

SCATA Jargon Buster Jan 2007

id	term or acronym	definition	explanation	last edited	edited by
1	ADS	Active Decision Support	Function within an electronic record that uses <code>if&#8230;then</code> <code>&#8230;&rsquo;</code> ; rules to evaluate data held in the record and automatically provide relevant information to assist clinicians in making decisions.	0000-00-00	
2	ADT	Admissions, discharges and transfers	See jargon.php?letter=P >PAS	0000-00-00	
3	AIMS	Anaesthetic Information Management System		0000-00-00	
4	APSF	Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation	An organisation founded in the USA in 1984 with the mission to <code>&ldquo;</code> assure that no patient shall be harmed by the effects of anesthesia <code>&rdquo;</code> . See http://www.apsf.org >www.apsf.org	0000-00-00	
5	Arden Syntax		A programming language for Medical Logic Modules / sophisticated Clinical Decision Support.	0000-00-00	
6	Arms Length Bodies		NHS organisations that work at <code>&ldquo;</code> arms length <code>&rdquo;</code> ; from the main functions of the NHS, e.g. the NHSIA, PPA, NHSU, Modernisation Agency. A review by the Department of Health plans to reduce the number of ALBs from 38 to 20 to save <code>&pound;</code> 0.5billion per annum.	0000-00-00	
7	Audit Trail		The mechanism whereby changes to a document or database can be identified, along with who did what and when.	0000-00-00	
8	Caldicot Guardian		The person within an NHS Trust who is responsible for the systems that protect patient data, often the Medical Director.	0000-00-00	
9	CAP	College of American Pathologists	The CAP created http://www.snomedct.org >SNOMED, now http://www.snomedct.org >SNOMED CT	0000-00-00	
10	CHAI	Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection.		0000-00-00	
11	Choose and Book		The new name for the eBooking project within the NPfIT. Will allow patients to book outpatient appointments at a time and place on a date that suits them.	0000-00-00	
12	CIO	Chief Information Officer	A senior NHS manager responsible for Information Services in a Trust, Strategic Health Authority etc.	0000-00-00	
13	Cluster		Any of the 5 groupings of Strategic Health Authorities in the NHS in England used for the award of LSP contracts as part of the NPfIT. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> London South East and South West West Midlands and North West North East, Yorkshire and Humber East of England and East Midlands 	0000-00-00	
14	CNST	Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts	The insurance scheme for NHS Trusts that protects against legal liability for clinical negligence claims. The amount of the premium depends on the sort of work undertaken, the number of beds, and the meeting of specified criteria that are judged to reduce clinical risks.	0000-00-00	
15	Contact		The secure NHS email and directory service, developed specifically to meet the requirements of the NHS and BMA for a secure email service for transmission of clinical information between NHS organisations. Despite this it is the policy of some NHS Trusts not to permit the use of email for the transmission of patient-identifiable information. http://www.nhs.net >www.nhs.net	0000-00-00	
16	CPRS	Clinical Product Reference Source.		0000-00-00	
17	CRDB	Care Record Development Board	<code>&ldquo;</code> The Board will bring together patients and service users, the public, and social and healthcare professionals. It will identify the values, principles and processes of care and ensure that these are taken into account in the implementation of systems in NPfIT. <code>&rdquo;</code>	0000-00-00	
18	CRS	Care Record Service		0000-00-00	
19	CTV3	Clinical Terms v3	A collection of over 200,000 terms developed during the Clinical Terms Project in 1992-5 and includes Read codes, ICD10 and OPCS4	0000-00-00	
20	Data Controller		A term used in the Data Protection Act to describe anyone who controls the use of personal data.	0000-00-00	
21	DDTF	Data Dictionary Task Force	A task force set up in 2001 under the aegis of the http://www.apsf.org >APSF to develop a standard terminology for anaesthesia. The DDTF has been formally adopted as an official SNOMED CT extension group and has now transmogrified into IOTA. See http://www.apsf.org/initiatives/infosys.msp >www.apsf.org/initiatives/infosys.msp.	0000-00-00	

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22	DOH	Department of Health (for the NHS in England)	Responsibility for healthcare in Scotland and Wales is devolved to their national assemblies	0000-00-00	
23	DICOM	Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine	A communication standard for handling digital images, mostly relevant to diagnostic imaging, e.g. X Rays.	0000-00-00	
