
Dotesios Printers Ltd, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a quick reference listing of the acronyms and abbreviations encountered in the general English language literature of librarianship and information work. Selection has been based firmly on usage in the literature. The fields of archives, museums, the commercial book trade, education, translation, management and computer and micrographic technology are included selectively. The coverage is of projects, organizations, associations, information resources and services, technical terms; abstracting, indexing and professional services and journals.

Some unofficial abbreviations are included if found in the literature. Coined computer program names which are not strictly acronyms are excluded. Where an acronym or abbreviation was originally used in a specific context but has since become a more generally used term, no reference is made to the original more specific usage. Non-current abbreviations have been retained for readers of older literature.

Acronyms are used very freely in the literature of librarianship, frequently with no explanation at all, and occasionally conflicting expansions or interpretations are given. In this listing, the most accurate interpretations are supplied wherever possible, but much confusion would be avoided if writers of articles would expand abbreviations when they are first used. Since the first edition was published there has been an increasing trend for a large proportion of library/information services (both computerized and manual), conferences, exhibitions, databases, databanks and serials to have their own obvious or contrived abbreviations or acronyms. There is no shortage of humorous entries. In many cases any use of an abbreviation seems to be an unnecessary contraction which has the sole advantage of brevity.

Arrangement and entry details

Entries are arranged in alphabetical order, character by character, including punctuation marks and spaces; duplicated entry terms are given an identification number in brackets to facilitate cross-referencing. Abbreviations commencing with numbers follow the alphabetical sequence.

Each acronym or abbreviation is expanded into the official version where known. Some entries are not

expandable, of some there is no official expansion or more than one, and of others the expansion has not been discovered at the time of writing. These last are given an interpretation in brackets. Details given are generally those current at the time the abbreviation was identified.

Cross-references are supplied for organizations which have changed their names, for organizations or terms with names in several languages, and for other variations. Abbreviated terms for suggested organizations which do not exist but which have been referred to in the literature have the indication 'suggestion' or 'proposal' added. In general, where an information system is operated by one body under contract to or under the sponsorship of another one, the only affiliation given is that of the operating body.

Foreign language expansions are translated where an official or semi-official English translation has been found, and an English interpretation is supplied in brackets where known, even if the full foreign expansion is not available. Transliteration from non-Roman alphabets is as given in the sources and has not been standardised. The country of origin or application is given if known and if not observable from the expansion.

In some cases acronyms can be lengthened by a final 's' which often indicates 'system' or 'service' or is merely a plural. In this listing the fullest version found (except plurals) is given.

Additions and corrections

Since acronyms are constantly being created, this listing can never be entirely complete and up to date, and suggestions from users of the handbook will be welcome.

Acknowledgements

The compiler would like to thank all those people from many countries who have continued to help by contributing new entries, corrections and suggestions. Special thanks go to Mrs P D Montgomery for her help in the preparation of this edition.

A C Montgomery
Dec 1985

A

- A and I** Abstracting and indexing
- A-VIS** Audio-visual information system (US Army)
- AA code** Anglo-American cataloguing code (1908)
- AAA** Association of Authors Agents (UK)
- AAAI** American Association for Artificial Intelligence (USA)
- AABevK** Arbeitsgemeinschaft für das Archiv und Bibliothekswesen in der evangelischen Kirche, Sektion Bibliothekswesen (Working group for archives and libraries in the Lutheran Church, library section) (West Germany)
- AACOBS** Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographic Services
- AACR** Anglo-American cataloguing rules (1967)
- AACR/BT** Anglo-American cataloguing rules -- British text (1967)
- AAL** Association of Assistant Librarians (Library Association, UK) (formerly LAA (1))
- AALED** Association of Assistant Librarians Eastern Division (Library Association, UK) (also known as EDAAL)
- AALL** American Association of Law Libraries (USA)
- AALS** Association of American Library Schools (USA)
- AAISED** Association of Assistant Librarians South East Division (Library Association, UK) (also known as SED and SEDAAL)
- AAP** Association of American Publishers (USA) (formerly ABPC (2))
- AAPAL** Australian Authors and Publishers Agency Ltd
- AARLMP** Afro-American resources and library manpower project (Columbia University, USA)
- AAS** American Antiquarian Society (USA) (National research library of American History)
- ASL** American Association of School Librarians (American Library Association, USA)
- AAUCS** Australian Asian Universities Cooperation Scheme
- AALC** Association of Atlantic Universities Librarians' Committee (Canada)
- AB** Automated bibliography
- ABA (1)** American Booksellers Association (USA)
- ABA (2)** Antiquarian Booksellers Association (International)
- ABA (3)** Australian Booksellers Association
- ABACI** (Association of librarians, archivists and documentalists of the Ivory Coast)
- ABACUS (1)** AB Atomenergi computerised user-oriented services (Sweden)

