

Example 26

Cmd Command Paper (1919–56) (in parliamentary procedures)
(Fergusson 2000: 100)

Example 27

cm. pf. cumulative preference (shares); cumulative preferred (shares)
(Fergusson 2000: 100)

2.13 *Dictionary of Financial Abbreviations* (Paxton 2003)

Dictionary of Financial Abbreviations (Paxton 2003) is composed of over seven thousand entries from finance and an appendix. The six units of the appendix include monetary symbols, financial reporting standards, statements of standard accounting practice, and other topics. The entry is simple; each individual expansion appears in a separate entry, as in Example 28. The entry is composed of an entry word in bold followed by the expansion.

Example 28

AA Associate in Accounting
AA attendance allowance (UK)
(Paxton 2003: 11)

The dictionary mainly contains English abbreviations, but some foreign ones are also present. All foreign abbreviations are systematically translated, as in Example 29. Example 29 contains three entries for the same abbreviation but different expansions. Each abbreviation has a separate entry; the entry word in bold is followed by the foreign expansion in italics (e.g., *accepté*), the translation (after a period), and the country of origin in parentheses (e.g., *France, Germany*).

Example 29

A *accepté*.
Accepted. (France)
A accepted
A *akzeptiert*. Accepted. (Germany)
(Paxton 2003: 11)

As seen in Example 30, some entries include additional information, where following the expansion there is information on when or where the association was founded (e.g., "Founded in London in 1869"). The additional data may function as encyclopedic data (e.g., "Association then influences the development of generally accepted accounting principles through published research of its professional membership").

Example 30

AAA American Accounting Association. Association then influences the development of generally accepted accounting principles through published research of its professional membership.
AAA Association of Average Adjusters. Founded in London in 1869.
(Paxton 2003: 11)

2.14 *Acronyms, Initialisms and Abbreviations Dictionary* (Romaniuk 2006)

Acronyms, Initialisms and Abbreviations Dictionary (Romaniuk 2006) is an extensive dictionary of abbreviations covering over a million abbreviations. The dictionary is published almost every year, and it is composed of an extensive number of entries for which every meaning or expansion is included as a separate entry. The entry is simple, composed of an entry word in bold and followed by the meaning or expansion (seen in Example 31). The entry also uses field qualifiers written as a full word in square brackets (e.g., [*Geology*]), and encyclopedic data in square brackets — for example, "[*Library symbol*] [*National Library of Canada*] (NLC)" — as in Examples 31 and 32. Translations of foreign abbreviations are consistent in the dictionary.

Example 31

A – Age
A – Agglomerate [*Geology*]
(Romaniuk 2006: 5)

Example 32

AA – Andrew Public Library, Alberta [*Library symbol*] [*National Library of Canada*] (NLC)
(Romaniuk 2006: 12)

Attention should also be drawn to an interesting dictionary of abbreviation expansions, *Reverse Acronyms Initialisms and Abbreviations Dictionary* (Gale Research Company 2007). This dictionary is a reversed version of the abbreviation dictionary *Acronyms, Initialisms and Abbreviations Dictionary* (Romaniuk 2006) and allows users to find an abbreviation through an extensive list of expansions. This dictionary has been published regularly for some years as a separate publication.

2.15 *Abbreviations* (King 2014)

The dictionary *Abbreviations* (King 2014) contains over seven thousand abbreviations and has an appendix with chemical elements, European car registration letters, UK postcodes, abbreviations related to the UN, airline acronyms, and other topics. The entry is simple, composed of an entry word in bold followed by expansions divided by semicolons, as in Example 33. The dictionary mainly contains English abbreviation, but some foreign ones are also present. All foreign abbreviations are systematically translated.

Example 33

<p>AA Alcoholics Anonymous; advertising agency; age allowance; Air Attaché; American Airlines; Anglers' Association; anti-aircraft; Associate in Accounting; Associate in Agriculture; Automobile Association (King 2014: 3)</p>

Example 34 includes some additional data; that is, (*proofreading*).