24	dm+d	Dictionary of Medicines and Devices	the new name for CPRS. A mechanism for codifying all clinical products in use in the UK . The dm+d aims to deliver a standard electronic vocabulary (terminology) and identifiers for clinical products (medicines, appliances and personal medical devices). This dictionary will facilitate electronic transfer of data on clinical products between systems and provide a route by which knowledge to assist decision making can be accessed for the relevant product.	0000-00-00	
25	DSCN	Data Set Change Notice	A formal notification from the NHSIA of changes to mandatory data sets.	0000-00-00	
26	DTC	Diagnostic and Treatment Centre.	See http://www.npfit.nhs.uk/jargon.php?letter=T >Treatment Centre	0000-00-00	
27	ECDL	European Computer Driving Licence	A test of competence in the use of computers and (mostly Microsoft) software. www.ecdl.com	0000-00-00	
28	EDIFACT or UNEDIFACT	Electronic Data Interchange For Administration, Commerce and Transport	A standard supported by the United Nations for the electronic exchange of structured messages. Used for Central Returns and Pathology messages in the NHS. About to be replaced by XML as a messaging standard.	0000-00-00	
29	e-GIF	Electronic Government Interoperability Framework	A set of regularly updated technical standards designed to enable interaction between public sector systems. Compliance is a mandatory requirement of new systems in the NHS.	0000-00-00	
30	EHR	Electronic Health Record	A term introduced in IfH and now superseded by NCRS and the Spine. The concept of a cradle to grave record of health and health care maintained in the primary care arena.	0000-00-00	
31	EPR	Electronic Patient Record	Superseded by NCRS but still in common use. The electronic equivalent of the hospital notes folder but with added functions.	0000-00-00	
32	ERDIP	Electronic Record Development and Implementation Programme	A series of pilot projects exploring various aspects of electronic patient records.	0000-00-00	
33	ETP	Electronic Transmission of Prescriptions		0000-00-00	
34	FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions	Commonly found on web sites, e.g. www.npfit.nhs.uk/faq	0000-00-00	
35	GNU	Gnu is not Unix, a recursive acronym	Unix is a well-established computer operating system. GNU is the basis of a free Unix-like non-Unix operating system.	0000-00-00	
36	GUI	Graphical User Interface	The visual elements of an operating system that allow interaction with a mouse and other pointing devices.	0000-00-00	
37	Health Informatics		‘The knowledge, skills and tools which enable information to be collected, managed, used and shared to support the delivery of healthcare and to promote health.’	0000-00-00	
38	HES	Hospital Episode Statistics	These are made up from mandatory returns from each organisation and can be seen on the Department of Health website.	0000-00-00	
39	HL7	Health Level 7	A standards group in the USA. Often used in the context of ‘structured messages’ used to send clinical information between computer systems, e.g. EPR and RIS. The mission of HL7 is to: “To provide standards for the exchange, management and integration of data that support clinical patient care and the management, delivery and evaluation of healthcare services. Specifically, to create flexible, cost effective approaches, standards, guidelines, methodologies, and related services for interoperability between healthcare information systems.” See http://www.hl7.org 	0000-00-00	
40	HTML	Hypertext Markup Language	HTML is a special kind of text document that is used by Web browsers to present text and graphics. The text includes markup tags such as <p> to indicate the start of a paragraph, and </p> to indicate the end of a paragraph. HTML documents are often referred to as "Web pages". The browser retrieves Web pages from Web servers that thanks to the Internet, can be pretty much anywhere in World. See http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/Guide/ 	0000-00-00	
41	ICD (ICD10)	International Classification of Diseases, version 10		0000-00-00	
42	ICRS	Integrated Care Records Service	Term now replaced by NCRS.	0000-00-00	
43	IfH	Information for Health	The UK Government's Information Strategy for the NHS for the period 1998-2005. Updated in Building the Information Core.	0000-00-00	

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44	IOTA	International Organization for Terminology in Anesthesia	In 2003, the DDTF joined forces with members of SCATA in the UK and evolved into the International Organization for Terminology in Anesthesia with the mission to create a standardized terminology for the global anesthesia community. IOTA also contains members from the Canadian Anesthesiologists Society and the Society for Technology in Anesthesia. IOTA has contacts with anaesthetists in other English-speaking countries.	0000-00-00	