- ABACUS (2)** Association of Bibliographic Agencies of Britain, Australia, Canada and the United States
- ABADCAM** Association des Bibliothécaires, Archivistes, Documentalistes et Muséographes du Cameroun (Association of librarians, archivists, documentalists and museographers, Cameroon)
- ABAH** Asociación de Bibliotecarios y Archiveros de Honduras (Association of librarians and archivists of Honduras)
- ABASG** Aslib Biological and Agricultural Sciences Group (UK) (also known as BASG)
- ABC (1)** Abridged building classification for architects, builders and civil engineers (UK)
- ABC (2)** Africa Bibliographic Centre (Tanzania)
- ABC (3)** American Bibliographical Centre (USA)
- ABC (4)** AMIGOS Bibliographical Council (USA)
- ABC (5)** Approach-by-concept (Harry Diamond Labs, USA)
- ABC (6)** Association of Booksellers for Children (UK) (proposal)
- ABC (7)** Augmented bibliographic citation
- ABC (8)** Automation of bibliography through computerisation (American Bibliographical Center - Clio Press, USA)
- ABCL** Association of British Columbia Librarians (Canada)
- ABD (1)** Association Belge de Documentation (Belgian association for documentation) (also known as BVD)
- ABD (2)** Association des Bibliothécaires-Documentalistes de l'Institut d'Études Sociales de l'État (Association of librarians and documentalists of the state institute of social studies) (Belgium)
- ABDOSD** Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Bibliotheken und Dokumentationsstellen der Osteuropa-Südosteuropa und DDR-Forschung (East Germany)
- ABDP** Association of British Directory Publishers (UK)
- ABEBD** Associação Brasileira de Escolas de Biblioteconomia e Documentação (Brazilian association of library science and documentation schools)
- ABF** Association des Bibliothécaires Français (France)
- ABGILA** Annals, bulletin and granthlaya of the Indian Library Association (1949-53)
- ABGRA** Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados de la República Argentina (Association of graduate librarians of the Republic of Argentina)
- ABHB** Annual bibliography of the history of the printed book and libraries
- ABI** Association des Bibliothèques Internationales (Association of International Libraries) (also known as AIL (1))
- ABIESI** Asociación de Bibliotecarios de Instituciones de Enseñanza Superior y de Investigación (Mexico)
- ABIP** African books in print (Ife University, Nigeria)

