

# Gale's Publications in the Acronyms and Abbreviations Field

## **Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary series:**

***Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary*** (Volume 1). A guide to acronyms, initialisms, abbreviations, and similar contractions, arranged alphabetically by abbreviation.

***Reverse Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary*** (Volume 3). A companion to Volume 1 in which terms are arranged alphabetically by meaning of the acronym, initialism, or abbreviation.

## **Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary Subject Guide series:**

***Computer & Telecommunications Acronyms*** (Volume 1). A guide to acronyms, initialisms, abbreviations, and similar contractions used in the field of computers and telecommunications in which terms are arranged alphabetically both by abbreviation and by meaning.

***Business Acronyms*** (Volume 2). A guide to business-oriented acronyms, initialisms, abbreviations, and similar

contractions in which terms are arranged alphabetically both by abbreviation and by meaning.

## **International Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary series:**

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***Reverse International Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary*** (Volume 2). A companion to Volume 1, in which terms are arranged alphabetically by meaning of the acronym, initialism, or abbreviation.

## **Periodical Title Abbreviations series:**

***Periodical Title Abbreviations: By Abbreviation*** (Volume 1). A guide to abbreviations commonly used for periodical titles, arranged alphabetically by abbreviation.

***Periodical Title Abbreviations: By Title*** (Volume 2). A guide to abbreviations commonly used for periodical titles, arranged alphabetically by title.

# Highlights

- Over 230,000 Entries
- Over 8,000 New Abbreviations
- Broad Coverage
- Arrangement by Title

*Periodical Title Abbreviations: By Title (PTA-T)* is Volume 2 of a two-volume collection of periodical titles. Serving as a companion volume to *Periodical Title Abbreviations: By Abbreviation (PTA-A)*, it contains essentially the same 230,000 entries, but arranges them in alphabetical order by title, rather than by abbreviation.

## Scope of Coverage

*PTA-T* enables indexers, abstracters, authors, and bibliographers to determine if and how a given periodical title has been previously abbreviated. It is intended to be used neither as an authority file nor as a standard for periodical abbreviations, but merely as a record of the myriad ways in which commonly used indexing and abstracting services abbreviate periodical titles.

# Introduction

Prior to 1981, each edition of *Periodical Title Abbreviations (PTA)* consisted of a single volume that described the multitudinous ways in which periodical titles are abbreviated. This was done by means of a simple alphabetical arrangement of such abbreviations, each of which was followed by its respective full title.

For over a decade, *Periodical Title Abbreviations* attempted to meet the needs of academic, public, and special libraries for quick translations of cryptic periodical citations, as well as similar needs among scholars, scientific researchers, and those generally associated with the information sciences. During this period, *PTA* made no attempt to prescribe short-form usage, nor has any such authoritativeness been suggested since. Moreover, any effort at prescribing how a given periodical ought to be abbreviated seemed doomed from the start, for though standards already had been formulated by such bodies as the American National Standards Institute, they had not been widely accepted beyond the sciences.

Then, as now, the range of opinions expressed by indexers and abstracters regarding this important bibliographic problem ranged from a stony “no periodical abbreviations under any circumstances” to detached replies that scholars who use such specialized services will, of course, be able to determine the meaning involved. For those of us who labored over *Periodical Title Abbreviations*, the ideal of uniformly constructed abbreviations was overridden by the certain knowledge that such agreement among indexers was as yet a distant hope.

## Purpose and Scope

The decision to produce the *By Title* volume of *Periodical Title Abbreviations* was motivated by the same assumptions as those that led to the creation of the original edition, now entitled *Periodical Title Abbreviations: By Abbreviation*. Like *PTA-A*, the *By Title* volume is intended only as a record of things as they are, not as they “should” be.

