GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS by Dilwyn Jones and Lee Privett

From time to time, those of us who write for QL magazines have to use abbreviations. If we explained every single one in every single article, this would make the articles very long indeed. We know that there are plenty of less experienced or less knowledgeable users out there, as well as those new to or returning to the QL, so here is a reference guide to those commonly used abbreviations and terms we run into time to time.

16-BIT COLOUR	Means that 16 bits of computer memory are used to store the colour value for each pixel on the display. This allows up to 65536 colours to be used. Current systems able to display this much colour include QXL, QPC2, Q40 and Q60
8-BIT COLOUR	Means that 8 bits of computer memory are used to store the colour value for each pixel on the display. This allows up to 256 colours to be used. This mode only exists on the Aurora replacement QL motherboard and QPC2
ACP	Abbreviation for the Archivers Control Panel software, used as a front end for archiving programs like Zip.
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscribers Line, an internet connection sometimes referred to as Broadband
Address	A memory location. Each memory location has a consecutive number, starting from 0 and running up to a very large number corresponding to how much memory a computer has or can handle.
A/D or A to D	Analogue to digital conversion. A method by which analogue data is converted into a digital form. The opposite of course is digital to analogue abbreviated to D/A or D to A
AH, JM, JS, MG	Abbreviated names given to the various versions of the QL ROM issued by Sinclair. The letters actually refer to the version of SuperBASIC built in. For Minerva, the equivalent is 'JSL1' while SMSQ's SBASIC uses 'HBA'
AI (file extension)	Adobe Illustrator files, as used by Line Design. This abbreviation can also stand for Artificial Intelligence
Algorithm	A description of a routine which ends with a result. For example, a routine to sort a list of numbers.
Alpha Test	A first test phase of newly developed software or hardware, after which the first bugs are found and the process passes to the second stage, called a Beta Test stage (q.v.)
Altkey	An alternative definition applied to a key or combination of keys which, when pressed, generate that action. For example, ALTKEY “p”,”PRINT” on the QL means that if you hold down the ALT key on the keyboard and tap the p key, it would generate the keyword PRINT. A means of assigning whole strings to a single key, in principle. The Toolkit 2 add-on for a QL has a keyword called ALTKEY from where this term comes. When written as two separate words, ALT key refers to the key called ALT on a keyboard.
Ampersand	The & symbol, used to join together two strings in QL BASIC, e.g. LET a$ = b$&c$
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
API	Applications Programming Interface. A set of routines or utilities provided so that programmers can write their own applications to use that code
Application	Usually means the same thing as the term “program”, but while a program is usually a single executable file, an “application” can be a traditional single executable program, but may also be a more complex package made of several executables working together.
ARC	A file compression utility
Arguments	Not fights between QL users, but rather a list of values which follow a keyword. For example, the command PRINT a$,b$,c$ has three “arguments”.
Arithmetic Stack	Also known as the RI Stack. Similar in principle to other types of stack (q.v.) on the QL. This is a kind of pile of values used as temporary or intermediate stores during calculations. Values are always put onto the end of the stack and also taken off the end of the stack, so they have to be taken off the stack in reverse order to that in which they were put on.
Array	A type of variable which can hold multiple values of the same type. For example, a numeric array holds a list of numbers. A string array holds a list of strings and so on.
Arrow Keys	Also referred to as the Cursor Arrow Keys. Refers to the four keys on the keyboard with arrows on them.
ASCII	American Standard Codes for Information Interchange. Standard used for ensuring all computers represent characters with the same numeric codes, e.g. a capital A always has the code 65. Usually only applies for character codes up to 127
ALTKEY	A facility provided by Toolkit 2 (see below) to attach a string of characters to a key. So when

	you hold down ALT and tap the specified key, that key gives the text for you, to save some typing. For example, if you define ALTKEY 'p', 'PRINT' and later use ALT p, it types in the word PRINT for you
ASIC	Application Specific Integrated Circuit
Assembler	A “low-level” programming language using a human-readable form of the instructions of the micro processor. Think of it as text version of the number codes which a processor executes. The text form is “assembled” (turned into a list of machine code numbers) by a program called an “assembler”. The term Assembly Language may also be encountered – this is synonymous to the term Assembler when referring to the human text-readable forms of the instructions of the microprocessor.
Backslash	The “\” symbol on the keyboard. In computing, this is distint from the Forward Slash key “/”.
Backup	The act of making a duplicate copy of a file or disk, made in case something goes wrong and the original cannot be retrieved
BASIC	Beginners All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. Gulp! That mouthful basically (pun not intended) describes the main language understood by the QL. The QL version of BASIC is called SuperBASIC, or if you are using SMSQ, it's called SBASIC
BBS	Bulletin Board System. A computer you can dial up with a modem on your computer. Many have programs you can download, masses of information, or even message systems where you can leave messages on the system for someone else who also connects regularly to the system
Beta	This term refers to an application program during its development at a stage when it has more or less full functionality, but is still being tested and may still have several bugs in it and not yet ready for release. When a program has passed the Beta testing stage, it then becomes a Release Candidate and undergoes a lot of thorough testing (we hope) before its full release.
Binary	Base 2 arithmetic. The individual digits of a number can only be 0 or 1. So the number 2 is written as 10, while the number 3 is 11 and so on. In SBASIC, a binary number is represented by preceding it with a “%” character, e.g. %1111 is the same as decimal 15.
BIT	BIT is an acronym for Binary digIT, A single digit of a computer memory, 8 bits make up a byte, 4 bits are sometimes referred to as a 'nybble' or ‘nibble’ of memory
Bitmap	A graphical representation of an image, stored as a two dimensional map of bits. Each bit (monochrome) or group of bits (colour) represents one pixel or one dot of colour of an image. The QL screen picture is organised as a bitmap, for example.
BIOS	Basic Input Output System, basically a set of commands usually stored in permanent memory instructing the CPU to check connections to various computer hardware
BOOT	A special program or piece of code which defines how a program or computer starts up. To BOOT UP is essentially the same as saying To START UP, except with BOOT there is usually a special significance in that it is usually the name of a special program which starts automatically as the computer starts. On the QL, this is usually a SuperBASIC program
Booting	Starting up a computer (as distinct from kicking it when it doesn’t work).
BPS	Bits Per Second, a measure of communication speed on a serial interface, for example when using modems
Broadband	Term used to describe fast connection to the internet
Broadcast	When using the QL network, broadcasting is the term given to when you send a file over the network which can be received by any station which happens to be listening. Broadcasting is done by sending a file to station 0 (e.g. SAVE NETO_0), which means any network station which happens to be listening to station 0 for input (e.g. LOAD NETI_0). QL network station numbers (64 maximum) are normally numbered from 1 upward, with 0 being reserved for this special “broadcasting” use.
Browser	Program used to look at web pages
BSI	British Standards Institution
BTW	By The Way, an abbreviation used by bulletin board and email enthusiasts, one of a number of commonly used abbreviations for such phrases
Buffer	An area of memory used to store input or output temporarily e.g. whilst waiting to be output to a device.
Bug	Fault or error in software
BYTE	A unit of computer memory. Think of it as one of a large number of slots in which the QL can store small numbers. If you know about binary numbers, a byte can store 8 bit numbers, from