- ABIPAR** Asociación de Bibliotecarios del Paraguay
(Association of Paraguay librarians)
- ABIPC** Abstract bulletin of the Institute of Paper
Chemistry (USA)
- ABIS** Anglo-Brazilian Information Service
- ABLE** Agricultural-biological literature evaluation
- ABLISS** Association of British Library and Information
Science Schools (UK) (formerly SLC(3), then ABLIS(1))
- ABLS (1)** Association of British Library Schools (UK)
(formerly SLC(3), now Association of British Library and
Information Science Schools)
- ABLS (2)** Atlas biomedical literature system (Atlas
Industries, USA)
- ABLS (3)** Bachelor of arts in library science (USA)
- ABLSS** Association of British Library School Students
(UK) (suggestion)
- ABN** Australian bibliographic network
- ABNO** All-but-not-only (possible mode of a retrieval
system, suggested by R Fairthorne)
- ABPA** Australian Book Publishers Association
- ABPC (1)** American book prices current (USA)
- ABPC (2)** American Book Publishers Council (USA) (now
Association of American Publishers)
- ABPR** American book publishing record (RR Bowker, USA)
(also known as BPR)
- ABQ** Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec (Quebec
Library Association) (Canada) (also known as QLA)
- ABS (1)** Association des Bibliothécaires Suisses
(Association of Swiss librarians) (also known as ABS
(2), VSB)
- ABS (2)** Associazione di Bibliotecari Svizzeri
(Association of Swiss librarians) (also known as ABS
(1), VSB)
- ABSEES** (Soviet and East European abstracts series)
(Glasgow University, Scotland, UK)
- ABSTI** Advisory Board on Scientific and Technical
Information (Canada)
- ABT** Arbeitsstelle für Bibliothekstechnik (Institute for
library technology) (West Germany)
- ABTICS** Abstract and book title index card service
(Metals Society, UK)
- ABTPL** Association of British Theological and
Philosophical Libraries (UK) (formerly SCOTAPLL)
- ABU** Agrupación Bibliotecológica del Uruguay
- ABUEN** Asociación de Bibliotecas Universitarias y
Especializadas de Nicaragua
- ABYDSA** Asociación de Bibliotecarios y Documentalistas
Sintemáticos Argentinos (Argentina)
- ACACE** Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing
Education (UK)
- ACARD** Advisory Council for Applied Research and
Development (UK)

ACB (1) Asociación Costarricense de Bibliotecarios
(Costa Rican association of librarians)

ACB (2) Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques
(Canadian Library Association) (also known as CLA (2))

ACBCU Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques de
Collège et d'Université (Canadian Association of College
and University Libraries) (also known as CACUL)

ACBLF Association Canadienne des Bibliothécaires de
Langue Française (Canada) (now Association pour
l'Avancement des Sciences et des Techniques de la
Documentation)

ACCESS (1) Argonne code center exchange and storage
system (Department of Energy, USA)

ACCESS (2) Automated catalog of computer equipment and
software systems (US Army)

ACCESS (3) Architecture, construction and consulting
engineers special services (Stanton Municipal Library,
Sydney, Australia)

ACCESS (4) Architect's central constructional,
engineering, surveying service (Greater London Council,
UK)

ACCIS Advisory Committee for the Coordination of
Information Systems (United Nations)

ACCO Algemene Classificatie Commissie voor de
Overheidsadministratie (General classification committee
for governmental administration) (Netherlands)

ACCT (Agency for cultural and technical co-operation)
(France)

ACCVF Acquisitions, Cataloguing and Circulation Working
Party (Aslib Computer Applications Group, UK)

ACDB Association du Catalogue Documentaire du Bâtiment
(France)

ACE (1) Advisory Centre for Education (UK)

ACE (2) Articles in civil engineering (Bradford
University, UK)

ACEID Asian Centre of Educational Innovation for
Development (Thailand)

ACES Automated circulation and enquiry system (Aberdeen
University, Scotland, UK)

ACIC Aeronautical Chart and Information Center (US Air
Force)

ACIS Australian consolidated industries computer
services

ACL (1) Association of Computational Linguistics (USA)

ACL (2) Assistant county librarian

ACLO Association of Co-operative Library Organisations
(USA)

ACLS (1) American Council of Learned Societies (USA)

ACLS (2) Analog concept learning system

ACM Association for Computing Machinery (USA)

ACMC Association of Canadian Medical Colleges, Associate
Committee on Medical School Libraries

ACML Association of Canadian Map Libraries

ACN Alternative catalog newsletter (Johns Hopkins University, USA)

ACOL Advisory Committee on Libraries (Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, UK)

