

If not found then reform input keywords and perform steps 1-4 above. This step may be performed a number of times depending upon the number of keywords in the input. For example, if the following title is entered as input:

OUTLINE OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE by FLEMING

This reduces to four keywords:

OUTL
GOTH
ARCH
FLEM

Steps 1-4 could be performed four times using different combinations of keywords as record key and qualifier to locate the requested title as follows:

	<i>Record key</i>	<i>Qualifiers</i>
First Time	OUTL GOTH	ARCH FLEM
Second Time	GOTH ARCH	OUTL FLEM
Third Time	ARCH FLEM	OUTL GOTH
Fourth Time	FLEM OUTL	GOTH ARCH

References

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Correspondence

To the Editor
The Computer Journal

Sir,
Your editorial comments (this *Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 1) on Brigadier Allen's charge of a 'drift' to jargonised incomprehensibility raise interesting debating points. The arguments for and against the heavier blue pencil in professional and technical journals have been well mapped in other fields and, one suspects, in other generations. My own experience, some years ago now, in technical editorial work for a research organisation has left me with a pragmatic approach to the problem. We were encouraged as editors to exert a firm control upon the author's quality of writing and in addition to be meticulous in applying the extensive and well-defined house style. The first duty engaged us in many heated conferences with offended authors; the second proved relatively easy and successful. Brigadier Allen's example of the naked 'go to' phrase would never have passed our jealous guardianship of style! I would guess that the author in question would have had no objections to such a patently effective change to his paper as the insertion of inverted commas. But the problem of changes to the 'English' remains a sensitive one. It was our experience that the more jargonised and wooden the style, the more self-righteous was the defence put up by its perpetrator. The most difficult assignment I ever faced was in trying to persuade a central European expatriate scientist that his brilliant paper was written in non-grammatical English. He was very nearly moved to tears. And this is why I approach technical papers now, as a reader, with an open mind as regards 'quality of writing'. Were I still an editor, perhaps I *would* be tempted to close it a little again.

And then there is jargon. Jargon haunts twentieth-century man. Not only in the sciences. One has only to look at publishers'

Therefore a possible total of 16 search steps could be performed with this input.

An evaluation of the whole search procedure will be made after implementation to determine efficiency. The search program module has been constructed to allow for easy alteration and has further search facilities not yet in use.

Timing

The processing of an order involves a number of other displays, also an access to a customer file. At the time of writing there are six VDU's working and typical response time for a request to the main file is 1 second, and to the secondary file is 2 seconds. Hardware is IBM 360/50 with 2314 disk drives using Disk Operating System and running in a multiprogramming environment. File organisation is IBM Index Sequential.

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'Dictionary of ...' titles to see that we are building for ourselves vast structures of words for every class of cultural activity. The philosopher may ponder. Meanwhile men must communicate. Our own approach at the research establishment was 'British standards or nothing', but that was in a long-established and not too volatile applied science.

In conclusion then I would say this. Firstly I agree that a reference to quality of writing in the 'Notes on submission of papers' must do some good and would offend nobody if diplomatically phrased. Secondly there is no excuse for a lack of house style at the level of punctuation, and in defining such things as where to use upper-case leading characters ('data processing' or 'Data Processing'), inverted commas, italics and so on. The Society's new house style no doubt now covers such points as these. Finally, the question of jargon should be open to further discussion. A possible approach would be to compile a reference terminology which could be used to encourage authors to standardise. But in the area of the computer sciences the task could prove heart-breakingly difficult and in some cases damaging to the author's meaning.

Quite apart from the above discussion may I congratulate you on the new layout. The grouping of titles under general headings on the Contents page is particularly helpful.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. JONES

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