	0 to binary 11111111, or decimal 0 to 255. Programs are made up of sequences or patterns of these numbers, and larger numbers are made up of a few of these smaller numbers strung together
C68	Name of a C language compiler program for the QL. This is the C compiler most used by QL users.
Cache	Cache is space on a hard disk or other type memory used by the operating system to use again normally in increase speed of operation
CAD	Computer Aided Design but is also used for Computer Aided Drafting and Computer Aided Drawing.
CAM	Computer Aided Manufacture, many automatic milling and drilling machines take commands from a computer based system that uses drawings created in CAD software to make components, printed circuit boards for example.
Case	Whether a letter is a capital letter (upper case) or small letter (lower case)
CD-ROM	Compact Disk Read Only Memory, medium for saving data permanently.
Channel	A channel number refers to the place where the parameters of a command are to be sent to or taken from, e.g. PRINT #0,"Hello" sends the word Hello to channel number 0, while INPUT #1,a$ asks you to enter something from screen channel number 1. The channel number must always be preceded by a hash ("#") character.
Checkerboard	A dotted symbol which looks like a small version of a chess board.
Client	A program which makes use of a server (q.v.). When viewing web pages, for example, the remote computer holding the web pages is a Server and the browser program actually viewing those pages on your computer is a Client.
Compiler	A compiler is a computer program that transforms human readable source code of another computer program into the machine readable code that a CPU can execute. For example, the Turbo compiler on the QL turns a SuperBASIC program into a machine code program which the QL's 68008 processor can execute directly. Another example is writing a program such as a C program in a text editor then running it through a program like C68 to turn the "text" to an executable machine code.
Compression	Trying to make a file smaller, to reduce the space it occupies on your computer system, or to reduce the time the file takes to download from the internet.
CON	Console window. A type of screen window on the QL which you can print information to, and get keyboard information from. If you have opened a CON type window, you can not only use PRINT to write information to the screen, you can also use INPUT to allow the user to type in information in that part of the screen. When the QL is started up, SuperBASIC starts with three CON channels open on the display, which you know as #0, #1 and #2
Concatenate	Act of joining two strings together end to end using the '&' operator, e.g. LET a$="He":LET b$=a$ & "llo"
CONFIG	Program used to configure QL programs which use a block of code called a QJump Standard Configuration Block to hold program default values
CPU	Central Processing Unit, the microprocessor at the heart of a computer
CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Test, used in error checking
CTRL-C	This is a special key-press on the QL keyboard, intended to let you switch between programs which are in memory at the same time. Hold down the CTRL key, and tap the 'c' key. This process of switching between programs is called Task Switching
CTS	Clear To Send, an RS232C signal pin
Database	An application that stores and manages data e.g. Archive or DB on the QL.
DB	Data Base, also the term used for the USA equivalent of Archive
DBF	Database file
DD	Double Density, normally refers to a type of floppy disk or drive
Debug	Examine a program to find out why it or some part of it isn't running as it ought to.
Debugger	A program which lets you run your program in a manner (usually line by line) which lets you examine values of variables etc to help you debug and work out why your program isn't runnign the way it ought to.
DIL	Dual In Line, normally used when referring to the type of IC sockets used on a circuit board
DIN	Deutsche Industrie-Norm, the German equivalent of BSI and ANSI, many types of audio and power connectors are often referred to as a 'DIN' plug or 'DIN' socket
DIMM	Dual Inline Memory Module, a type of memory card used by PCs using both sides of the card

DIYTK	Do It Yourself Toolkit. Name used to refer to a long running series of articles by Simon Goodwin in QL World magazine, where he wrote extensions software for the QL as individual files which you could bundle any of them together into a boot file, hence the DIY name
Dongle	Term used to refer to the plug in cartridge issued with the first QLs were part of the operating system was held in a small ROM cartridge plugged into the ROM expansion slot at the back of the QL. The term 'Kludge' was sometimes used as a synonym. Both terms were originally used by early reviewers of the QL. Outside the QL scene, this term has also been used to mean either a plug-in cartridge used like a key, without which the computer or a particular software will not work unless you have the key (or 'dongle'). More recently, the term 'dongle' has been used to refer to the plug in wireless networking devices for PCs, for example.
DS	Double Sided, normally refers to a type of floppy disk or drive
DTE	Data Terminal Equipment, RS232C communications term
DLL	Dynamic Link Library, an interface allowing a programmer to use code from within his/her own application
DOS	Disk Operating System
DPI	Dots per inch, used to describe print density on a printer, for example
DRAM	Dynamic Random Access Memory. The information stored in DRAM is lost if the power is turned off
Driver	Name given to a piece of software which allows the computer to control a specific type or piece of hardware connected to that computer.
DTP	Desk Top Publishing
ED	Extra Density or Extra-high Density, refers to the 3.2 megabyte floppy disks for the QL, or their disk drives
EE	Extended Environment, a term used to describe the combination of PTR_GEN,WMAN and HOT_REXT (or the equivalent in SMSQ/E) which give you a system which enhances your QL by saving and restoring window contents, hotkeys, standard menus and so on
EGA	Enhanced Graphics Adaptor for the PC, now largely superseded, this term is still used to refer to a particular type of screen display. On the QXL, for example, an EGA display mode refers to a 640x350 pixel display.
E-MAIL	Electronic Mail, commonly used by Internet enthusiasts to send messages etc. to each other via the Internet
EPROM	Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory, a special memory chip, which can be programmed with certain information (e.g. some extensions for the SuperBASIC language). Once programmed, you can only read information from it. If you expose a little window on it to strong ultra violet light (in a sealed container of course, you can buy special ones for this job) it will erase the program and you can then user a programmer device to save new information to it
EEPROM	Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory, (see above) but programmed and erased electrically using field emission known as 'Fowler-Nordheim tunnelling' who first proposed the method
EPROM Slot	Term used to refer to a connection on the back of a QL which allows you to plug in a software ROM cartridge or small circuit board containing a ROM or EPROM
Emulator	A program which runs on one computer and allows that computer to run programs designed for a different system. For example, QL2K is a program which runs on a PC in Windows and runs QL software on the PC.
Endian	Refers to the layout of bits in a computer system, specifically whether the low end or high end bits and byte come first or last. A PC, for example, is Little Endian (which means little end of a value first), while processors such as the 68000 series are Big Endian (which means that the high value part of a number comes first).
Environment Variables	System which allows names to be defined and given values by one program (e.g. SuperBASIC) and which can be accessed by other programs. Provides a means of setting default values in a boot program for example, which can be detected by later programs. The Environment Variables software was originally supplied with the C68 C compiler software.
EOF	End of file. The EOF command is used to check if we have reached the end of a file yet.
Equivalent	As distinct from equals, this means that values are sufficiently close to being equal that to all intents and purposes they should be treated as equal. In QL programming, this is indicated by use of the double equals ("==") symbol to indicate that the values are "approximately equal". For strings, this means that lower and upper case are treated as being the same (e.g. IF