ACOMPLIS A computerised London information service (Greater London Council Research Library, UK)

ACONDA Activities Committee on New Directions for American Library Association Activities (USA)

ACOOM Advisory Committee on Orientalist Materials (Standing Conference on National and University Libraries, UK)

ACORDD Advisory Committee for the Research and Development Department (British Library, UK) (also known as BLRDDAC)

ACORN (1) Associative content retrieval network (A D Little Inc, USA)

ACORN (2) A classification of residential neighbourhoods

ACOSEEM Advisory Committee on Slavonic and East European Materials (Standing Conference of National and University Libraries, UK) (also known as ACSEEM, formerly SEEG)

ACP Association of Canadian Publishers (formerly Canadian Independent Publishers Association)

ACRILIS Australian Centre for Research in Library and Information Science (Riverina College of Advanced Education, Australia)

ACRL Association of College and Research Libraries (American Library Association, USA)

ACRL-RBMS Association of College and Research Libraries Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (American Library Association, USA)

ACRODABA Acronym data base (USA) (cancelled 1973)

ACRPP Association pour la Conservation et la Reproduction Photographique de la Presse (France)

ACS Advanced communication service

ACSEEM Advisory Committee on Slavonic and East European Materials (Standing Conference on National and University Libraries, UK) (also known as ACOSEEM, formerly SEEG)

ACSF Association des Centres Serveurs Français (Association of French host centres)

ACSI Association Canadienne des Sciences de l'Information (Canada)

ACSIL Admiralty Centre for Scientific Information and Liaison (UK) (later Naval Scientific and Technical Information Centre, now Defence Research Information Centre)

ACSP Advisory Council on Scientific Policy (UK)

ACSTI Advisory Committee for Scientific and Technical Information (UK)

ACSU Advice Centre Servicing Unit (Consumers' Association, UK)

ACT Alternative Community Telephone (Sydney, Australia)
ACTIS Auckland Commercial and Technical Information Service (New Zealand)
ACURIL Association of Caribbean University and Research Institute Libraries
ACW Assessed course work (education)
AD Accession document or ASTIA document (Defense Technical Information Center, USA)
ADAM Advanced data management (Mitre Corp, USA)
ADAPT Automated data analysis using pattern recognition techniques
ADAS Agricultural Development Advisory Service (Ministry of Agriculture, UK)
ADBS Association Française des Documentalistes et des Bibliothécaires Spécialisés (France) (also known as AFDBS)
ADD(1) Accessibility and dissemination of data (Task Group of Committee on Data for Science and Technology, Unesco)
ADD(2) American doctoral dissertations (Association of Research Libraries & University Microfilms, USA)
ADD(S) Automatic document distribution (service) (Defense Technical Information Centre, USA)
ADDA Australian Database Development Association
ADDM Association pour le Développement et la Diffusion de l'Information Militaire (Association for the development and dissemination of military information) (France)
ADE (Alternative information service) (Reading, UK)
ADEK Allgemein Datenerhebungskatalog (West Germany)
ADES Association de la Documentation Économique et Sociale (France)
ADHOC Accessible documentation for the House of Commons (UK)
ADI(1) Agence de l'Informatique (France)
ADI(2) American Documentation Institute (USA) (now American Society for Information Science)
ADIC Aktueel Dokumentatie- en Informatie- Centrum (Current information centre) (Amsterdam Public Library, Netherlands)
ADIPA (Association of development research and training institutes of Asia and the Pacific) (Thailand)
ADIT Automated data on instructional technology (USA)
ADIU Armament and Disarmament Information Unit (Sussex University, UK)
ADLIB Adaptive library (management system) (Lipman Management Resources Ltd, UK)
ADLIBS Association of Derbyshire Librarians in Schools (UK)
ADLIBUG Adlib User Group (UK)
ADMIG Australian Drug and Medical Information Group
ADMIRE(1) Automatic diagnostic maintenance information retrieval

