ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS in Library & Information Work

A reference handbook of British usage

Fourth edition

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Fourth edition

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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.

Note to the Fourth Edition

There have been significant political events in Eastern Europe and the USSR during the assembly of this edition. These are likely to affect the library and information community in important ways, but it is still too early for these to be reflected in this publication.

Special thanks go to my wife Pauline for her help in the preparation of this edition.

Alan C Montgomery Jul 1990



ABACI

documentalists of the Ivory Coast]

Abstracting and indexing A and I Audio-visual information system (US Army) A-VIS Anglo-American cataloguing code (1908) AA code Association of Authors Agents (UK) AAA AAAI American Association for Artificial Intelligence (USA) Arbeitsgemeinschaft für das Archiv und AARevK 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 Anglo-American cataloguing rules (1967) AACR Anglo-American cataloguing rules - British text AACR/BT (1967)Association of Art Historians (UK) AAH Association of Assistant Librarians (Library AAL. Association, UK) (formerly LAA (1)) Association of Assistant Librarians Eastern Division (Library Association, UK) (also known as EDAAL) American Association of Law Libraries (USA) ·AALL Association of American Library Schools (USA) AALS Association of Assistant Librarians South East AALSED Division (Library Association, UK) (also known as SED and SEDAAL) Association of American Publishers (USA) (formerly AAP ABPC (2)) Australian Authors and Publishers Agency Ltd AAPAL Afro-American resources and library manpower project (Columbia University, USA) American Antiquarian Society (USA) (National research library of American history) American Association of School Librarians (American AASL Library Association, USA) Australian Asian Universities Cooperation Scheme AAUCS Association of Atlantic Universities Librarians' AAULC Committee (Canada) Automated bibliography American Booksellers Association (USA) ABA (1) Antiquarian Booksellers Association **ABA (2)** (International) Australian Booksellers Association ABA (3) [Association of librarians, archivists and

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; now Aslib Biosciences Group)

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)

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) (now Directory Publishers Association)

ABEBD Associação Brasileira de Escolas de Biblioteconomia e Documentação (Brazilian association of library science and documentation schools)

ABF Association des Bibliothécaires Français (France)

ABG Aslib Biosciences Group (Aslib, UK) (formerly ABASG)

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 (1) Anglo-Brazilian Information Service

ABIS (2) Applied biosciences information sources (Midlands Agricultural Information Group, UK)

ABLE Agricultural-biological literature evaluation

ABLISS Association of British Library and Information Studies Schools (UK) (formerly SLC(3), then ABLS(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 (National Library of Australia)

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 Abstracts - Soviet and East European 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

Asociación de Bibliotecarios y Documentalistas ABYDSA Sintemáticos Argentinos (Argentina) ACACE Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education (UK) ACADE Association for Computing in Art and Design Education (UK) Advisory Council for Applied Research and ACARD Development (UK) ACB (1) Asociación Costarricense de Bibliotecarios (Costa Rican association of librarians) Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques (Canadian Library Association) (also known as CLA (2)) Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques de ACBCU Collège et d'Université (Canadian Association of Collège 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) Automated catalog of computer equipment and ACCESS (2) software systems (US Army) Architecture, construction and consulting ACCESS (3) engineers special services (Stanton Municipal Library. Sydney, Australia) ACCESS (4) Architect's central constructional, engineering, surveying service (Greater London Council, UK) Advisory Committee for the Coordination of ACCIS Information Systems (United Nations) Algemene Classificatie Commissie voor de Overheidsadministratie (General classification committee for governmental administration) (Netherlands) [Agency for cultural and technical co-operation] (France) Acquisitions, Cataloguing and Circulation Working ACCWP Party (Aslib Computer Applications Group, UK) Association du Catalogue Documentaire du Bâtiment ACDB (France) Advisory Centre for Education (UK) ACE (1) Articles in civil engineering (Bradford ACE (2) University, UK) Asian Centre of Educational Innovation for ACEID Development (Thailand) Automated circulation and enquiry system (Aberdeen ACES

University, Scotland, UK)

Aslib Computer Group (Aslib, UK) ACG

Aeronautical Chart and Information Center (US Air ACIC Force)

Australian consolidated industries computer ACICS 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 (I) 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

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 (1) Automated data analysis using pattern recognition techniques

ADAPT (2) Access for Disabled People in Arts Premises
Today (UK)

ADAS Agricultural Development Advisory Service (Ministry of Agriculture, UK)

ADBS Association Française des Documentalistes et des Bibliothécaires Spécialisés (Association of information scientists and special librarians) (France) (also known as AFDBS)

ADCEMP Advisory Committee on Ephemera and Minor Publications

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)

ADDIM Australian Database Development Association ASSOCIATION Development 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 Economique 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)

ADIGE [Archive of Italian data on geology]

ADIJ Association pour la Diffusion de l'Information Juridique (Belgium)

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

AEDCL Association of European Documentation Centre Librarians (UK)

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)

AEGIS Advisory, Educational and General Information Services (UK)

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

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

AESF Association des Ecrivains Scientifiques de France

AESIS Australian Earth Sciences Information System

AETLTA Association for Education and Training of Library Technicians and Assistants (UK)

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)

AFCET 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 (Association of information scientists and special librarians) (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)

AFE Advanced further education

AFEIS Advanced Further Education Information Service (UK)

AFFIRM Association for Federal Information Resources Management (USA)

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)
AFPAS Association of Free Public Access Systems (UK)

AFR (I) Automatic field recognition

AFR (2) Automatic format recognition

AFSARI Automation for storage and retrieval of information

Association Française de Télématique (France) AFTEL

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)

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)

[Algorithm, for generating structural surrogates of AGNES English text 1

AGPS Australian Government Publishing Service

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

AGRIAA Agricultural Information Association for Australasia

Automatic generation and retrieval of information AGRICC on chemical compounds

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

AGRINTER [Interamerican] Agricultural Information Network (Costa Rica)

Agricultural Information System (Food and AGRIS Agriculture Organisation)

American Health Information Bank (USA) AHIB

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

Automated hospital information system AHIS

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

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

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics AIAAL Library (USA)

Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (Italy) AIB

Agricultural Information Bank for Asia AIBA

(Philippines)

Asociación Interamericana de Bibliotecarios y AIBDA 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 (1) Applied Information Consultants (UK)

AIC (2) Automation of interlending by computer

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.

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 Ecoles de Sciences de l'Information (International association of schools of information science) (Switzerland)

AIIC [International association of conference interpreters] (France)

AIIM Association for Information and Image Management (USA) (formerly NMA)

AllnfSc Associate of the Institute of Information Scientists (UK)

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

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

AILA (1) Agenzia Internazionale Letteraria Artistica (Italy)

AILA (2) Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée

AILO Association of [Polytechnic] Industrial Liaison Officers (UK)

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) Administration of interlending by microcomputer

AIM (7) Association of Information Managers (USA)

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

AIMF Aslib Information Management Forum (Aslib, UK)

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

AIRS (4) Access to Information and Reading Services (Gateshead Libraries and Arts Service, UK)

AIS Aeronautical Information Service (Civil Aviation Authority, UK)

AISA Agricultural Information Society for Asia

AISL Aviation Information Services Ltd

AIV Advanced interactive video

AJBD Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Juristisches Bibliotheksund 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)

AKS Associated knowledge systems (ICI, UK)

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 informatieverspreiding in Nederland (Automation of agricultural information and documentation) (Centre for Agricultural Publishing and Documentation, Netherlands)

ALAG Asian Librarians and Arts Officers Group (UK)

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