

"THE DX EDITORS' LEXICON"

- being a not-too-serious look at the jargon and phraseology associated with the theory and practice of the Gentle Art of DX-ing!

"A" - abbreviation denoting "approximate" used by DXers to indicate that they are unable to recall the frequency to which they were tuned.

"ARABIC" - any non-European language which is not "Chinese" (q.v.).

"COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER" - a radio receiver equipped with enough controls to allow the required station to disappear below noise level whilst the receiver is being adjusted for optimum performance.

"CHINESE" - any non-European language, whether tonal or not, which is not "Arabic" (q.v.).

"CLANDESTINE" - a radio station which does not appear in international Frequency Lists and which broadcasts less than 80% of music in its schedule - cf "Pirate" (q.v.).

"COPYRIGHT" - carte-blanche permission granted to the unscrupulous to reproduce any material without acknowledgement of the source from which it was derived and allowing the quoter to pass-off the material as his own.

"DX" - expression denoting hard-to-hear stations: derived from initials of the phrase "it's under that damned xxxxx noise".

"DX-AWARD" - recognition by a group of DXers (e.g. a Club) that one DXer has been smart enough to apply for an Award in such a manner that his entry defeats their ingenuity in interpreting the Award conditions so that he does not qualify for said Award.

"DX-BULLETIN" - a historical document cataloguing what DXers believed they heard approximately two months before the appearance of the bulletin.

"DX CLUB" - a collection of DXers wielding clubs (hence the name) or machetes (in certain LA countries): the more sophisticated Club substitutes slander, innuendo and allegations of malpractice for physical weapons.

"DX CONTEST" - a battle between rival DXers, or groups thereof, to assert their supremacy. Essentially, the rules are couched in incomprehensible terms and are capable of being variously interpreted so as to permit, legally, all the ploys of a Presidential (or General) Election.

"DX CONVENTION" - a gathering of DXers to plan a coup-d'etat for the overthrow of the existing Club management who were silly enough to arrange the shindig in the first place!

"DX EDITOR" - a DXer in an advanced state of senility and totally devoid of all moral and ethical standards: is always actuated by malice toward all with whom he does not agree.

"DX-ER" - a near psychopath who holds the firm belief that the only interesting stations are those which can not be heard or which can only be heard to the accompaniment of jammers, utility QRM or heterodynes: or those stations which only broadcast in a language now only spoken by 30,000 septuagenarians.

"DX-ING" - the pursuit of stations within the ambit of the DX-er (q.v.).

"DX NEWS SHEET" - subversive documents issued by certain groups, normally at frequent intervals, indicating what can currently be heard: produced by those concerned with preventing the free-dissemination of information amongst DXers in general.

"DETAILED VERIE" - rarest of all kinds of verie: must be complete with wrong date of reception and, preferably, wrong frequency also. Inclusion of an illegible signature increases the value of the document.



- "FAIR LEVEL" - signal emerged from background noise for 10 to 25% of period.
- "FREQUENCY SCHEDULE" - (a) detailed arrangement of information indicating the programmes and/or frequencies that the station does not propose to broadcast; (b) high security document indicating programmes and frequencies which are to be used: not available to the public to avoid unauthorised reception of their programmes.
- "JAMMER" - any noise appearing on the wanted channel including RTTY, CW and 'fac'.
- "LINGO" - unidentified language, usually British-English, American-English or Australian-English in view of their wide use by radio stations.
- "MONITORING STATION" - complex receiving station, usually, established by a Government agency in order to assist the DXer. Has subsidiary, but quite unimportant, role of collecting information about foreign broadcasts.
- "NEWS" - any unrecognised talk programme lasting 10 to 15 minutes, especially if starting at H + 00 or H + 30, containing two, believed, recognisable mentions of a country or international figure.
- "PIRATE" - cf "Clandestine" (q.v.), but with more than 80% music air-time.
- "PORTUGUESE" - synonym for "Spanish" (q.v.).
- "QSL" - card/letter from radio station indicating they have received your Reception Report and are using it to prevent the coffee cups marking their desks.
- "RECEPTION REPORT" - optimistic approach by DXer to radio station he hoped he has heard: normally couched in terms sufficiently vague to cover all possibilities regarding programming and erroneous identification.
- "SPANISH" - generic term for Spanish, Portuguese, Roumanian, Italian, Basque, Welsh, Gaelic, Manx or any other 'lilting' language.
- "TYPICAL LOCAL MUSIC" - synonymous with 'self-deception' and used to indicate the music broadcast by a station that a DXer has 'identified' by reference to a published frequency list.
- "USUAL PROGRAMMING" - convenient shorthand phrase for "I've heard a station here before and as far as I recall it was broadcasting music and talk".
- "VERNACULAR" = "NATIVE" - language of the country: for example, BEC WS or AFRTS carrying a football/baseball commentary followed by English identification and English news, could be described as "local war report in native: id and nx in vernacular at 2100".
- "XYL" - derived from 'YL' (q.v.): woman who accepts that her OM (q.v.) is addicted to anti-social practices e.g. desire to rise at 0300; ability to name all capital cities of Oceania etc. Accepts that DXing is analagous in mysticism to practices of Indian fakirs.
- "YL" - see also "XYL" (super) and "OM" (infra): abbreviation of "yet to learn" (what a DXer is): female unversed in the mystique of DXing and often possessed of a child-like belief that she can wean her OM to less socially unacceptable habits. In extreme cases, believes that radio is intended as a means of pleasure as well as education and news dissemination.
- "OM" - synonymous with 'crackpot': expression said to be derived from "old man" since invariably exhibits "DXers Twitch", "Selective Deafness" and other signs of senility after 5 years DXing. Subscribes to the philosophy that the torment of the audio apparatus is the only certain way to hear 200 countries and believes this to be good for his soul.
- "73" - historical relic of days when only 73 countries had radio stations - now expression of goodwill = "Log every country there is! Good luck!".
- "88" - successor to '73' with increase in spread of radio to include 88 States.

(Possibly, to be continued at a later date - ABT).