

## Appendix 8 - A Glossary for Research Reports

The following phrases, frequently found in technical writings, are defined here for your edification and enlightenment. The author is C.D. Graham, Jr. (from *Metal Progress* 71, 75 (1957)). Choose your words carefully when writing your reports!

*It has long been known that...*I haven't bothered to look up the original reference

*Of great theoretical and practical importance...*Interesting to me

*While it has not been possible to provide definite answers to these questions...*The experiments didn't work out, but I figured I could at least get a publication out of it

*The W-Pb system was chosen as especially suitable to show the predicted behavior...*The fellow in the next lab had some already made up

*Extremely high purity, super-purity, very high purity, spectroscopically pure, etc....*Composition unknown except for the exaggerated claims of the supplier

*A fiducial reference line...*A scratch

*Three of the samples were chosen for detailed study...*The results on the others didn't make sense and were ignored

*Accidentally strained during mounting...*Dropped on the floor

*Handled with extreme care throughout the experiments...*Not dropped on the floor

*Typical results are shown...*The best results are shown

*Although some detail has been lost in reproduction, it is clear from the original micrograph that...*It is impossible to tell from the micrograph

*Presumably at longer times...*I didn't take the time to find out

*As good as could be expected...*Non-existent

*These results will be reported at a later date...*I might get around to it sometime

*The most reliable values are those of Jones...*Jones was a student of mine

*It is believed that, it is suggested that, it may be that...*I think

*It is generally believed that...*A couple of other guys think so too

*It might be argued that...*I have such a good answer for this objection that I shall now raise it

*It is clear that much additional work will be required before a complete understanding...I don't understand it*

*Unfortunately, a quantitative theory to account for these effects has not been formulated...Neither does anybody else*

*Correct within an order of magnitude...Wrong*

*It is to be hoped that this work will stimulate further work in the field...This paper is not very good, but neither are any of the others on this miserable subject*

*Thanks are due to Joe Glots for assistance with the experiments and to John Doe for valuable discussions...Glots did the work and Doe explained to me what it meant*

*Agreement with the predicted curve is excellent...fair  
good...poor  
satisfactory...doubtful  
fair...imaginary*

And so ends C.D. Graham's glossary. If you have some amusing definitions you'd like to share with us, let us know and we'll add them to this list:

*We omit the details...We omit the proof*

*It can be verified ...It won't be verified*