Example 34

<p>aa absolute alcohol; after arrival; attendance allowance; author's alteration (<i>proofreading</i>) (King 2014: 3)</p>

The dictionary also includes foreign abbreviations, as in Examples 35 and 36. In Example 35 the German abbreviations *ABS* is translated into English, but no language qualifier is provided. In Example 36 there is a French expansion in italics, followed by an explanation in parentheses, but there is no language qualifier.

Example 35

ABS *anti-blockier* system = anti-lock brakes
(King 2014: 6)

Example 36

AC alternating current; *appellation controlee* (quality control of French wines); Arts Council
(King 2014: 6)

2.16 *Dorland's Dictionary of Medical Acronyms and Abbreviations* (Dorland 2016)

Dorland's Dictionary of Medical Acronyms and Abbreviations (Dorland 2016) has approximately thirty thousand alphabetically ordered entries from medicine. At the front of the dictionary there is a section dedicated to symbols, where the Greek alphabet is found, symbols used in mathematics, statistics and so on. The section is followed by a section called "Abbreviations to avoid," in which the Joint Commission and the Institute for Safe Medication Practice list abbreviations not to be used, mainly due to homonymity; for example, *IN* 'intranasal' could be mistaken for *IM* or *IV*, and for that reason it is advisable to write the entire word (i.e., *intranasal*) or use the abbreviation *NAS*. The dictionary mainly contains English abbreviations, but there are also some foreign ones. All foreign abbreviations are systematically translated. As seen in Example 37, after the entry word in bold there is the expansion or translation, the language qualifier is in square brackets (abbreviated, e.g., *Lat.*) and followed by the foreign expansion in italics and inside the same square brackets (e.g., *contra*). Expansions are divided by semicolons, and synonyms by commas (e.g., *continuation, continue*).

Example 37

con against [*Lat. contra*]; continuation, continue
(Dorland 2016: 90)

As seen in Example 38, the entry is simple: the entry word in bold is followed by expansions divided by semicolons.

Example 38

AACP American Academy of Cerebral Palsy;
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy;
American Association of Community Psychiatrists
(Dorland 2016: 2)

2.17 *Abbreviations Dictionary* (Stahl and Landen 2019)

Abbreviations Dictionary (Stahl and Landen 2019) is a dictionary started by De Sola and continued by Stahl and Landen, and it includes approximately sixty thousand alphabetically ordered entries and an extensive appendix composed of sixty-three fields, among them airlines, airports, currencies of the world, emoticons, inventions and inventors, national holidays, national parks in Canada and the United States, symbols (e.g., U.S. naval ship), vehicle registrations, weather, and wedding anniversaries. The dictionary mainly contains English abbreviations, but there are also some foreign ones. All foreign abbreviations are systematically translated. The entry is simple, composed of the entry word in bold followed by the expansions divided by semicolons, as in Examples 39 and 40. In Example 39 the foreign expansion is written in italics (e.g., *ana*) and followed by the fully spelled-out language qualifiers in parentheses (e.g., *Greek*) and the translation. The expansions are divided by semicolons.

Example 39

aa *ana* (Greek – of each); *ander andere* (German – among others); *arterias* (Latin – arteries); (Hawaiian – block lava) – pronounced *ah-ah*
(Stahl and Landen 2019: 2)

Example 40

FBI Fast Boats Incorporated; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Federation of British Industries; Food Business Institute; full-blooded Irishman, Icelander, Indian, Indonesian, Iranian, Iraqi, Israelite, Italian, or Ivory Coaster
(Stahl and Landen 2019: 398)

The overview of the macro- and microstructure of the English dictionaries of abbreviations included seventeen dictionaries published from 1942 to 2019.

