User's Guide

The terms are arranged alphabetically. Composite terms have been grouped under their common noun or "keyword," e.g., "survey, cadastral," "survey, geodetic." Keywords are alphabetized by their modifiers, and this type of listing is followed by multiple word terms in which the keyword appears as an adjective. For example, "level, striding," "level, telescope" are followed by "level control" and "level surface."

When two or more terms have an identical meaning, definitions are given only under the preferred term. Synonyms are shown separately, in an alphabetical order, and are referenced to the preferred term instead of repeating the definition.

The expression "see" is used for cross-references and leads the user to the terms where the definition appears.

The expression "see also" directs the user to related terms.

If several terms have exactly the same meaning, the synonyms are given after the expression "also called."

Where a term has two acceptable versions of spelling, e.g., "base line" and "baseline," both versions are given as keywords.

In the 1972 and 1978 editions, terms relevant to the United States Public Land Surveys were identified by the abbreviation [usplrs] following the keyword. The Public Land Survey System is now the name in common usage; therefore, terms relating to this system that are new to this edition are identified by [plss] following the keyword. Definitions that have [usplrs] as part of their keyword are terms that were given in previous editions.

Where appropriate, the linguistic form of a term has been denoted using the following abbreviations: abbr = abbreviated, short for; adj = adjective; adv = adverb; c. = about; n= noun, pl. = plural; v = verb.