However, while identification and translation without comment remain the underlying principles of both volumes, an element that allows for prescriptiveness has emerged with the *By Title* volume. Now it is possible for an indexer, abstracter, researcher, author, or bibliographer to determine quickly if and how a given periodical title has been previously abbreviated. This leads to the hope that if a given title

has been previously abbreviated in six different ways, an individual might see the wisdom of employing one of the existing abbreviations for that title rather than creating a seventh and redundant form.

In those instances where indexers, abstracters, or others see the need for new abbreviations, those of us whose daily lives are confounded by casually created abridgments will applaud their using some uniform system such as the *American Standard for Periodical Title Abbreviations*.

The list of major sources for the *PTA* series follows the User's Guide. No claim can be made for all-inclusiveness in *PTA-T*, nor for final authoritativeness, but if the present volume serves to restrain needless creation of new short-forms, then it will have served its users and others who are governed by such constructions.

For discussions of the full range of difficulties associated with periodical abbreviations, the reader is directed to the following publications:

Kinney, Mary R., *The Abbreviated Citation-A Bibliographic Problem*, Association of College and Research Libraries Monographs, Number 28, Chicago, American Library Association, 1967.

Alkire, Leland G., “The Initial Problem,” *Serials Librarian*, vol. 2, summer 1978: 401-404.

(Excerpts from “The Initial Problem” follow this introduction).

## Discrepancies Among Titles

It should be noted with regard to discrepancies among seemingly related titles that the source indexes, abstracts, and bibliographies are not always clear about which of several publications is being cited. Reflecting both the strengths and weaknesses of these sources, entries in *PTA-T* will sometimes indicate the place of publication, but often will not. When such added information appears, it serves more precisely to identify a given title; but with those titles that frequently change city, or even country, of publication, some confusion can be expected to remain.

Entries for titles that progressively enlarge or change in word order can also be expected to create occasional questions, but users should keep in mind that the broad span of time encompassed by *PTA-T* makes such variations inevitable.

As with *PTA-A*, this volume is intended to be used in concert with such standard serial sources of fuller bibliographic information as the *Union List of Serials*, *New Serial Titles*, *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*, and *The British Union Catalogue of Periodicals*.

### Suggestions for New Material

As in the past, the users of the *Periodical Title Abbreviations* series remain a valuable source in the identification of ab-

brevisions not yet included in the *PTA* system. Users wishing to suggest new entries may do so by mailing a photocopy of the source of the suggested entries (i.e., the key to abbreviations in an index, abstract, or book), along with a complete bibliographic citation of the publication from which the pages were copied, to:

Leland G. Alkire  
3105 S. Howard  
Spokane, WA 99203

## Excerpts from “The Initial Problem”\*

In a July 1960 letter to *Science* magazine, a somewhat mournful plea was raised by one J. B. Sykes, in favor of “more sparing use of abbreviations when citing references to periodicals.” He rightly saw that abbreviated titles often create some difficulty for the user.

In the years since Sykes’ complaint, abbreviated periodical citations have proliferated in a way that has exceeded the expectations of even the most pessimistic of observers. Despite organized and sustained efforts, both before and after 1960, either to abandon outright the use of abbreviated citations or, failing this, to adopt a standardized system of abbreviated periodical titles, we are presently faced with a greater diversity than ever before.

Observers of language, such as George Orwell, Jacques Barzun, and Stephen Leacock, have variously lamented, railed, and poked fun at abbreviated forms. But the battle has been a losing one. In government, business, and academe, an element of gamesmanship has long dictated that those “in-the-know” should speak in direct, if sometimes barbaric sounding, terms such as NASA, NATO, and ICSU. Further, in a kind of variant of punning, we are surrounded by a buzzing swarm of acronyms which not only identifies their users as the cognoscenti, but which also implies an element of one-upmanship. Some, like CORE and NOW, are clever and apt, but what was once bright and chic begins to wear thin through overuse. Yet in spite of what, in some quarters, has become a cautionary approach to the short-form phenomenon, it must be admitted that both the acronym and the abbreviation serve as time and space savers in these information-heavy times.