Except for *Acronyms, Initialisms and Abbreviations Dictionary* (Romaniuk 2006), they were not published online and as such the entries are not frequently updated. In terms of macrostructure, the dictionaries presented differ in the number of entries included. The detailed analysis of the microstructure of the entries shows inconsistency among the entries (e.g., the inclusion of foreign abbreviations and often exclusion of translations). As seen from the dictionaries analyzed, the entries differ in a variety of aspects, from layout (e.g., the inclusion of special symbols, commas, semicolons, and other stylistic elements such as bold, italics, and parentheses) to content, where the entries differs in terms of inclusion of translations, language and field qualifiers, and also additional and encyclopedic data, unified or separate entries, and so on. Common to all the dictionaries presented is the fact that they are not easily accessed and outdated, compared to the freely available online dictionaries of abbreviations presented below. Regarding easy access, some of the dictionaries analyzed offer a limited number of digitalized pages of the dictionary freely available online, but access to the entire book is restricted to specialized libraries. The preparation of this article involved three specialized libraries in three different countries (Belgium, Spain, and Slovenia).

3. Online dictionaries of abbreviations

The following section presents freely available online dictionaries of abbreviations that represent alternatives to paper ones because they could be easily updated. When using a dictionary of abbreviations, it is very important to use a dictionary that is not too old (Kompara Lukančič 2010). As argued by Lan (2005), the days of the predominance of paper dictionaries are gone and, according to his study conducted at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, online dictionaries or e-dictionaries are more often used compared to traditional paper ones. Similar analyses showing that the majority of students do not use traditional paper dictionaries were also conducted by Collins (2016) and Dziemianko (2010). Even if abbreviations are found in monolingual online dictionaries, such as *The Free Dictionary* (2020), it was decided to observe only online abbreviation dictionaries. *A Dictionary of Abbreviations* (Vance 2020), *The Acronym Finder* (2020), and *The Abbreviations* (2020) were examined and are presented below.

3.1 *A Dictionary of Abbreviations* (Vance 2020)

A Dictionary of Abbreviations (Vance 2020) is an online dictionary that includes over one hundred thousand alphabetically ordered abbreviations. Among the entries are also military and police abbreviations, and abbreviations from medicine, finance, computer science, and other fields. Every individual meaning or expansion is included in a separate entry, as in Figure 1. Figure 1 shows that some entries have a field qualifier (e.g., *Airline* in square brackets) next to

the entry word. The dictionary offers an extensive list of abbreviations, but access to the expansions is time-consuming because the user must click on each individual entry word in order to see the expansion or meaning.

Figure 1



Figure 2 shows the microstructure of the entry. The entry is simple, composed of the entry word, followed by the field qualifier in square brackets and the English expansion.

Figure 2

BA [Airline] British Airways 🇬🇧

The dictionary mainly includes English abbreviations, but there are also some foreign abbreviations (e.g., *FIAT*). Unfortunately, the foreign abbreviations are not translated into English and there is also no description, or language or field qualifier. As seen in Figure 3, the dictionary article is composed of the entry word and foreign expansion.

Figure 3

FIAT Fabbrica Italiana Automobile Torino 🇮🇹

3.2 *The Acronym Finder* (2020)

The Acronym Finder (2020) includes more than a million entries. The entries mainly include English abbreviations, but foreign ones are also present. As seen in Figure 4, every expansion is in an individual entry, but the expansions are visible without clicking on an individual entry. When users click on the entries, they are redirected to another source (e.g., *The Free Dictionary*). The entry is simple, composed of only the entry word and its expansion. There are no language or field qualifiers, or additional or encyclopedic data.

Figure 4



*****	BA	Business Administration
*****	BA	British Airways
*****	BA	Bay Area (of San Francisco)
*****	BA	Bank of America
*****	BA	Back Again
*****	BA	Bad Ass
*****	BA	Bahrain
*****	BA	British Association
*****	BA	Brand Ambassador (various companies)
*****	BA	Batting Average (baseball)

The dictionary also contains foreign abbreviations, as seen in Figure 5 (e.g., *FIAT*). The entry is simple, composed of only the entry word and an expansion. When clicking on the first entry word, the user is redirected to *The Free Dictionary* (2020). In the second and third expansions there is no redirection to a source and there are also no translations. The entry lacks language and field qualifiers, and translations.