45	ISB	Information Standards Board	Established in 2001 to provide an independent mechanism for the approval of information standards in the NHS.	0000-00-00	
46	ITN	Invitation (to a bidder) to Negotiate (a contract)		0000-00-00	
47	LAN	Local Area Network	A private or semi-private computer network confined to a defined locality, e.g a hospital site.	0000-00-00	
48	Legacy System		Computer system inherited (as a legacy) from a bygone age.	0000-00-00	
49	LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System	Computer system used to manage laboratory processes and outputs	0000-00-00	
50	LIS	Local Implementation Strategy for IfH	Now superceded by the NCRS strategy.	0000-00-00	
51	LSP	Local Service Provider	A large multi-national corporation awarded the contract to provide IT services (like EPR, scheduling) for a cluster of Strategic Health Authorities. Details on the award of these contracts can be found on the NHSIA web site.	0000-00-00	
52	MHRA	Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	Formed from the merger of the Medicines Control Agency and the Medical Devices Agency.	0000-00-00	
53	MIB	Medical Information Bus	An international standard – IEEE P1073. Technology that facilitates the inter-connection of bedside monitors such as ECGs, pulse oximeters, automatic blood pressure monitors etc so that physiological data can be downloaded and stored on a central database, e.g. an EPR system. Designed to permit ‘plug and play’.	0000-00-00	
54	N3	NNN, i.e. New (high bandwidth) NHS Network.		0000-00-00	
55	NCRS	NHS Care Records Service	A new term encompassing the concepts of both EPR and EHR. Replaces the term ICRS.	0000-00-00	
56	National Spine		See spine	0000-00-00	
57	NASP	National Application Service Provider	A software supplier providing an application that fulfils the requirements of one of the national applications such as electronic transfer of prescriptions, eBooking, NHS messaging, etc.	0000-00-00	
58	NDA	NHS Design Authority	The Authority within the NHS ICRS Programme charged with responsibility for setting the framework for the establishment of standards, monitoring their development and evaluating their implementation.	0000-00-00	
59	NeLH	National Electronic Library for Health	See www.nelh.nhs.uk	0000-00-00	
60	NHAIS	National Health Applications & Infrastructure Services	aka the Exeter system. Software used by Health Authorities in the administration of cancer screening call/recall programmes, patient registration and contractor payments.	0000-00-00	
61	NHS Care Record		A central database within the NCRS programme that will hold essential data about every patient – i.e. data that has long-term value for patient care. Detailed specification not yet publicly available.	0000-00-00	
62	NHS Data Dictionary		The dictionary of all NHS data items, their structure and definitions. It also includes descriptions of most of the Central Returns. See www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/datastandards/.	0000-00-00	
63	NHS ESR	NHS Electronic Staff Record		0000-00-00	
64	NHS Number		Uniquely identifies every individual within the NHS in England and Wales.	0000-00-00	
65	NHS OCS	NHS Organisation Codes Service	Service within the NHSIA responsible for national policy and standards concerning codes for NHS organisations and practitioners.	0000-00-00	
66	NHS Plan		The plan for the NHS, published in 2000.	0000-00-00	
67	NHSIA	NHS Information Authority.	A special Health Authority created in April 1999 to deliver the Information Strategy set out in IfH.	0000-00-00	
68	NHSnet		The NHS' secure, private intranet	0000-00-00	
69	NHSU	NHS University		0000-00-00	
70	NISP	National Infrastructure Service Providers	National Infrastructure Service Providers are to deliver a robust infrastructure to support modernised health and social care, e.g.N3, NHS Mail & Directory Services	0000-00-00	
71	NN4B	NHS Numbers for Babies	babies never used to have their own numbers.	0000-00-00	
72	NPFIT	Also NPfIT. National Programme for IT		0000-00-00	
73	NPSA	National Patient Safety Agency	A Special Health Authority created in July 2001 to improve the safety and quality of care through reporting, analysing and learning from adverse	0000-00-00	

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74	NPRAS	National Patient Record Analysis Service	incidents and 'near misses' involving NHS patients Service intended to support delivery of the NHS Plan by improving the management and delivery of health services through the provision of good quality data to support performance and resource management, clinical governance and audit, planning, research, and surveillance activities.	0000-00-00	