The real trouble with short-form usage lies in the tendency of abbreviated forms to duplicate one another. When we encounter a reference to an organization called AID, we must ask: Does it refer to the Agency for International Development or the Americans of Italian Descent? When such multimeaning abbreviations are used without accompanying definitions or in contexts that leave one in doubt, the result is often a breakdown in basic communication.

Small specialized professional groups are perhaps the greatest purveyors of this sort of noncommunication. Imagine, for a moment, a nonlibrarian, or even a librarian who has been away from the profession for a time, picking

up a recent library publication and attempting to negotiate the foaming rapids of OCLC, CONSER, MULS, ISSN, and AACR. They will scarcely find themselves paddling in familiar waters. Indeed, some would ask if we are not entering a time when professional subspecialists will be decreasingly able to decipher one another’s *abb pro jarg* (abbreviated professional jargon).

Whatever future may await us as librarians, as researchers, and as users of the English language, one thing is clear: The concern of J.B. Sykes in 1960 regarding the problem of abbreviated periodical titles haunts us in ways that are increasingly troublesome. When a reference, periodicals, or interlibrary loan librarian encounters a citation in which the title has been reduced to an abbreviation, AM for example, where does he or she turn? *Acta Musicologia*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Americas*, or any one of the eleven journals to which this abbreviation is commonly applied, all represent logical choices. To use another even more disconcerting example, the abbreviation MHM can mean either *Maryland History Magazine* or *Michigan History Magazine*, depending on the source of the citation. The list of such competitors could be extended indefinitely since tens of thousands of periodicals are currently employed by indexing and abstracting services, as well as by scholarly journals and bibliographies. Many of these publications, as must be obvious by now, employ periodical title abbreviations without regard to how such forms are used elsewhere. This disorderly situation is further compounded by the assumption of scholars, students, and other users that a given abbreviation is not only unique, but that it is part of a generally acknowledged language, which others, particularly librarians, will immediately recognize. Often, because of experience, intuition, and the subject of the article in question, a little detective work will reveal the full title. Yet this work takes time, and inevitably, after a number of such requests, the librarian will draw a blank, particularly when a patron is uncertain as to the origin of the citation.

Attempts to bring order to this disarray have been numerous, if only partially successful, but one can hope, if orderly access to periodical information is seen as a desirable end, that the current proliferation of systems of abbreviation will one day be rationalized and reduced to a single, understandable system.

In the meantime, a few of us continue to recall that moment in the Apollo 12 Moon Mission when Ground Control discovered that a minor equipment failure was caused by something called the Digital Uplink Assembly. When the controllers radioed up that the fault lay with the DUA, the

response from the crew of the Apollo 12 was: “What’s a DUA?”

*\*Excerpted by permission of Haworth Press, Serials Librarian, vol. 2, summer 1978: 401-404.*

# User's Guide

Entries in *PTA-T* are arranged alphabetically by title in word-by-word sequence, regardless of punctuation and capitalization. If a particular title has more than one abbreviation representing it, the various choices are then subarranged alphabetically by abbreviation in a letter-by-letter sequence. For sorting purposes, ampersands are translated into 'AND'. Entries may contain the following elements:

## Sample Entry

■ 1 ■ **Boletim Técnico. PETROBRAS** ■ 2 ■ [*Petroleo Brasileiro SA*] ■ 3 ■ [*Technical Bulletin. PETROBRAS*] ■ 4 ■ [*Centro de Pesquisas e Desenvolvimento*] ■ 5 ■ [*Rio De Janeiro, Brazil*] — ■ 6 ■ Bol Tec PETROBRAS

## Description of Numbered Elements

- 1 ■ Complete title
- 2 ■ Explanation of acronym within title
- 3 ■ Translation
- 4 ■ Sponsoring organization or Publisher
- 5 ■ Place of publication
- 6 ■ Abbreviated Title

The completeness of an entry is dependent upon both the nature of the term and the amount of information provided by the source. If additional information becomes available during future research, an entry will be revised.

