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quad See *em quad*, *en quad*.

quadding In printing, the action of putting abnormal spacing between words in order to fill out a line. See *quad*.

quadrilateral A four sided figure.

quadruphonic A frequency modulation broadcast or audio recording system using four speakers, two in front of and two behind the listener. Compare *stereophonic*.

quadruplex In video recording, a system using four recording or replay heads on a wheel. See *transverse scan*.

quadrature error In video recording, a playback error condition that arises if the recording, or reading, heads do not arrive at the edge of the tape at the same relative time. See *quadruplex*. Synonymous with *switching error*.

quaint characters See *ligatures*.

quantifier In relational databases, a term used in a relational calculus expression. There are two quantifiers used, the existential quantifier read as 'there is', and the universal quantifier that is read as 'for all'. See *relational calculus*.

quantize In communications, to assign one of a fixed set of values to an analog signal as part of an analog to digital conversion process, e.g. in pulse code modulation, an analog signal is sampled, quantized and a corresponding set of binary pulses is produced. See *pulse code modulation*.

quantizing noise In communications, noise arising from the process of analog to digital and subsequent digital to analog conversion. The quantization process produces discrepancies in the input and

output analog signals. See *quantize*, *COMPANDOR*.

quarter bound In printing, a style of binding in which the material of the side covering is of one material and the backs of another.

Quebec Actualite A database, supplied by Microfor Inc. and dealing with Quebec, Canadian and world news.

queue (1) In data structures, a list in which items are added at one end and removed from the other. (2) Processes or items awaiting service on a FIFO principle. Compare *stack*. See *list*, *FIFO*.

queuing theory A branch of probability theory used in the study of queues. Given the statistical properties of the servicing and arrival process, it attempts to predict the statistical properties of the queues, i.e. average length, waiting time, etc.

queuing time In communications, the time spent in waiting to send, or receive, a message due to contention on the line. See *contention*.

quoins In printing, wedges or expanding devices, used for tightening or locking up type on galleys or forms. See *form*, *galley*.

quonking Accidental sounds picked up by an open microphone.

quotations In printing, large hollow spacing material of sizes larger than 24 point. See *point*.

quotient The result of dividing one quantity by another.

qwerty keyboard A conventional typewriter keyboard with the keys q, w, e, r, t and y on the upper left hand side. See *word processing*.