75	NSF	National Service Framework	for cancer, heart disease etc. The framework within which services that have been targeted by Ministers are delivered. Includes information requirements and minimum data sets.	0000-00-00	
76	NSTS	NHS Strategic Tracing Service	Traces a patient's NHS number and other administrative details.	0000-00-00	
77	NWCS	NHS-wide Clearing Service	Passes information on activity, HES etc, from Trusts to the DoH and commissioning Authorities.	0000-00-00	
78	OBS	Output Based Specification	The detailed specification of the outputs required of a computer system or service. Used to define what a supplier is required to provide as part of a contract.	0000-00-00	
79	OCS	Order Comms, Order Communications System	The electronic equivalent of 'requesting' an X-Ray or blood test or almost anything else that may be required for a patient, e.g a theatre slot, dietetic advice, clinical referrals, anaesthetic services.	0000-00-00	
80	OGC	Office of Government Commerce		0000-00-00	
81	OJEC Notice	An advert in the Official Journal of the European Community	All major system or service procurements must be advertised in the OJEC and bids invited.	0000-00-00	
82	OJEU	Official Journal of the European Union	All major system or service procurements must be advertised in the OJEU and bids invited.	0000-00-00	
83	OPCS	Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys		0000-00-00	
84	OSS	Open Source Software	i.e. free or very cheap. Linux is an example of an open source computer operating system.	0000-00-00	
85	PACS	Picture Archiving and Communication System	Uses DICOM standard. Electronic store for digital images, mostly diagnostic.	0000-00-00	
86	PAS	Patient Administration System	Deals with appointments, waiting lists, admissions, discharges, and transfers. Also provides information for Government returns regarding hospital activity.	0000-00-00	
87	PDA	Personal Digital Assistant	A handheld computer designed to be used in conjunction with a desktop PC, e.g. Palm or Pocket PC devices.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
88	PFI	Private Finance Initiative	The Government's method of getting private companies and banks to finance public sector projects, e.g building a new hospital. A property developer may, for instance win the contract to build a new hospital. To build the hospital the developer borrows money from a bank. The NHS leases the hospital from the developer for an annual fee. After 30 or more years the NHS will have paid off the developer's 'mortgage', the developer will have made a decent profit, and the hospital reverts to NHS ownership. The bank loan/mortgage will never have appeared on the Government's balance sheet so the Government has not broken the conditions of the Maastricht Treaty and the European Stability Pact by increasing public spending.	0000-00-00	
89	PINO	PRINCE in name only	Unofficial acronym for projects that pay only lip service to PRINCE 2 management principles.	0000-00-00	
90	PMIP	Pathology Messaging Implementation Programme		0000-00-00	
91	PPA	Prescription Pricing Authority	Authority that ensures high street chemists are paid for dispensing prescriptions. Also provides information on prescribing trends, drug costs, etc.	0000-00-00	
92	PRINCE 2	Projects in Controlled Environments (version 2).	The UK Government's approved methodology for managing complex projects such as implementation of an EPR.	0000-00-00	
93	QMAS	Quality Management and Analysis Subsystem	NPfIT has commissioned British Telecom to develop and implement QMAS, a new IT system, to support the QOF. It will provide reporting, forecasting and payment information for improving services within the Quality and Outcomes Framework.	0000-00-00	
94	QOF	Quality and Outcomes Framework	As part of a new contract, introduced in 2004, GP practices are rewarded for achieving clinical and management quality targets and for improving services for patients within a Quality and Outcomes Framework.	0000-00-00	
95	Read Terms/Codes		Invented by Dr James Read. A system for standardizing the terms used and the coding of diseases etc, originally in primary care. Later versions are still in use but now superseded by SNOMED CT. See also CTV3.	0000-00-00	
96	RF LAN	Radio Frequency LAN	A wireless version of a LAN.	0000-00-00	

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97	RID	Regional Implementation Director	The senior NHS manager responsible for implementing NPfIT in an NHS region.	0000-00-00	