ADMIRE (2) Adaptive decision maker in an information-retrieval environment (Stanford University, USA)

ADOK Aufbau-Dokumentation (West Germany)

ADONIS Article delivery over network information systems

ADP (1) Association of Database Producers (UK)

ADP (2) Advanced data processing

ADP (3) Automatic data processing

ADRES Army data retrieval service (US Army)

ADRS Automatic Document Request Service (British Library Lending Division, UK)

ADS (1) Anker Data Systems Ltd (UK)

ADS (2) Automatic duplicating system (Itek Corp, USA)

ADSATIS Australian Defence Science and Technology Information System

ADSTAR Automatic document storage and retrieval

AEBIG Aslib Economics and Business Information Group (UK) (also known as EBIG, EBI)

AEC (1) Administrative, executive, clerical (UK) (Civil Service grade)

AEC (2) Association of Education Committees (UK)

AECBD Army Education Central Book Depot (UK)

AECT Association for Educational Communications and Technology (USA)

AED (1) (Zentralstelle für) Atomkernenergie - Dokumentation (West Germany) (also known as ZAED)

AED (2) Automatic error detection

AEDS Association for Educational Data Systems (USA)

AEEP Association of European Engineering Periodicals (initiated by Unesco and World Federation of Engineering Organisations)

AEG Aslib Electronics Group (UK)

AEIS Advisory, Educational and General Information Services (UK)

AEIDC Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (Alaska University, USA)

AENSB Association de l'École Nationale Supérieure des Bibliothécaires (Association of the national school of librarianship) (France)

AESF Association des Écrivains Scientifiques de France

AESIS Australian Earth Sciences Information System

AETT Association for Educational and Training Technology (UK) (formerly APLET)

AEWIS Army electronic warfare information system (US Army)

AfB (1) Arbeitsstelle für Bibliothekswesen (Institute for library affairs) (West Germany)

AfB (2) Arbeitsstelle für das Büchereiwesen (West Germany)

AF CET Association Française pour la Cybernétique, Economique et Technique (France)

AFDAC Association Française pour la Documentation
Automatique en Chimie (France)

AFDBS Association Française des Documentalistes et des
Bibliothécaires Spécialisés (France) (also known as
ADBS)

AFDIT Associazione Italiana dei Fornitori e Distributori
di Informazione Telematica (Italian association for the
supply and distribution of online information)

AFI Agences Femmes Informations (France)

AFIN Association Française des Informaticiens (France)

AFIPS American Federation of Information Processing
Societies (USA)

AFLA Asian Federation of Library Associations
(formerly FALA)

AFLC Australian Federal Libraries Council (proposal)

AFMDC Air Force Machinability Data Center (Metcut
Research Associates for US Air Force)

AFNIL Agence Francophone pour la Numérotation
Internationale du Livre (France)

AFNOR Association Française de Normalisation (France)

APPAS Association of Free Public Access Systems (UK)

AFR (1) Automatic field recognition

AFR (2) Automatic format recognition

AFSARI Automation for storage and retrieval of
information

AGB Amerika-Gedenbibliothek (West Germany)

AGDOC Agricultural documentation (and retrieval -
patents) (Derwent Publications, UK)

AGE (1) American bibliography of agricultural economics
(National Agricultural Library, USA)

AGE (2) Asian Information Center for Geotechnical
Engineering (Thailand)

AGFIZ Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Fachinformationszentren
(Association of FIZ agencies) (West Germany)

AGLIB Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados del Istmo
de Panamá (Association of graduate librarians of the
Isthmus of Panama)

AGLINET Agricultural library and information network
(Food and Information Organisation)

AGNES (Algorithm for generating structural surrogates of
English text)

AGPS Australian Government Publishing Service

AGREP Agricultural research projects (Centre for
Information and Documentation, European Communities)

AGRIAA Agricultural Information Association for
Australasia

AGRICC Automatic generation and retrieval of information
on chemical compounds

AGRICOLA Agricultural online access (National
Agricultural Library, USA) (formerly CAIN)