## Major Sources of Abbreviations

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Abstract Bulletin of the Institute of Paper Chemistry  | Current Book Review Citations   |
| ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Annual Bibliography of Books and Articles on Pedagogy in Foreign Languages | Current Index to Statistics   |
| Alternative Press Index  | DSH (Deafness, Speech, and Hearing) Abstracts                                     |
| American Journal of Archaeology  | Education Index   |
| American-German Review   | Elsevier Book Series Abbreviations  |
| American Literature Abstracts  | Engineering Index   |
| Annee-Philologique   | English Language Notes  |
| Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature   | ELH (English Literary History)  |
| Applied Science and Technology Index   | Film Literature Index   |
| Art Index  | Forestry Abstracts  |
| Arts and Humanities Citation Index   | French Periodical Index   |
| Bibliographic Index  | Geological Literature of North America, 1785-1918                                 |
| Bibliography of Asian Studies  | Germanic Review   |
| Bibliography of Corn   | Harvard Guide to American History   |
| Bibliography and Index of Geology  | Hospital Literature Index   |
| Bibliography of North American Geology   | Humanities Index  |
| Bibliography of Wheat  | IMM (Institute of Mining and Metallurgy) Abstracts                                |
| Biography Index  | Index of American Periodical Verse  |
| Biological and Agricultural Index  | Index Catalogue of Medical and Veterinary Zoology                                 |
| Serial Sources for the BIOSIS Data Base  | Index Chemicus  |
| Book Review Digest   | Index of Economic Articles  |
| Book Review Index  | Index to Legal Periodicals  |
| British Education Index  | Index to Little Magazines   |
| British Technology Index   | Index to Periodicals by and about Negroes   |
| Business Education Index   | Index to Religious Periodical Literature  |
| Business Periodicals Index   | Index to Science Fiction Magazines  |
| Canadian Periodicals Index   | Industrial Arts Index   |
| Catholic Periodical Index  | INIS (International Nuclear Information System) Authority List for Journal Titles |
| Chicorel Index to Mental Health Book Reviews   | INSPEC (Information Service for Physics, Electrotechnology, and Control)          |
| Christian Periodicals Index  | Insurance Periodicals Index   |
| Classified Shakespeare Bibliography  | International Bibliography of the History of Religions                            |
| Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals   | International Bibliography of Social Sciences: Anthropology                       |
| Cumulated Index Medicus  | International Bibliography of Social Sciences: Political Science                  |
| Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature   | International Bibliography of Social Sciences: Sociology                          |

International Index	Predicasts. Source Directory
International Nursing Index	Progress of Medieval and Renaissance Studies in the United States and Canada
Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism	Quarterly Journal of Speech
Journal of American Folklore	Reader's Guide to Periodicals
Journal of English and Germanic Philology	Revue d'Histoire Ecclesiastique
Keats-Shelley Journal	Romanic Review
Library and Information Science Abstracts	Scandinavian Studies
Library Literature	Science Citation Index
Mathematical Reviews	Science Fiction Book Review Index
Metals Abstracts. Annual Index	Selective Bibliography of Shakespeare (McManaway and Roberts)
Modern Humanities Research Association. Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature	Shakespeare Quarterly
Modern Language Quarterly	Social Science Citation Index
Modern Philology	Social Sciences Index
Music Index	Soils and Fertilizers
Music Therapy Index	Southern Folklore Quarterly
New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians	Speech Monographs
New Periodicals Index	Studies in Philology
Nineteenth Century Reader's Guide	Surface and Vacuum Physics Index
Philological Quarterly	Topicator
Philosopher's Index	Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory
Physikalische Berichte	Victorian Studies
PMLA (Publications of the Modern Language Association of America) Bibliography	Writings on American History
Poetry Explication	Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature
Poole's Index to Periodical Literature	Year's Work in English Studies
Popular Periodical Index	Year's Work in Modern Language Studies