	a$=”me” would match ME, Me,me and mE. For numbers, it is when values are so near to being equal to within several decimal places, according to Jan Jones in her book “QL SuperBASIC The Definitive Handbook”, x==y will be true if (x-y) <= (y*1E-7), where (x-y) means the absolute or positive value of x-y
Error	When something in a program has gone wrong, the computer may tell you with an error value such as -15 or the message “bad parameter” when a value to something is not in the range expected.
Exception	A hardware condition triggered when something goes wrong in processing, for example an attempt to divide by zero, or the QL trying to access memory at a non-existent address.
Execute	Start a QL machine code program (as distinct from running a SuperBASIC program).
EXIT	Name of a keyword or act of leaving a loop structure such as a FOR or REPeat loop.
Expander	A plug-in circuit board for a QL which adds facilities such as a memory expansion, a floppy disk interface, hard disk interface or any combination of these.
Expansion Slot	Term which refers to a connection on the left hand side of the QL into which you can plug an expansion card such as a floppy disk interface or memory expansion device.
Extended Environment	See EE above.
FDD	Floppy Disk Drive
File Header	A short list of data about a file, which either procedes the main file itself, or may be held separately on a disk drive, which holds information such as the size of the file, date it was last updated, file type and so on.
FLP	Abbreviation for Floppy Disks. Most QL disk systems refer to disk drive number 1 as FLP1_ for example. FLP is an example of a directory device name.
Forward Slash	The “/” symbol on the keyboard, as distinct from the Back Slash symbol “\”.
Frame Rate	A frame rate is the number of pictures shown per second and is also the time units used for the INKEY$ and PAUSE keywords. In most countries this corresponds to 1/50th second, while in the USA for example it might be 1/60th of a second.
FTP	File Transfer Protocol, a term for a method to transfer files via the World Wide Web
Function	A block of code, usually given a name, which is used to perform one or more specific tasks (usually calculations) within a program and return a result value. Think of it as a building block for a program. It can be called from other places in a program several times by different parts of a program, to avoid having to rewrite the same code over and over again.
Fuzz	Term used to describe one of the parameters of a QL BEEP sound command. The ‘Fuzz’ value (0-15) describes how “fuzzy”, “blurred” or “distorted” the sound becomes when you use values of 8 to 15 in a BEEP command for the Fuzz parameter.
GAL	Gate Array Logic, a type of logic chip used in the Qubide, for example
GB	Gigabyte, for 1,024 Megabytes, used to indicate the capacities of modern very large hard disk drives. Some hard disk manufacturers tend to use Gigabyte to mean 1,000 Megabytes instead
GC	Gold Card, an expansion card for the QL giving a number of additional ports
GD2	Graphics Device Interface 2. The name for the system which allows more colours than the standard QL four or eight on the screen
GIF	Graphics Interchange Format, a graphics file format licensed from CompuServe
GLUE	A type of logic chip, as used on the QXL for example. Usually the chip which controls the interaction of other peripheral chips
GPL	General Public Licence, a type of licence published by the GNU project. It usually allows you to run a program, to study how a program works, modify it, give copies free to others, improve the program and release the improved version.
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit, a single chip normally dedicated to 3D graphic environments
Handshaking	When extra control line(s) are used between devices to start, stop and regulate the flow of data.
Hash	The “#” symbol used to indictae a channel number, e.g. in PRINT #0,”Hello”
HD	(i) Hard Disk (ii) High Density, a type of floppy disk or its disk drive
HDD	Hard Disk Drive
HDMI	High-Definition Multimedia Interface, a high quality multimedia connection and interface for audio and video signals using one multicored cable

Heap	Name given to a fairly general storage area used by the operating system or in some cases a user's program running on the computer.
Hexadecimal	Often abbreviated to "hex", this is base 16 arithmetic where each digit is a value from 0 to 15, rather than 0-9 in the decimal system, with the numbers from decimal 10 to decimal 15 expressed as the letters A to F respectively. Because computers work in bits and bytes, this is a convenient numbering system as groups of 4 binary digits can be shown as one hexadecimal digits, and bytes can be expressed as 2 hexadecimal numbers, e.g. decimal 255 is the same as hexadecimal FF. In SBASIC hexadecimal numbers are preceded by a "$" character, such as $FF, while on the PC for example it is common to precede hexadecimal numbers by "0x" e.g. 0xFF
Hermes	Not an abbreviation, this is the name for a replacement for the 8049 second processor in an original QL. It is sold by TF Services, and is designed to improve the handling of the keyboard, serial ports and so on
High Colour	System used for displaying more than the usual number of QL colours on the screen. Usually used to refer to so-called 16-bit colour, which means that 16 bits of computer memory are used to store the colour value for a single pixel of the display
High Resolution	When the screen on a QL compatible system is able to display more than the number of pixels possible with a standard QL (more than 512x256). For example, a QL emulator able to show a QL display 800 pixels wide by 600 pixels high might be described as High Resolution.
HOT_REXT	Part of the Pointer Environment (or Extended Environment). This file controls the Hotkeys (see below), and provides a number of new words for the BASIC language, allowing control of hotkeys to start programs, or perform specific actions independent of the program you are using at the time. For example, you can define a hotkey which when pressed would start a copy of Quill whatever you were doing at the time
HOTKEY	See HOT_REXT above
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language (or Hyper Text Meta Language in the USA). A name for a language used to create pages for the World Wide Web
I/O	Input/Output, or getting information in and out of a computer
IDE	Intelligent Drive Electronics or Integrated Drive Electronics. A method of connecting drives to computers, where the main interface electronics are part of the drive rather than the computer circuit board. IDE can also stand for Integrated Development Environment, where all programming tools for a task are brought together into one, rather than for example having to load an editor, type in a program, save the program, run a compiler, and link files into one application.
I2C	The bus system used by Minerva Mk 2 from TF Services
INT	Interrupt or Integer. An interrupt is a signal to a microprocessor within a computer that occurs on a regular basis, normally 50 or 60 times a second, or from time to time as required. It means that something is demanding attention and time from the processor, requesting that the processor suspends what it's doing and diverts to whatever device or routine that needs the attention. An integer is a whole number, one that cannot have any decimal places.
Internet	The name given to the global computer network connected by a modem
Interpreter	An interpreter is a computer program that reads the source code of another computer program and executes that program. Because it is interpreted line by line, it is usually a much slower way of running a program than one that has been compiled but is easier for learners because the program can bestopped, modified and rerun without time-consuming compiles each time you make a small change.
IQLR	International QL Report, a QL magazine published by Seacoast Services in the USA and edited for many years by the publisher, Bob Dyl. The magazine eventually ended in 1996, and was superseded by the magazine QL Today.
IQLUG	The original name for Quanta, the QL user group, when it was first set up in 1984. The letters stood for Independent QL Users Group. After a while, they decided it wasn't the easiest of names to pronounce and changed the name of the group to be the same as that of the group's newsletter, QUANTA.
ISA	Industry Standard Architecture, an old style of adapter card used by QXL
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network. Basically a posh name for a digital telephone network