98	RIS	Radiology Information System	Computer system used to manage radiology processes and outputs.	0000-00-00	
99	SAP	Single Assessment Process	Integrated process for assessing the Health and Social Care needs of the elderly.	0000-00-00	
100	SGML	Standard Generalised Markup Language	A page markup language that was initially developed in the late 1960s by the US Graphic Communications Association to permit the electronic transfer of page formatting and layout instructions from publishers to printers. Adopted as an international standard in 1986. The foundation for HTML and XML.	0000-00-00	
101	SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	The protocol that governs the sending of email messages. Related acronyms: POP or POP3 (Post Office Protocol) and IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol) for receiving email. Plain vanilla SMTP generally runs on port 25. It is possible to use SMTP and SSL (secure sockets layer) for encrypted sending, in which case port 587 is often used.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
102	SNOMED CT	Systematised Nomenclature for Medicine	SNOMED Clinical Terms. A thesaurus of approved clinical terms and their synonyms, plus their associated computer codes. SNOMED was originally developed by the College of American Pathologists. SNOMED CT represents the combining of SNOMED with CTV3, and is a collaborative venture between the College of American Pathologists and the NHSIA. See www.snomed.org and http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/technical/standards/snomed/ >connecting for health web site.	0000-00-00	
103	SOAP	Simple Object Access Protocol	An XML protocol for the exchange of information.	0000-00-00	
104	Spine		Old term for what is now called the NHS Care Record	0000-00-00	
105	STEP	Standards Enforcement in Procurement.	The standards that must be met by IT products procured by the NHS.	0000-00-00	
106	DTC	Diagnostic and Treatment Centre	A new initiative within the NHS in England. Treatment Centres are designed primarily to do routine, high throughput, elective surgery, e.g. hip replacements, cataracts. Commonly set up using private finance and sometimes employing teams of clinicians from overseas.	0000-00-00	
107	TUPE	Transfer of Undertakings – Protection of Employment	The legislation that protects employees' employment rights when businesses change ownership.	0000-00-00	
108	UKCRPS	UK Standard Clinical Products Reference Source	A mechanism for codifying all clinical products in use in the UK.	0000-00-00	
109	UML	Universal Modelling Language	A technique for modelling processes that is universally applicable and facilitates the subsequent computerisation of those processes.	0000-00-00	
110	URL	Universal Resource Locator	An internet address, e.g. http://www.doh.gov.uk/ipu	0000-00-00	
111	Virus		A computer program that loads and runs without the users knowledge and serves no useful purpose. Frequently malevolent in its effect. Spread by sharing files or by email.	0000-00-00	
112	W3C	World Wide Web Consortium	The organisation that develops interoperable web technologies. See http://www.w3.org rel="external">www.w3.org	0000-00-00	
113	WAN	Wide Area Network	A private or semi-private computer network confined to a wider area than a LAN but not the internet. The NHS' private network, NHS net, could be regarded as an example.	0000-00-00	
114	Worm		A variety of a computer virus that 'worms' its way into a system and causes havoc.	0000-00-00	
115	WeBNF		The web-enabled BNF.	0000-00-00	
116	XML	Extensible Markup Language	A subset of SGML. More flexible than HTML. Can be used to transmit structured messages, e.g. pathology results. See http://www.w3.org/XML rel="external">www.w3.org/xml.	0000-00-00	
117	Cybersquatting		Acquiring an Internet domain that should rightfully belong to someone else (e.g. a well-known company) with the intention of forcing them to buy it from you.	2007-01-19	webmaster@scata.org.uk
118	Typosquatting		Registering domains that are only a few keystrokes from a popular website to draw traffic after typing errors.	2007-01-19	webmaster@scata.org.uk
119	POTS	Plain Old Telephone System		2007-01-19	webmaster@scata.org.uk
120	Podcasting		A portmanteau word from iPod + broadcasting, describing how radio stations make programmes available for download onto digital music players.	2007-01-19	webmaster@scata.org.uk
121	Bandwidth		The amount of data that can be transferred along a digital connection in a given time period - usually measured in Megabits per second (MB/s). A typical Broadband connection in 2007 had bandwidth between 2 and 8 MB/s.	2007-01-19	webmaster@scata.org.uk

