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An Electronic Glossary of Terms Commonly Used in Government Departments
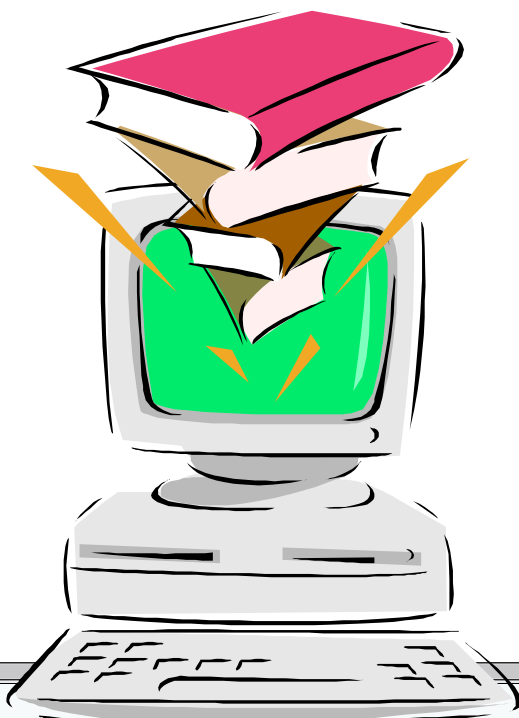
The Official Languages Agency has published 20 volumes of glossaries under the series *An English-Chinese Glossary of Terms Commonly Used in Government Departments,* with each volume covering a specific subject area. All entries are arranged in alphabetical order for easy searching. However, it will be difficult to find a term if you know it only in Chinese, or happen to know just a part of it.

This problem has now been resolved. We have developed an electronic version of the glossaries published, thanks to the development of information technology. This Electronic Glossary, equipped with a search program, is basically a set of databases which contains the English and Chinese terms in the printed copies. It features a fast bilingual search function whereby users need only input words or phrases in either English or Chinese. There are also functions like upper/lower case specification, whole word matching and selection of search range to make the search results more precise. The Electronic Glossary even allows users to process the search results in various ways by providing supplementary functions including browse, sort, print, save, and cut and paste.

The Electronic Glossary is currently available in a standard version and an enhanced version. Their basic features are the same, but the standard version occupies less memory space due to the removal of the print and save functions. At present, the Electronic Glossary is only for use within the government, but will become accessible to the public as well when uploaded to the homepage of OLA next year. We hope to release our glossaries in various media to better cater for your different needs as a versatile and handy reference on your desks.

Note: Printed copies of the glossaries published by OLA are available for sale at the Government Publications Centre. Departments may also place orders with the Information Services Department by using form PR53.

PR53

Black Sheep

"We're little black sheep who've gone astray…"
(Rudyard Kipling, Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature 1907)

We use "black sheep" to refer to somebody who is considered by his family or peer group as bad or worthless and thus a cause of embarrassment.

For hundreds of years, black sheep have been regarded as a disgusting or at least an undesirable class of animals. This is especially true with shepherds probably because of economic considerations. White sheep usually sell better than their black relatives and are therefore worth more. It goes without saying that black sheep are seen to be unwelcome. Meanwhile, people not engaged in sheep rearing may still dislike black sheep, but simply because of their colour. To many of them, black symbolises devil, evil or bad omens which bring misfortune and disasters.

害羣之馬

"black sheep"

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"black sheep"

" " "black sheep"

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WORD FOR WORD

Doubting Thomas

"I can assure the doubting Thomases that there is no question of me staying to slow down these changes."
(Mrs. Anson Chan, Chief Secretary for Administration)

This statement was made by Mrs. Anson Chan at a luncheon meeting. In her speech, Mrs. Chan mentioned the public sector reform. There she reiterated the Government's determination to pursue a major programme of improvements to public services and, equally important, her commitment to get things done. But why did she choose to use the expression "doubting Thomases" in her statement?