ISO	International Standards Organisation
Jumper	A connection on a circuit board that allows different circuits to be linked together by the specific location of a small metal loop. This allows different permutations and configurations to be realised
JPEG	Joint Photographics Expert Group, name of a body to agree on graphics compression standards for still pictures. Used generally to describe a file saved in this format. Not in widespread use on the QL, though there is a QL PD program to convert between JPEG and GIF, and there are several GIF file readers for the QL
KB	Abbreviation for KiloByte, or 1,024 byte. The unit 1,024 is used rather than 1,000 as it is a number which is a power of 2, which makes it easier and more logical to handle in computer terms. 1,024 KB makes 1 MB or 1 MegaByte, see below
Kernel	Special code at the heart of a computer's operating system.
Keyed	Termed used to describe specific orientations of connectors and plugs so that only the correct connection is made
KHz	KiloHertz, a measure of the number of cycles per second
LED	Light Emitting Diode, small fairly low current device used to replace filament bulbs, as their robustness and longevity made them much more reliable and ideal as indicators. Available now in red, orange, yellow, green, blue & white colours
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display, sandwiched between two layers a liquid changes its opacity when an electrical charge is passed though it, used in displays.
Linker	A special program which joins up two or more code files and builds them into a single executable or code file, and works out the "links" between the code so that they are all joined up correctly together.
Linux	Operating system originally created by one Linus Torvalds (a former QL user himself!). Allows us to use a QL emulator called uQLx. There is also a version of the Qlay emulator which can run on Windows. Linux is an example of an open source operating system originally based on Unix.
Logical Operators	Used to determine if a condition being tested is true or false, e.g. IF x=0 AND y=1 THEN PRINT"True" : ELSE PRINT "False" : END IF
LONG WORD	2 Words or 4 bytes of computer memory. Sometimes referred to as a 32 bit value. For those who understand binary numbers, this corresponds to a 32 digit binary number, so a long word of computer memory can store quite large values
Loop	A programming structure which repeats a statement or block of code until a condition for ending the repetiton occurs. FOR loops run a set number of times, whereas a REPEat loop runs until a certain condition occurs then exits from the loop when that condition occurs.
LQ	Letter quality, a term used to describe print quality
LSB	Least Significant Byte, the lowest 8 bits of a numeric value. When you write the number as a binary form, this will be the rightmost 8 bits. Can also stand for Least Significant Bit when specifically referring to one single bit of the data's value
Machine Code	Machine Code is the name of the instructions that a processor can run directly. At its simplest level, machine code is a sequence of numbers in memory. Rather than program directly in machine code, programmers usually write code in what is called Assembly Language, a human readable text form of machine code, which is then converted by a program called an Assembler directly into machine code which the computer can run without having to do any further conversion when the program runs.
Macro	A piece of pre-written code or routine or value which is added to a program where indicated to save having to type it in each time you write a program. You will often come across this term when using assembler programs.
Make	Make reads in a makefile, which is a list which specifies which source code files which are needed to build the final program. This sort of approach allows you to write a program in sections, which can later be compiled into a single program. Writing code in sections like this makes it easier to maintain very large programs.
MB	Megabyte, or 1,024 KiloBytes, or 1,024 times 1,024 bytes. Nowadays, computer memory is often so large that it is measured in MB rather than Bytes
Mbps	Mega Bits Per Second, not to be confused with MBps (MegaBytes per second)