AGRINTER (Interamerican) Agricultural Information Network (Costa Rica)

AGRIS Agricultural Information System (Food and Agriculture Organisation)

AHIB American Health Information Bank (USA)

AHIL Association of Hospital and Institution Libraries (American Library Association, USA)

AHIS Automated hospital information system

AHONDA Ad-hoc Committee on New Directions for Resources and Technical Services Division (American Library Association, USA)

AHSI Association Haïtienne des Spécialistes de l'Information (Haitian association of information specialists) (Haiti)

AIAAL American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Library (USA)

AIB Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (Italy)

AIBA Agricultural Information Bank for Asia (Philippines)

AIBDA Asociación Interamericana de Bibliotecarios y Documentalistas Agrícolas (Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists) (Costa Rica) (also known as IAAALD)

AIBM Association Internationale des Bibliothèques Musicales (International Association of Music Libraries) (also known as IAML, IVM, IVMB)

AIC Applied Information Consultants (UK)

AICARDES Association of Arab Institutes and Centres for Economic and Social Research (Tunis)

AICNET (Network of automated scientific and technical information centres) (USSR)

AICRO Association of Independent Contract Research Organisations (UK)

AID (1) Air Information Division (Library of Congress, USA)

AID (2) Association Internationale des Documentalistes et Techniciens de l'Information (International association of documentalists and information officers) (France)

AID (3) Association Internationale pour le Développement (Agency for International Development)

AID (4) Associative interactive dictionary

AID (5) Augmented index and digest (Information Retrieval Ltd, UK)

AID (6) Automatic information distribution

AID/ROCAP Agency for International Development/Regional Office for Central America and Panama

AID/RTAC Agency for International Development/Regional Technical Aid Center

AIDA (1) Analysis of interconnected decision areas (management term)

AIDA (2) (Italian association for documentation with advanced technology)

AIDBA Association Internationale pour le Développement de la Documentation, des Bibliothèques et des Archives (International association for the development of documentation, libraries and archives in Africa)

AIDI Associazione Italiana per la Documentazione e l'Informazione (Italian association for documentation and information)

AIDOS Automatisiertes Informations- und Dokumentationssystem (Automated information and documentation system) (East Germany)

AIDOTA Analytical index to dictionaries and other translating aids

AIDS (1) Aerospace intelligence data system (IBM Corp, USA)

AIDS (2) Acoustic intelligence data system

AIDS (3) Automated information directory service (Philadelphia, USA)

AIDS (4) Automated information directory system (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, USA)

AIDS (5) Automated information dissemination system

AIDS (6) Automation instrument data service (Indata Ltd, UK)

AIDS (7) Automated Informatics Documentation System (Inter-Governmental Bureau for Informatics, Italy)

AIESI Association Internationale des Écoles des Sciences d'Information (International association of schools of information science) (Switzerland)

AIRC (International association of conference interpreters) (France)

AIInfSc Associate of the Institute of Information Scientists (UK)

AIL (1) Association of International Libraries (also known as ABI)

AIL (2) Australian Institute of Librarians (now Library Association of Australia)

AILA (1) Agenzia Internazionale Letteraria Artistica (Italy)

AILA (2) Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée

AIM (1) Abridged index medicus (National Library of Medicine, USA)

AIM (2) Association for Information Management (UK) (proposed new name for Aslib, finally used as a subtitle)

AIM (3) Associated Information Managers (USA)

AIM (4) Associative indexing method

AIM (5) Automation of interlending by microcomputer (Leicester Polytechnic, UK)

AIM (6) Association of Information Managers (USA)

AIM-TWX Abridged index medicus - teletypewriter exchange network (National Library of Medicine, USA)

AIMLO Auto-instructional media for library orientation (Colorado State University, USA)