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122	RSS	Really Simple Syndication	RSS allows Internet users to select data from a wide range of websites and have it delivered automatically to their computer, allowing for customisation and personalisation of regularly updated web content.	2007-01-19	webmaster@scata.org.uk
123	Phishing		The attempt to acquire (fraudulently) information such as banking details and passwords by masquerading online as a reputable business or organisation. In 2006 there was a huge increase in emails with phishing 'scams'. Some email clients (e.g. Mozilla Thunderbird) have implemented phishing filters.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
124	Biometrics		Considered by some to be the Holy Grail of modern security, biometrics allows personal biological information (fingerprint, iris scan etc) to confirm an identity. It derives from Greek <i>bios</i> , life and <i>metron</i> , measure.)	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
125	Spamish		The new language created by spammers where letters are substituted with punctuation to try and fool email filters, e.g. V!agra.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
126	Cookies		Data that is sent by a website and stored on computers browsing that sites. Cookies allow websites to identify and monitor information about users, for example, recording all visits, or what they purchased. Cookies can also be used for authentication, to ensure that certain pages can be only be accessed by authenticated users.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
127	VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol	Allows the transmission of voice telephony over the Internet. In 2006, many of the major telecom companies began offering VOIP in addition to their traditional voice telephony services. One of the earliest VOIP providers was Skype .	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
128	Bluetooth		Short-range radio technology that allows devices to communicate with each other wirelessly. The name alludes to Harald I of Denmark (c.910-85), nicknamed Blåtand or 'bluetooth', who is credited with unifying his kingdom in the way that Bluetooth seeks to unify bluetooth-enabled devices.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
129	Bangalored		Losing your job to cheap labour outsourced to another country e.g. India.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
130	Firewall		A combination of hardware and software that protects computers from attack by restricting certain types of Internet traffic. A popular software-only firewall is the ZoneAlarm product for MS Windows. Many popular routers now come with firewall software/firmware embedded. It is becoming common for vendors to bundle anti-virus, anti-spam and firewall software together as 'anti-malware' products.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
131	GPS	Global Positioning System	Developed by the US Dept. of Defense, uses a constellation of orbiting satellites to give instantaneous, real-time geographic positions to within c. 10m. Anyone on Earth can access GPS data and it is widely used for car 'Sat-Nav'igational systems.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
132	Googlewhack		The curious pursuit of finding a pair of words that when entered into Google, produces just one result. As with <i>Googlebombs</i> , their unique quality is transient as the word pair becomes known through Internet publicity. Examples of successful <i>Googlewhacks</i> include: 'episcopal brachiosaur' and 'pimp schadenfreude'.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
133	Googlebomb		The practice of creating multiple links to a website in order to force that site to the top of Google's ranking. So, for example, in June 2005, <i>Googling</i> 'miserable failure' brought up the official White House page for the biography of George W.Bush. By their very nature, Googlebombs are fated to be transient. As more people discuss a Googlebomb on websites or Blogs, that discussion is likely to force the target site off the top slot.	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk
134	Google	(One Googol = 10 ¹⁰⁰)	In June 2005, just 10 months after floating on the NY stock exchange, Google became the world's largest media company, worth more than \$81bn (compared to Time Warner's value of c\$78bn). The financial success of Google mirrors the effect the search engine has had on the world. Not only is Google now a commonplace verb (<i>I googled his name</i>), but the search engine	2007-01-20	webmaster@scata.org.uk

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			has entered into the culture in a number of other ways in terms such as 'Googleproof', 'Googlestalk' and 'Googlebomb'.		