MDV	Device name for the microdrive tape loop storage devices on a Sinclair QL. MDV is an abbreviation of microdrive. Two of these tape drives were supplied built into the case of the QL and in theory up to 6 more could be plugged into a slot on the right hand side of the QL. Each microdrive could store about 100 kilobytes of data.
Menu	A list of items on the screen, from which you are invited by the computer to choose one or more of those items
Menu Extension	A handy little toolkit written by Jochen Merz to simplify the writing of programs of your own which can be controllled by a mouse or cursor arrow keys and adds facilities such as allowing you to create menus and lists for file selections, list selections, and so on. The term Menu Extensions refers to the software itself, whilst the term Qmenu refers to the printed programming instruction manual. If, like me, you have difficulty remembering which term refers to what, try to remember the sentence (from the manual) which says: "QMenu - How to program and use The Menu Extension"
MERGE	The act of joining two SuperBASIC programs together with a command called MERGE.
MESS	Multiple Emulator Super System. An emulation engine which can emulate over 250 computer systems, including the QL
MHz	MegaHertz, a measure of the number of cycles per second
Microdrive	The original QL was supplied with two built in tape loop drives, called microdrives. The tape cartridges which plugged into these drives were called Microdrive Cartridges and could each store up to about 100 kilobytes of data. The microdrives were also known as MDVs, since the operating system called the drives MDV1_ and MDV2_. Now largely obsolete.
Minerva	A replacement operating system chip for the QL. The original versions of the QDOS operating system for the QL did have a few problems which were not sorted out before the QL was discontinued. Minerva is produced by TF Services, and fixes these problems and provides a few extra facilities as well. A Minerva ROM has the characters "JSL1" as its version identifier, which were the forename initials of the designers Jonathan (Oakley), Stuart (McKnight) and Laurence (Reeves).
MODEM	MOdulator/DEModulator. A device which plugs between a computer and a telephone line allowing data to be sent over a telephone line.
Monadic Operator	A symbol which can precede a number, such as + - NOT and ~~ which tells us how to interpret the value of the number, variable or function which follows, e.g. LET num=-(a_value) would ensure that num becomes the negated value of the variable called "a_value"
Mouse	Device for processing hand movements to a pointer system
MP	Multi Processing
MSB	Most Significant Byte, the top 8 bits of a number (the leftmost part when written as a binary string). Can also refer to Most Significant Bit when referring to one particular bit of a data's value
MT	Multi Tasking
Multi Tasking	More than one program running at the same time, a bit like a secretary answering the phone and typing a memo at the same time. Not the same as Task Switching (q.v.) where more than one program may be in the computer's memory, but only one running at a time, e.g. Quill and Archive in memory, but you type something into Quill and then switch to Archive to type in something else and so on. A good example of multi tasking is when you use Quill to type ina letter, and elsewhere on the screen a little clock is running constantly showing you the current time and date while you are typing.
Multi-Threading	The ability of a processor to run several threads of execution seemingly at the same time. What the processor does is to run instructions from one program for a few microseconds, then another for a few microseconds and so on, giving the impression of running at the same time.
Name	Term used to identify a variable, procedure or function. e.g. in the expression LET a=1 the name is "a". The Name Table is a list of these names, including details such as whether the name refers to a numeric variable, string variable, procedure, or function.
Nesting	Term used to describe structures one inside the other. For example, a FOR loop written to run inside another FOR loop.
NET	Device name used for the QL's networking system. The QL network system was also implemented on the QXL and Aurora cards.
NIC	Network Interface Card, allow the computer system to connect, transmit and receive data to and from a network
NLQ	Near Letter Quality, a term used to describe print quality

OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
Open Source	Programs supplied with the source code (or the source code is available to everyone). Anyone can study the source code to see how it works and make changes if permitted by the software licence. Generally, the software licence would prevent you being able to sell for profit any development you might make of the package.
OS	Operating System, the program or collection of routines that controls the computer examples include MS-DOS, TOS, AMIGOS and QDOS
OS X	Name given to the current Apple Mac operating system. Its main virtue is that it allows us to run Daniele Terdina's QL emulator, QemuLator for OSX.
PAL	Programmable Array Logic, a type of logic chip, also used for Phase Alternate Line - most of the world uses this television broadcast encoding system
Pandora	Name given to a case system made by members of the NEMQLUG (North East Manchester) QL user group. This case was specially made to allow you to fit a QL or Aurora circuit board into a neat and portable metal black case.
PAR	An abbreviation used to represent a parallel printer port, sometimes known as a Centronics compatible printer port. On an original QL, you'd tell programs to print to SER1 or SER2. If you use the printer port on a Super Gold Card, or on a PC fitted with a QXL or QPC emulator, it will usually have the name PAR as far as the QL system is concerned, so you'd tell programs to print to PAR instead of SER1, for example. A parallel port differs from a serial port in that it can send several bits of information down a cable at the same time (usually 8) rather than 1 at a time as would be the case with a serial port. Printing via a parallel port would usually be faster than to a serial port, but the disadvantages could be that (a) cables have to be shorter than serial links for reliability, and (b) information can usually only go out from the computer to whatever is connected, you cannot get much information back, so you couldn't connect two computers together to share information via the parallel port on a Super Gold Card, for example.
Parameters	Values passed to a procedure or function. For example, a function which adds two numberds together would have two parameters, one for each of the two numbers to be added together. For example, DEF FN Add(number1,number2) would be called using two numbers in place of the names "number1" and "number2": LET result=Add(2,3)
Parser	A part of a compiler or other program (e.g. a program which runs a text adventure game) which processes the text to extract information. This checks that the syntax of the text is correct and as it should be for the application. For example, the Turbo compiler parses a SuperBASIC or SBASIC program to ensure that the the text of the program is correct before it tries to compile the program.
Pass by value or reference	Refers to the method by which parameters are passed to a procedure or function. In effect, it refers to whether or not the value of the variable passed to the routine is changed upon return from the routine. In effect, 'pass by value' means that a copy of the value is passed to the routine and even if you try to change its value within the procedure or function, the original value is restored when you exit. 'Pass by reference' means that if you change the value of the variable within the routine, that affects the variable itself, not the copy, so the change remainms when you exit from the routine.
PCB	Printed Circuit Board, electronic boards where components are placed to make circuits, normally manufactured
PCL	Printer Control Language, a Hewlett Packard system for controlling printers. There are various levels of this, up to level 5, and commonly used with laser printers. Also used to some degree by Deskjet and similar inkjet printers
PD	Public Domain
PE	Abbreviation for Pointer Environment. See PTR_GEN. PE normally refers to just the facilities provided by PTR_GEN alone, whereas the term Extended Environment (EE) refers to the combined facilities of the files PTR_GEN, WMAN and HOT_REXT.
PIPE	A kind of conduit used to send data from one place to another on the QL, analagous to a pipe used to carry water from one place to another, for example.
Pixel	A PIcture ELement, one dot of a screen picture or graphic. Pictures are generally referred to as having so many pixels across and so many down. A mode 4 screen from an original Sinclair QL would have 512 pixels across and 256 pixels down, making a total of 131,072 pixels on the screen.
PNG	The letters stand for Portable Network Graphics. This is a graphics compression system

