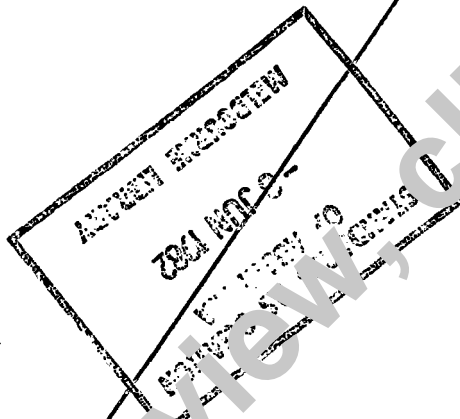


AS 1189, Part 1—1982
UDC 681.3:001.4

Australian Standard 1189, Part 1—1982

1991 ed.

DATA PROCESSING—VOCABULARY Part 1—FUNDAMENTAL TERMS



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Incorporated by Royal Charter

This Australian standard was prepared under the direction of Committee MS/20, Computers and Information Processing. It was approved by the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 18 May 1982 and published on 12 July 1982.

The following interests were represented on the committee responsible for the preparation of this standard:

Australian Banks Payment Systems Committee
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Computer Equipment Suppliers Association
Australian Computer Services Association
Australian Computer Users Association
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CSIRO, Division of Computing Research
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

DATA PROCESSING—VOCABULARY
Part 1
FUNDAMENTAL TERMS

AS 1189, Part 1—1982

First published	1972
Second edition (in separate Parts)	1982

PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.

ISBN 0 7262 2583 5

PREFACE

This standard was prepared under the authority of the Association's Committee on Computers and Information Processing. It is one part of a series superseding AS 1189—1972, and is identical with and has been reproduced from the corresponding part of International Standard ISO 2382, drawn up by ISO/TC 97, Computers and Information Processing.

The 1972 edition of the standard was based on the American National Standard ANSI X3.12—1970 pending the publication of the ISO vocabulary as ISO 2382. The committee has decided that sufficient parts of the ISO vocabulary have been published to warrant the revision of AS 1189.

The complete standard comprises the following parts:

- Part 0: Consolidated Index
- Part 1: Fundamental Terms
- Part 2: Arithmetic and logic operations
- Part 3: Equipment technology
- Part 4: Organization of data
- Part 5: Representation of data
- Part 6: Preparation and handling of data
- Part 7: Digital computer programming
- Part 8: Control, integrity and security*
- Part 9: Data communication*
- Part 10: Operating techniques and facilities
- Part 11: Control, input-output and arithmetic equipment
- Part 12: Data media, storage and related equipment
- Part 13: Computer graphics and computer micrographics
- Part 14: Reliability, maintenance and availability
- Part 15: Programming languages*
- Part 16: Information theory
- Part 17: Data base management*
- Part 18: Remote access data and data processing system*
- Part 19: Analog computing*
- Part 20: System development*
- Part 21: Interfaces*
- Part 24: Numerical control of machine.

In addition to the alphabetical index in this part, Part 0 provides a consolidated alphabetical index to the terms defined in Parts 1 to 7, 10 to 12, 14, 16, 19 and 24.

As this standard consists of several parts prepared over a long period there could be some inconsistencies introduced in the later parts when compared with the earlier ones. These inconsistencies were eliminated as far as possible in later editions. This procedure allows for immediate publication of needed parts and permits an element of flexibility in the preparation of a comprehensive vocabulary in view of the dynamics of language.

*In course of preparation.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
for
DATA PROCESSING—VOCABULARY

PART 1—FUNDAMENTAL TERMS

FOREWORD

Data processing gives rise to numerous international exchanges of both intellectual and material nature. These exchanges often become difficult, either because of the great variety of terms used in various fields or languages to express the same concept, or because of the absence of or the imprecision of useful concepts.

To avoid misunderstandings due to this situation and to facilitate such exchanges, it is advisable to select terms to be used in various languages or in various countries to express the same concept and to establish definitions providing satisfactory equivalents for the various terms in different languages.

