

Acronyms and abbreviations used in the text

A&E	Arts and Entertainment
AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science
AAUW	American Association of University Women
ABB	Asea Brown Boveri
ABC	American Broadcasting Corporation
ACCT	Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ADP	Accelerated Development Programme
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
AFRINIC	African Regional Register for Internet Addresses
AISI	African Information Society Initiative
AMIC	Asian Media Information and Communication Center
ANI	African Network Initiative
AOL	American Online
APDIP	Asia Pacific Development Information Programme
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APIA	Asia Pacific Internet Association
APNG	Asia Pacific Networking Group
APPLe	Asia Pacific Network Information Center for Asian Policy and Legal Group
APRICOT	Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies
ARABSAT	Arab Satellite Communications Organization
ARPANET	Advanced Research Project Agency Network
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
AT&T	American Telephone and Telegraph Company
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode
AUPELF	Association des Universités Partiellement ou Entièrement de Langue Française
AVU	African Virtual University
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BCE	Bell Canada Enterprises
BEON	Bristol Education Online Network
BIEF	Banque Internationale d'Information sur les États Francophones
BT	British Telecom
BTTB	Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board
CAL	Computer-assisted learning
CAM	Computer-aided manufacturing
CANTO	Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations
CAT	Communications Authority of Thailand
CBS	Columbia Broadcasting System
CD	Compact Disk
CD-I	Compact Disk-Interactive
CD-ROM	Compact Disk-Read Only Memory
CDS/ISIS	Information Retrieval Software distributed by UNESCO
CE	Consumer Electronics
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CEEC	Central and Eastern European Countries

CERT	Computer Emergency Response Team	ESPN	Entertainment and Sports Programming Network
CIDI	Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral	ESPRIT	European Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies
CIFFAD	Carrefour International Francophone de Formation à Distance	EU	European Union
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	FCC	Federal Communication Commission (USA)
CIX	Commercial Internet Exchange	FLAG	Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe
CLADES	Centro Latinoamericano de Documentación Económica y Social	FR	Frame Relay
CLT	Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Télédiffusion	FTP	File Transfer Protocol
CMC	Computer-Mediated Conferencing	FTP	Financing and Promoting Technology
CNN	Cable News Network	FVIT	Fachverband Informationstechnik
CNPq/RNP	National Research Council/National Research Network	FYR	Former Yugoslavia Republic
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	GARNET	Ghana Academic and Research Network
COMSATS	Commission on Science and Technology for sustainable Development in the South	GATE	Global Alliance for Transnational Education
CORBA	Common Object Request Broker Architecture	GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
CRNet	Costa Rican National Research Network	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CSILE	Computer-Supported Intentional Learning Environments	GE	General Electric
CUNet	Caribbean University Network	GIAS	Gateway Internet Access Service
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency	GII	Global Information Infrastructure
DARPA	Defense Advanced Research Project Agency	GIS	Geographical Information System
DBS	Direct Broadcasting Satellite	GNP	Gross National Product
DCS	Digital Cellular System	GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
DFG	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	GT	Ghana Telecom
DNS	Domain Name Server	GTE	General Telephone and Electronic Corporation
DOE	Department of Education	GUI	Graphical User Interfaces
DOI	Digital Object Identifier	HBO	Home Box Office
DoT	Department of Telecommunications (India)	HDI	Human Index Income
DSC	Digital Service Corporation	HDTV	High Definition Television
DSL	Digital Subscriber Lines xDSL refers to different types of DSL technology such as ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line), HDSL (High data rate DSL) or VDSL (Very high data rate DSL)	HFC	Hybrid Fibre-coaxial
DSS	Decision Support System	HPCC	High Performance Computing and Communications
DSTV	Digital Satellite Television	HSD	High Speed Data
DTHTV	Direct-to-home Television	HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
DVD	Digital Versatile Disk	IAL	Intel Architecture Lab
DVD-ROM	Digital Versatile Disk-Read Only Memory	IANA	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
D-COM	Distributed Component Object Model	IBM	International Business Machines
ECIPS	Eastern Caribbean Investment Promotion Service	ICANN	The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ECO	Electronic Commerce Forum (German Internet Service Provider Association)	ICL	International Computers Limited
ECOWAS	The Economic Community of West African States	ICRA	Internet Content Rating Alliance
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange	ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
EIM	The European Institute for the Media	ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
EITO	European Information Technology Observatory	IDA	Interchange between administrations
EPG	Electronic Programme Guide	IDC	International Data Corporation
ERNET	Education Research Network	IDRC	International Development Research Centre
ERP	Enterprise Resources Planning	IDSC	Information and Decision Support Center
ERTU	Egyptian Radio and Television Union	IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
		IFEX	International Freedom of Expression Exchange Network
		IFIP	International Federation for Information Processing
		IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
		IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
		IIA	Internet Initiative for Africa