	created in the 1990s.
Pointer Environment	see PE above.
Port	1. to rewrite a program to work on a different processor or operating system, or 2. an electrically wired I/O system in a processor used for communication between the processor and other devices or other computers.
Procedure	A block of code, usually given a name, which is used to perform one or more specific tasks within a program. Think of it as a building block for a program. It can be called from other places in a program several times by different parts of a program, to avoid having to rewrite the same code over and over again. Unlike a function (q.v.) a procedure does not return a value upon terminating.
Proforma	Name of software from PROGS (q.v.) which provided a system whereby other specially written software could create Vector Text (q.v.) and Vector Graphics.
Program	We tend to use the word Program without thinking about how to define it. In simple terms, it is a set of instructions for a computer to perform a specific task.
PROGS	Belgian software house run by Joachim van Der Auwera. Produced a wide range of QL software such as The Painter, Line Design, Proforma and ProWeSS.
ProWeSS	The PROGS Windowing sub-system. Advanced Window Manager software from QL software house PROGS.
PSU	Power Supply Unit
PTR_GEN	The pointer interface for the QL's windowing system. The file PTR_GEN (or its equivalent in SMSQ/E) is responsible for controlling a mouse pointer on the screen and for saving and restoring the contents of program windows as you switch between programs with CTRL-C (see above). PTR_GEN is supplied with most pointer environment programs, such as QPAC2.
Q+4	A large QL expansion unit sold by CST in the 1980s. It allowed up to four expansion cards to be added to the QL at a time. It consisted of a large metal base unit on which the QL stood and into which up to 4 cards could be plugged. It then had a short ribbon cable which connected the base unit with a small circuit board which plugged into the QL's expansion socket. The Q+4 is now a very rare device.
Q-emuLator	A QL emulator program written by Daniele Terdina. There are versions for Windows, Mac and OSX operating systems, allowing you to run QL software on those systems.
Q40, Q60	Two computers designed by Peter Graf in Germany. These computers can use either the SMSQ/E or QDOS Classic operating systems. They feature displays up to 1024x512 pixels in size and use 16 bit colour
QDOS	QL Drive Operating System or QL Disk Operating System. This is the operating system of the QL, which is basically what makes it tick. QDOS is responsible for starting up the QL when you switch it on, and provides the necessary code and routines to let you do anything from printing to the screen to multi-tasking your programs. Tony Tebby (its designer) has also been known to refer to QDOS as Domes-DOS.
QDOS CLASSIC	Name of a version of the QL operating system which runs on (a) the Amiga QL emulators and (b) the Q40 and Q60
QeM	A little known emulator of the QL in software on Atari computers.
QJUMP	A QL company set up by Tony Tebby after he finished working for Sinclair. Tony Tebby designed the QL's operating system and went on to produce major software for the QL such as QRAM and QPAc2. The name lives on in terminology such as "Qjump Standard Configuration Block" (a software system allowing for standardised configuration of QL software).
QLIB	Abbreviation used for the Q-Liberator BASIC compiler from Liberation Software.
QL Today	A magazine about the QL, first produced in 1996. The magazine is published in Germany by Jochen Merz Software.
QL User	A QL magazine from the 1980s. Eventually merged with another magazine called QL World.
QL World	A QL magazine first published in the 1980s. For many years it was the main QL magazine, and ownership changed many times until the magazine was finally closed by publishers Arcwind.
QLAY	A freeware QL emulator program for Windows 95, DOS and Linux based systems. Allows these machines to run QL software, and can be downloaded free from the Web site http://www.inter.nl.net/hcc/A.Jaw.Venema
QL2K	A further development of the Qlay QL emulator by Jimmy Montesinos
QLSSS	See SSS

QMenu	See Menu Extension above.
QPAC	QL Pointer Accessories. Either of two packages produced by Tony Tebby to enhance what you can do with your QL. QPAC gave you a number of small but useful programs such as a calculator and typewriter and alarm clock, while QPAC2 gives you a file handling menu, buttons and all sorts of utilities to help you with the multi-tasking and windowing system on the QL
QPC	QL on PC, a commercial program which allows a PC to run QL software by making the PC pretend to be a QL as far as the software is concerned.
QPTR	People often use this term to mean the Pointer Environment or Extended Environment. However, QPTR is actually the name for a programming toolkit for the pointer environment by Tony Tebby and his old company Qjump. It consiste dof a huge manual, plus a floppy disk which had the qptr toolkit and various example files.
QRAM	Predecessor to QPAC2, a collection of menus and utilities vaguely along the lines of QPAC2. QRAM is no longer available
QSAVE	See SAV below.
QTYP	QL Typing checker, from Tony Tebby
QUANTA	The main QL user group, originally set up in 1984, when it was originally called IQLUG (the Independent QL Users Group). After deciding that the name IQLUG wasn't liked by everyone (some found it hard to pronounce) the group's name was changed to QUANTA, which was the name of the group's newsletter. After a while, someone came up with a slightly contrived 'QL Users And Tinkerers Association' as a proposed meaning for the acronym QUANTA. It stuck.
QUBIDE	A hard disk interface for the QL.
QVME	A graphics card available for the Atari ST QL emulator. VME stands for Versa Module Europe, enabling a card size called Eurocard to be used on 68000 based computer systems such as Atari's
QXL	A card which plugs into an ISA (Industry Standard Architecture) slot on a PC, allowing it to run QL software much faster than an original QL. I have no idea what the X stands for - probably implying extended QL or something like that.
RAM	Random Access Memory, the memory used in the QL. You can read information from and write information to this type of computer memory. RAM is also the device name used by the QL for ramdisks. Usually up to 8 of these ramdisks can be used on a QL, with names ranging from RAM1_ to RAM8_
RAMdisk	A QL device for storing information in memory in a manner broadly similar to a floppy disk or Microdrive cartridge. Fast, but contents lost when you switch off or reset the QL. Useful for copying files to temporarily on a single drive computer, for example.
Recursion	A programming technique whereby a routine calls itself one or more times until a given condition is met. A very difficult concept for a beginner in programming to grasp!
Reference	See "Pass By Value Or Reference" above.
Register	A part of a CPU which holds some binary value. May be an 8-bit value, 16-bit and so on. A value in a register can be processed much faster by a CPU than when that value is in a RAM location.
RISC	Reduced Instruction Set Computing, supposedly the fastest and most efficient way of computer processing
RGB	Red, Green, Blue. Three components of a colour video monitor signal
ROM	Read Only Memory, or memory which you can only read information from. Once information has been programmed into this type of memory, that's it, it can't be changed. The QL's operating system, a program or collection of small utilities which determines how the QL starts up and operates, is stored in this type of memory. ROM is also the device name for a RomDisq (q.v.) flash memory expansion card. You would use ROM1_ for the RomDisq like you would use MDV1_ for a microdrive, for example.
RomDisq	Flash memory card from TF Services. Plug into the EPROM slot behind the QL and contains from 2MB to 8MB of RAM. Uses the device name ROM1_
RS232C	I don't know what the letters stand for, but basically this is the name of the system used for sending data 1 bit at a time down a serial link such as the SER1 or SER2 sockets on the QL
RTC	Real Time Clock
RTM or RTFM	Something a trader or programmer is likely to tell you when you haven't read the instructions. Stands for Read The Manual, but I'll let you guess what the F in the second version stands for.
RTS	Request To Send, an RS232C signal pin