- AIMS (1)** Applied information management system (System Development Corp, USA)
- AIMS (2)** Automated instructional materials management system (System Development Corp, USA)
- AINAI** African integrated network of administrative information (proposal)
- AINTD** Association de l'Institut National des Techniques de la Documentation (Association of the national institute of documentation technology) (France) (also known as Association-INTD)
- AIOPI** Association of Information Officers in the Pharmaceutical Industry (UK)
- AIPA** Australian Independent Publishers Association
- AIPP** American imprints publication project
- AIPPI** Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Industrielle
- AIR (1)** Academic Information Retrieval (UK)
- AIR (2)** Art information register (Arts Council of Great Britain, UK)
- AIRHPER** Alberta information retrieval for health, physical education and recreation (Alberta University, Canada)
- AIRS (1)** Alcohol information retrieval system (USA)
- AIRS (2)** American Information Retrieval Service (UK)
- AIRS (3)** Automatic image retrieval system
- AIS** Aeronautical Information Service (Civil Aviation Authority, UK)
- AISA** Agricultural Information Society for Asia
- AISL** Aviation Information Services Ltd
- AJBD** Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Juristisches Bibliotheks- und Dokumentationswesen (Association for law librarianship and documentation) (West Germany)
- AJCP** Australian joint copying project (National Library of Australia)
- AJL** Association of Jewish Libraries (USA)
- AKD** Arbeitsgemeinschaft Kommunale Datenverarbeitung (Working party of municipal data-processing centres) (Nordrhein-Westfalen, West Germany)
- AKThB** Arbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisch-Theologischer Bibliotheken (Study group of Catholic theological libraries) (West Germany)
- AKWAS** Author and key words in alphabetical sequence
- AKWIC** Author and key word in context
- AL** Assistant librarian (UK) (periodical)
- ALA (1)** Adult Literacy Agency (UK)
- ALA (2)** American Library Association (USA)
- ALA (3)** Associate of the Library Association (UK)
- ALA (4)** Afghan Library Association (Afghanistan)
- ALA/CSD** American Library Association/Children's Services Division (USA)
- ALA/IRO** American Library Association/International Relations Office (USA)

ALA/ISAD American Library Association's Information Science and Automation Division (USA)

ALAA Associate of the Library Association of Australia

ALADIN Automatisering landbouwkundige documentatie- en informatieverbreiding in Nederland (Automation of agricultural information and documentation) (Centre for Agricultural Publishing and Documentation, Netherlands)

ALAI (International literary and artistic association)

ALALC Asociación Latinoamericana de Libre Comercio

ALANET American Library Association Network (USA)

ALAP Agricultural Libraries Association of the Philippines

ALARM Anaesthesia literature abstracting and retrieval method (American Society of Anesthesiologists, USA)

ALAS Automated literature alerting system

ALBIS Australian library-based information system (National Library of Australia)

ALBOR Asociación Latinoamericana de Bibliotecarios

ALBSU Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (UK) (formerly ALU)

ALCAPP Automatic list classification and profile production

ALCL Association of London Chief Librarians (UK) (formerly AMCL)

ALCRLB Association of Librarians in charge of Regional Library Bureaux (UK)

ALCS Authors' Lending and Copyright Society (UK)

ALCU Agricultural Librarians in Colleges and Universities (UK)

ALD Aligned list of descriptors (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development)

ALE (1) Aids to library education (Coventry City Libraries, UK)

ALE (2) American Librarians in Europe (no permanent headquarters)

ALEBCI (1) Asociación Latinoamericana de Escuelas de Bibliotecología y Ciencias de la Información (Latin American association of schools of library and information sciences)

ALEBCI (2) Associação Latinoamericana de Escolas de Biblioteconomia e Ciências da Informação (Latin American association of schools of library and information sciences)

ALEC Agricultural Libraries in the Eastern Counties (UK)

ALECSO Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Egypt)

ALGEO (Latin American Association of Editors in the Earth Sciences) (Venezuela)

ALEPH Automated library expandable program (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

ALERTA Información multidisciplinaria en la Universidad (Mexico)