In accordance with the directions given to the ISO subcommittee in charge of the Vocabulary, the work on it has been mainly based on the usage to be found in the Vocabulary of information processing* established and published by the International Federation for Information Processing and the International Computation Centre, and in the U.S.A. Standard vocabulary for information processing established, published and revised by the American National Standards Institute. (AS 1189—1972 was based on this revised edition.) The subcommittee also considered various international documents or drafts issued by ISO Technical Committee 97 and its subcommittees and other international organizations (such as the International Telecommunication Union) and national drafts or standards.

The definitions have been drawn up with the objective of achieving a proper balance between precision and simplicity. The main objective of this Vocabulary is to provide definitions that can be understood to have the same meaning by all concerned. It may thus be felt that some definitions are not sufficiently precise, do not include all cases, do not take into account certain exceptions, or are in conflict with established uses in particular fields of application.

* North Holland Publishing Company — AMSTERDAM 1966.

1 GENERAL

1.1 Introduction

This part of the Vocabulary deals with the most important concepts on which are based the further specialized sections in various technical fields, as well as the essential terms which should be used by non-specialist users in communicating with specialists in data processing.

1.2 Scope

The Vocabulary is intended to facilitate international communication in data processing. It presents in two languages terms and definitions of selected concepts relevant to the field of data processing and identifies relationships between the entries.

In order to facilitate their translation into other languages, the definitions are drafted so as to avoid, as far as possible, any peculiarity attached to a language.

1.3 Field of application

The Vocabulary deals with the main areas of data processing, including the principal processes and types of equipment used, the representation, organization and presentation of data, the programming and operation of computers, input-output devices, and peripheral equipment, as well as particular applications.

2 PRINCIPLES AND RULES FOLLOWED

2.1 Definition of an entry

The Vocabulary is made up of a number of entries; this term is to be understood with the following meaning :

entry : A set of essential elements consisting of an index number, one or more synonymous terms, and a phrase defining one concept ; in addition, a set may include examples, notes, illustrations to facilitate the understanding of the concept.

NOTES

1 Exceptionally, in the cases specified in 2.8, two or more concepts are covered by one entry.

2 In the cases defined in 2.5, the same term may be defined in different entries.

Other terms such as **vocabulary**, **concept**, **term**, **definition** are used in this section and in the body of the Vocabulary with the meanings given in ISO/R 1087, *Vocabulary of terminology*.

2.2 Organization of an entry

Each entry contains the essential elements as defined in 2.1 and if necessary some additional elements; thus it may contain for each language at most the following items in the following order :

- a) an index number (common for all languages);
- b) the term or the generally preferred term in the language (the absence of a generally accepted term for the concept in the language is indicated by a row of dots) : a row of dots may also be used to indicate in a term a word to be chosen in each particular case;
- c) the preferred term in a particular country (identified according to the rules of ISO/R 39, *Symbols for languages, countries and authorities*);
- d) the abbreviation for the term;
- e) permitted synonymous term or terms;
- f) the text of the definition (see 2.4);
- g) one or more examples with the heading "Example(s)";
- h) one or more notes specifying particular cases in the field of application of the concepts, with the heading "Note(s)";
- i) a picture, a diagram or table (these may be common to several entries).

Elements a) to e) in the list above are printed in bold typeface. Element d) in the list above, and in some entries one or more of the elements b), c) and e), are in each case followed by a qualifier. A qualifier is printed in normal typeface in parentheses after the term or abbreviation and indicates :

- a directive for the use of the term, such as "deprecated", "deprecated in this sense", or "strongly deprecated";
- a particular field of application for the term, as defined;
- the grammatical form of the term or the like, such as "noun", "adjective", "verb" or "abbreviation".

2.3 Classification of entries

A two-digit serial number is assigned to each section of the Vocabulary, beginning with 01 for fundamental terms.