R/W	Read/Write. Getting information from or sending information to something
SATA	Serial Advanced Technology Attachment, an interface allowing fast read/write access to hard disk drives
SAV	Filename extension used for BASIC programs saved with the QSAVE command. This type of file is a tokenised BASIC program, as opposed to BASIC programs saved as plain text files with the ordinary SAVE command.
SB	SuperBASIC
SBASIC	An enhanced version of the QL's SuperBASIC, supplied with the SMSQ operating system. A variant of the name is S*BASIC, with the '*' acting as a wildcard character allowing the name to refer to either SuperBASIC or SBASIC (or sometimes both).
S*BASIC	Generic term used to refer to both SuperBASIC and SBASIC.
SCR	Screen window. A type of window on the display where you can PRINT information to. SCR windows have no keyboard facility, so you cannot use the INPUT command to allow the user to enter any information in that type of window
Scripting	Essentially, what we on the QL have thought of as "programming". The task of writing code in a high level language such as BASIC which is then interpreted by the computer into machine code as the program runs.
SD	Single Density – term used to refer to the recording 'density' of a floppy disk. Not often seen used with a QL. 'SD' also refers to a type of flash memory card, called a "Secure Digital" card.
SDUMP	The name of the Screen Dump software built into some systems, such as Gold Card and Trump Card. The term 'screen dump' refers to the act of printing a copy of the screen on paper, or less commonly the act of saving a copy of the screen as a file on disk.
SER	One of the serial ports on a QL. This is the name by which these sockets on your computer are known to the computer and to the software it runs. On a PC, the sockets might be called COM1: or COM2:, but the QL emulators such as QPC and QXL always refer to them as SER1 or SER2. SER is an abbreviation for SERIAL, which means that every bit of information sent to these ports is sent one after the other, in serial fashion, rather than say 8 bits at a time. See PAR above
SERNET	Software system used to control a group of computers (normally running the SMSQ/E operating system) connected together by serial port cabling.
Server	A computer which provides services used by other computers, e.g. the user might be using a program or web page on his computer which was stored on a remote server and sent to the user's computer to run or view.
SGC	Super Gold Card, an enhanced version of the Gold Card expansion card for the QL with 4MB of RAM and a 68020 processor.
Shriek	Alternative name used by some programmers for the exclamation mark symbol "!"
SIMM	Single Inline Memory Module, a type of memory card used by PCs
SMSQ	Operating system for the QXL, from Miracle Systems. Unlike SMSQ/E, this does not include the Pointer Environment. The letters SMS were never well defined, some say it stands for Single-user Multitasking System, while others say it stands for Small Microcomputer System, and others say Smart Micro System!
SMSQ/E	Extended version of the SMSQ operating system for the QL. This version comes with the equivalent of the pointer environment files PTR_GEN, WMAN and HOT_REXT built in and offers a large number of additional features over SMSQ, e.g. additional devices and device features, device buffering and the ability to change display resolution
SS	Single Sided, Refers to a type of floppy disk, or its drive
SSS	The QL Sampled Sound System. Enhanced sound system used by Amiga QL emulator, Q40, Q60 and QPC2
Stack	A sort of list where values are stored in a pile of numbers, and values can only be added to or taken away from the end of the stack. Often this is just a temporary storage area fro a number, from where it can be recovered later. Computers may have a system stack exclusively used by the computer's operating system, and a user stack exclusively used by the user's program.
Stipple	Although a standard QL has only 4 or 8 colours to display, you can use a combination of pixels next to each other with two different colours which look a bit like a third colour, e.g. lots of adjacent red and white pixels might look like a shade of pink. Sometimes referred to as a pattern of colours.
String	A data structure which holds text, e.g. LET a$ = "Hello"

Structured Programming	The art of writing programs which do not refer to line numbers. In other words, in SuperBASIC, programs which do not use keywords like GOTO and GOSUB
SuperBASIC	The QL version of BASIC, this was designed by a lady called Jan Jones for Sinclair
SVGA	Super Video Graphics Array. A PC graphics card. On the QXL or QPC an SVGA mode implies a display of size 800 pixels across and 600 down
SW	Shareware, a method of software distribution where the author lets you use either a cut-down version of a program, or a time-limited piece of software. If you like and wish to continue to use the full version of the software, you are expected to contact the author and pay a fee, for which you'll sometimes get a non-limited version of the software and product support. Sometimes used as an abbreviation for "software" only
Syntax	Rules about the correctness of a part of a program. This is pretty much the same as the meaning of the word when used in conjunction with spoken language (nouns, verbs, etc). Syntax defines how a part of a program should be written, e.g. the syntax of a LET command such as LET a$ = “Hello” dictates that the word LET is followed by a variable name, then an equals symbol, then a value to be assigned to that variable. Think of it as the grammar of a command or function in a program.
Task Switching	Switching between programs in memory, e.g. when you have Quill and Abacus in memory, you can type into only one program at a time, but can switch back and forth between the two. This is not the same as Multi Tasking (q.v.)
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol, These two are usually used together as a TCP/IP 'stack'. It's called that because TCP builds on IP (hence the actual abbreviation is 'TCP over IP'). It is called a 'stack' because IP is built to work on the actual hardware which implements internet communications. TCP is built on IP to provide advanced communications features, and possible applications are built on TCP to allow the user to use the communication capabilities, in a layer-like fashion. TCP is protocol between hosts in packet-switched computer communication networks, and in interconnected systems of such networks. The TCP part (or 'layer') handles Data Transfer, Error Detection and Correction, Flow Control, Multiplexing (emulating several communications channels over a single medium), Connecting to hosts, and Security aspects of communications. IP on the other hand is a protocol which handles how packets are distributed over packet switched networks, including addressing (where the data is sent from and where it's received), transmitting and receiving, and packing of non-packed, or stream data. Usually the IP layer handles the actual hardware which is used for Internet communication, although there might be another layer in case different hardware can be used (e.g. telephone lines, Ethernet, etc.)
THING	Horrible term for a general purpose facility built into the enhanced QL systems with pointer environment etc. The designers found it hard to give this facility an accurate name due to the general nature of the beast, so they called it THING. That same generality makes it hard to describe in simple terms what a Thing is. The closest we can get is that it is a part of memory with a name of some kind. This part of memory contains a facility of some description (it may be a menu, an extension, a routine, a program and so on). The operating system maintains a list of these 'things' and a programmer can use them by looking through the list for a thing's name, and call it as required. Don't worry too much about things as a user - the QPAC2 manual says that 'things rarely go bump in the night', you can manage quite well without having to fully understand them. Anyone who used Michael Crowe's QL MegaToolkit will know that it provided a broadly similar facility called a WOTSIT. Who chooses these names, I wonder?
TIFF	Tagged Image File Format, a graphics file format supposedly to be the standard image format of the 1980’s
Tilde	The ~ symbol
TK2	Abbreviation for Toolkit 2, a commonly used set of extensions to SuperBASIC providing additional 'words' to enhance the BASIC language understood by the QL. It was originally written by QL guru Tony Tebby and available as a plug in EPROM chip for the QL. Nowadays, it is commonly built into expansion cards such as the Trump Card, Gold Card and Super Gold Card, and also included with the SMSQ versions of the QL operating system. If your system does not have a copy of this (only older systems, or unexpanded systems are likely to suffer this) it is well worth getting one
TLA	Three Letter Acronym, such as BTW for By The Way
Toolkit	Software which extends the system by providing a number of extra keywords for the BASIC interpreter, or sometimes a programming package consisting of some building blocks you can