Figure 5

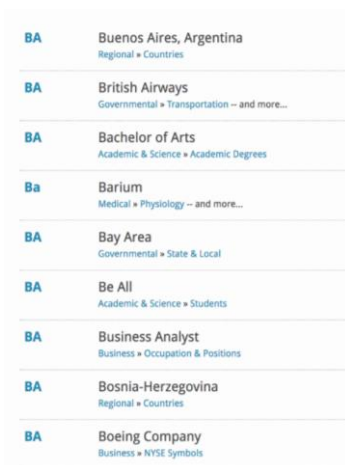


☆*****	FIAT	Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino (Italian automobile manufacturer)
☆*****	FIAT	Field Information Agency, Technical (various organizations)
☆*****	FIAT	Fonds d'Intervention pour l'Aménagement du Territoire (French: Intervention Fund for Regional Development)

3.3 *The Abbreviations* (2020)

The Abbreviations (2020) has an extensive number of abbreviations. The entries include English and foreign abbreviations. As seen in Figure 6, every individual expansion is in a separate entry. The entry is simple, composed of an entry word, expansion, and field qualifier, which was absent in the previous two dictionaries.

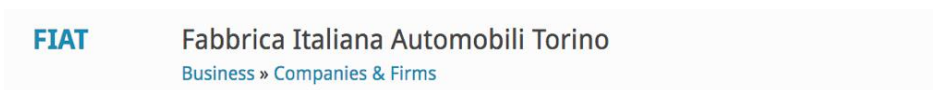
Figure 6



BA	Buenos Aires, Argentina Regional » Countries
BA	British Airways Governmental » Transportation – and more...
BA	Bachelor of Arts Academic & Science » Academic Degrees
Ba	Barium Medical » Physiology – and more...
BA	Bay Area Governmental » State & Local
BA	Be All Academic & Science » Students
BA	Business Analyst Business » Occupation & Positions
BA	Bosnia-Herzegovina Regional » Countries
BA	Boeing Company Business » NYSE Symbols

As seen in Figure 7, foreign abbreviations are also present (e.g., *FIAT*). The entry is simple, composed of an entry word, foreign expansion, and field qualifier. There is no language qualifier and translation, or description of the foreign expansion.

Figure 7



FIAT	Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino Business » Companies & Firms
-------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

On one hand, the online dictionaries analyzed show more extensive inclusion of entries (e.g., reaching the number of one hundred million entries). On the other hand, they have a poorer entry structure, mainly composed of the entry word and its expansion. In the dictionaries analyzed, among the entries there are inconsistencies in the inclusion of translations, language qualifiers, and field qualifiers. The online accessibility of the dictionary is certainly an advan-

tage, but the poor composition of the entry is not much of a help to users. An attempt to join the online approach to dictionary compilation and the structure of more traditional paper dictionaries of abbreviations is presented also in the compilation of two Slovene dictionaries of abbreviations.

4. Conclusion

As it was explained in detail above, the English dictionaries of abbreviations not published online differ both in terms of micro- and macrostructure. The analyzed paper dictionaries differ in the number of entries included. We encounter inconsistencies among the inclusion of foreign abbreviations, the inclusion/exclusion of translations, the different layouts used, and the content, where differences are seen in the inclusion of language and field qualifiers, additional data, etc. In reference to the paper dictionaries presented, a common issue is the fact that they are of limited access (in specialized libraries) and mainly outdated. Compared to the paper ones, on one hand the analyzed online dictionaries show a more extensive inclusion of entries, periodically updated and freely accessed, but on the other hand they have a poorer entry structure, mainly composed of the entry word and its expansions. The analyzed dictionaries show inconsistencies in the inclusion of translations, language qualifiers and field qualifiers. We agree that compared to paper dictionaries the online accessibility is an advantage, but the poor composition of the entry should be considered in the future of the compilation of contemporary dictionaries of abbreviations. We believe that functional, contemporary, structurally adequate dictionaries of abbreviations will be the result of combining the concepts of traditional and modern lexicography.

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