This idiom came from the Bible. Thomas was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. Jesus appeared before some of his followers on several occasions after his crucifixion. But Thomas, not among them, had all along rejected their claim that Jesus had resurrected. It was not until he had seen the print of the nails in Jesus' hands and put his hand into Jesus' side that he believed. So Jesus taught this doubting Thomas a lesson in John 20:29: "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed."

A doubting Thomas is one who refuses to believe anything before he can see the evidence with his own eyes. It is also used to refer to a sceptic who tends to have doubts about all things which are against his expectations.

新月的繆思 —

有問 有答

談 "雌黃"

補闕拾遺

"厲""勵"有別

A Close Encounter: Classical Chinese Literature in English

Chinese literature is among the richest in the literary world. Over the years, many scholars have ventured to translate Chinese literary gems into the English language. The 1171-page *Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations,* represents a comprehensive collection of their efforts. It contains the works of Arthur Waley, David Hawkes, James Legge, A.C. Graham, and many other luminaries of the field.

The one thousand plus selected writings are chronologically arranged by genre, from the Oracle Bone inscriptions to the poems and lyrics of the Tang Dynasty. Each section is introduced with quotes by pre-eminent observers of China across the ages. The editors have made a good attempt to encompass the classical Chinese literature in its various forms, including songs, poetry, biographies, drama, fiction, as well as works of early Chinese philosophy and history.

Bibliographies, explanatory notes, copious illustrations, a chronology of major dynasties, and two-way romanisation tables coordinating the Wade-Giles and *pinyin* transliteration systems provide helpful tools to aid readers in exploring this rich tradition of world literature.
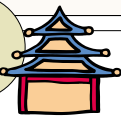
This collection has taken over 10 years to complete. Joseph S.M. Lau   , who has taught Chinese literature in the U.S. since 1964, initiated its publication in 1985. Lau is the co-editor of *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature* with Howard Goldblatt. He is currently Chair Professor of Translation and Head of the Department of Chinese at Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

Lau's partner in this project is John Minford, a world-renowned sinologist from the U.K. He has vast experience in teaching Chinese literature and literary translation in mainland China, Hong Kong and New Zealand. He is noted for his translation of the last 40 chapters of Cao Xueqin's *The Story of the Stone*   . His current projects include the *Strange Tales of Pu Songling* and the martial arts fiction of Hong Kong novelist Louis Cha   .

This landmark anthology is jointly published by the Chinese University Press and the Columbia University Press.

談

別號

數字成語

" " " "

1.	A.
2.	B.
3.	C.
4.	D.
5.	E.
6.	F.
7.	G.
8.	H.
9.	I.
10.	J.

1I. 2I. 3G.
4C. 5D. 6A.
7E. 8B. 9H.
10E.

IT Snacks

Something new under the sun

Moving swiftly into the era of information technology, we can expect state-of-the-art technology to emerge and scientific talents to come up with new inventions almost every day. The result is that even with the richness of the language, the bank of English words cannot cope with such rapid explosions of new ideas. Not surprisingly, this "overdraft" is balanced out by the creation of new terms and expressions.

Among the 145 000 entries in the latest edition of the *Oxford Compact English Dictionary,* quite a number of the newly-coined words are related to IT or other modern technologies. See if you can tell what the following mean or simply match them with the definitions on the right.

1. sticky (n)	A. registering well-known names as Internet domain names, in the hope of selling them on to the owner
2. meatspace	B. internet- or computer-addicted teenager
3. cybersquatting	C. food with genetically modified ingredients
4. flexecutive	D. physical world, as opposed to virtual
5. dotcom	E. worker who can choose hours and place of work due to the new IT
6. screenager	F. a website attracting long or repeated visits from users
7. frankenfood	G. company that conducts its business on the Internet

Answers: 1F, 2D, 3A, 4E, 5G, 6B, 7C

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