	use to create some new software.
Transient Program	A user program which explicitly starts and ends (apart from when it crashes of course). The QL sets aside a block of memory for programs to run in called the Transient Program Area.
Transparent Border	The QL can put a transparent border around a window by omitting the colour number in a border command. Thus BORDER #1,10 puts a 10 pixel border around the window 1, without actually colouring in the border area. On some systems, colour 128 is also transparent, so BORDER #1,3,128 would put a transparent 3 poixel border area around window #1.
Trump Card	An all singing all dancing interface card for the QL adding floppy disk interface, memory, printer buffer and toolkit 2. The Trump Card gives a QL a maximum of 896K of RAM (although earlier versions added less memory)
TT	Tony Tebby, QL designer and guru or a version of the Atari ST, for which you can get a QL emulator
TURBO	Name of a BASIC compiler program for the QL.
Turtle Graphics	Graphics drawing commands which work by a series of instructions telling how far to draw, what angle to turn before starting to draw the next line and so on. Similar in principle to how you would instruct a robotic turtle (a little robot with a pen which can draw on the paper it runs over) to draw shapes.
UB	Unsigned Byte. Describes the sound files used by the Sampled Sound System (SSS) on Q40, Q60, QPC2 and Amiga QL emulator
uQLX	A QL emulator written by Richard Zidlicky, which runs on the Linux operating system.
ULA	Uncommitted Logic Array, a type of logic chip
UNIX	UNiplexed Information and Computing Service, an operating system written by Ken Thompson of Bell Labs in the 1960s.
UNZIP	A program which decompresses compressed files produced with the ZIP program.
uQLx	A shareware QL emulator for Unix based systems. See QL Today volume 1 issue 4 for more details. The author is Richard Zidlicky
USB	Universal Serial Bus, a very fast replacement for the serial ports originally used on older computers, now in it 3rd version but maybe superseded by Lightpeak (Intel) or Thunderbolt (Apple)
Variable	A part of memory holding a value of some sort and usually referred to by a name. So LET value=6 stores the number 6 in memory and gives it the name 'value' which we can then use to specify which of all the values stored we are referring to.
Vector Text	Technique used for printing text smoothly in various sizes by storing the instructions for how to draw each character as a series of lines and curves ("vectors"). The computer can then draw nice smooth-edged characters on the screen or printer without having to magnify the characters and produce ugly blocky looking characters. A similar system can be used for graphics too. On the QL the best known example of Vector Text and Vector Graphics is the Line Design software from PROGS.
VER$	Important function in QL SuperBASIC and SBASIC which returns the characters identifying the version of SuperBASIC or SBASIC on this computer, e.g. LET a$=VER$: IF a$='JSL1' THEN PRINT"Minerva ROM installed".
VGA	Video Graphics Adaptor for the PC. On the QXL, for example, a VGA display refers to a screen mode 640 pixels wide by 480 pixels deep
Virus	Term used to refer to a malicious piece of software which sometimes attempts to damage files on your computer or steal information from your computer, or even sometimes take over control of your computer. Most viruses work on Windows, Mac and Linux computers and we are very lucky that on the QL we very rarely get our computer infected by these little nasties. The name 'virus' is used because a computer gets infected with a little nasty which affects the way it works, which is a little bit like a biological virus infecting an animal or person.
VRAM	Video Random Access Memory
WIKI	A WIKI is a website that allows users to update or add content to its database of information. For example, Rich Mellor's QL Wiki at http://www.rwapadventures.com/ql_wiki/
WIN	The device name usually used by QL systems for a hard disk. For example, WIN1_ is usually hard disk drive number 1. The abbreviation WIN comes from what was originally called a Winchester hard disk.

Window	A defined area of the screen, identified by a channel number. For example, when you start up a QL, the red area of the screen is referred to as Window #1, the black area where you type in commands is known as window #0 and the white area where BASIC programs are LISTed is known as Window #2.
Window Manager	The Window Manager. This is part of the Pointer Environment (or Extended Environment). Provides a set of menu and display routines which a programmer can access to ensure that programs have a 'standard' appearance, or programs which look consistent with each other. Always used in conjunction with PTR_GEN (see above)
Windows	Framed glass in houses and offices allowing us to throw PCs out of. Alternatively, an operating system for PCs whose main virtue is to allow us to run QL emulators on, such as QPC2, QemuLator, QLay and QL2K.
WMAN	See Window Manager above.
WORD	Unit of computer memory. A Word is 2 bytes, or 16 bits of memory. Can store numbers from 0 up to binary 1111 1111 1111 1111
WORM	Write Once, Read Many times. A device which can only be saved to once, and from then on only read, like a CD
WP	Word Processor. Also the term used for the USA equivalent of Quill
WWW	World Wide Web - a layer of the Internet, devised in Switzerland some time after the basic Internet came into domestic use
WYSIWYG	What You See Is What You Get, normally used when specifying how close what you see on the screen will be to how it would appear when printed on paper
WYGIWYS	What you Get Is What You See, the new way of displaying application menus maybe
XML	Extensible Markup Language, a web sub language to define documents
Yobibyte	Is a very very large amount of data
ZIP	Term used for a commonly used program to compress files into a single large archive. ‘Compress’ means making the files occupy less space on your computer. The term ZIP is also used for a completely separate software system used to write adventure games.
ZIP DRIVE	A storage system using a type of removable cartridge, mini-hard disk or superfloppy, made by a company called Iomega

I hope you find this list useful. If you come across any other commonly used QL abbreviation, let me know and I'll add it to the list and update it from time to time.