IITE	Institute for Information Technologies in Education	NACESTID	National Center for Scientific and Technological Information and Documentation (Vietnam)
IITF	Information Infrastructure Task Force	NBC	National Broadcasting Company
IMP	Interface Message Processors	NC	Network Computer
IMS	Instructional Management System	NCA	National Communication Authority (Ghana)
INIST	Institut National de l'Information Scientifique et Technique	NCB	National Computing Board (Mauritius)
IOP	Internet Operators Group	NCS	Network Computer System
IP	Internet Protocol	NEC	Nippon Electric Company
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights	NESLI	National Electronic Site Licencing Initiative
IPS	Inter Press Service	NETS	National Educational Technology Standards
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network	NGFL	National Grid for Learning
ISI	Information Society Index	NGI	Next Generation Internet
ISO	International Standard Organization	NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
ISP	Internet Service Provider	NII	National Information Infrastructure
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	NITSP	National Information Technology Strategic Plan (Mauritius)
I-TV	Interactive Television	NMT	Nordic Mobile Telephone System
IWF	Internet Watch Foundation	NSF	National Science Foundation
IWGCR	International Working Group on Content Rating	NSFNET	National Science Foundation Network
KII	Korea Information Infrastructure	NTA	Nepal Telecommunication Authority
KPN	Dutch telecommunication and postal group	NTC	Nepal Telecommunication Corporation
LAMP	Literacy and Awareness Publication	NTT	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone
LAN	Local Area Network	OAS	Organization of American States
LEO	Low Earth Orbit Satellite	OAU	Organization for African Unity
LITNET	Lithuanian Science Network	OCLC	Online Computer Library Center
LMDS	Local Multi-point Distribution System	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
LWF	Learning Without Frontiers	OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
MAI	Multilateral Agreement on Investment	OPAC	Online Public Access Catalogs
MAN	Metropolitan Area Networks	OROM	Optical Read-Only Memory
MARC	Machine Readable Cataloguing	ORSTOM	Office de la Recherche Scientifique des Territoires d'Outre-mer
MBC	Middle East Broadcasting Centre	PAAs	Public Administration Authorities
MCI	Microwave Communications	PAN	Pan Asia Networking
MDS	Multi-point Distribution System	PANA	Panafrican News Agency
MEASAT	Malaysian East Asian Satellite	PC	Personal Computer
MEO	Medium Earth Orbit Satellite	PCO	Public Call Offices
MEON	Merseyside Education Online Network	PDA	Personal Digital Assistant
MGM	Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer	PDN	Public Data Network
MIS	Management Information System	PGI	General Information Programme
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa	PHNET	Philippines Internet Network
MITI	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (Mauritius)	PICS	Platform for Internet Content Selection
MOO	Multi-User Object Oriented Domain	PICTA	Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa
MOTC	Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications (Ghana)	PITAC	President's Information Technology Advisory Committee
MPEG	Moving Pictures Expert Group	PNG	Papua New Guinea
MPTC	Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia	POP	Point of Presence
MSC	Multimedia Super Corridor	PSLI	Pilot Site Licence Initiative
MSNBC	Microsoft National Broadcasting Corporation	PSTN	Public Service Telephone Network
MTA	Mauritius Telecommunications Authority	PTO	Public Telecommunication Operators
MTV	Music Television	PURL	Persistent User Requirement Languages
MUD	Multi-User Domain		
MUSH	Multi-User Shared Hallucinations		

RDBM	Relational Data Base Management	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
RedHUCyT	Hemisphere Wide Inter-University Scientific and Technological Information Network	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
REFER	Réseau Électronique Francophone pour l'Enseignement supérieur et la Recherche	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
RISC	Reduced Instruction Set Computer	UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
RP-SARNET	Philippine Science Academic and Research Network	UPNG	University of Papua New Guinea
RSAC	Recreational Software Advisory Council	UPU	Universal Postal Union
RSACI	Regional Software Advisory Council labelling scheme for the Internet	UREF	Université des Réseaux d'Expression Française
RTP	Rádiodifusão Portuguesa	URL	Uniform Resource Locator
SABA	South African Broadcasters Association	URN	Uniform Resource Name
SA-BLS	Southern Africa – Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SADC	Southern African Development Corporation	VAN	Value Added Networks
SAPAG	Systems Applications and Products in Data Processing	VCR	Video Camera Recorder
SBA	Singapore Broadcasting Authority	VDC	Vietnam Data Communications
SBS	Satellite Business System	VHS	Virtual High School
SGML	Standard Generalized Markup Language	VIKT	Public Institutions Computer Network (Lithuania)
SHD	Super High Definition Image System	VNPT	Viet Nam Posts and Telecommunications
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics	VoD	Video on Demand
SIMAP	Système d'Information sur les Marchés Publics	VOIP	Voice over Data and IP Telephony
SITA	Société Internationale de Télécommunication Aéronautique	VR	Virtual Reality
SML	Standard Markup Language	VRML	Virtual Reality Modeling Language
SONET	Synchronous Optical Networks	VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
SQL	Structured Query Language	VSNL	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa	W3C	World Wide Web Consortium
STARS	Student Technology Advisors	WAN	Wide Area Networks
TAC	Telecommunication Advisory Council (Mauritius)	WANAD	West African News Media and Development Centre
TCI	Telecommunications Inc.	WCT	WIPO Copyright Treaty
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol	WGU	West Governors University
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol	WHO	World Health Organization
TEI	Text Encoding Initiative	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
TF1	Télévision Française 1	WPPT	WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
TIAP	Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Programme	WTO	World Trade Organization
TOT	Telephone Organization of Thailand	WWW	World Wide Web
TP S.A.	Polish Telecom	xDSL	see DSL
TRIP	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights	XML	Extensible Markup Language
TT&T	Thai Telephone and Telecommunication	YLE	Finnish Broadcasting Company
TTC	Teacher Training Centre		
TV	Television		
UDEAC	Central African Customs and Economic Union/Union Douanière des États d'Afrique Centrale		
UMTS	Universal Mobile Telecommunication System		
UN	United Nations		
UNAL	UNESCO Network of Associated Libraries		
UNCSTD	United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development		
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development		