

Toolbox Database Field Issues in Printing MDF Dictionaries of Pilbara Aboriginal Languages - Albert Burgman

This paper will look at a number of issues that are pertinent to the handling of data in Toolbox databases for Aboriginal languages in the Pilbara region. Many databases of languages in this region are being and have been developed based upon the data supplied by original compilers. There are a number of issues that need addressing by the compilers. This paper will look at a number of these issues.

- Dealing with detail in the definition field. Principles to use and what other fields are useful to supply the relevant data.
- Using a recognisable word as a headword. How to handle the '-pa' augment in nominals, and what verb form to use. Also whether to include the verb paradigm.
- Dealing with monosemous, polysemous and homophonous morphemes. Principles to guide decisions.
- Dealing with borrowed or shared words. The debate on how to handle it.
- Dealing with restricted and unprintable words; using the \oe (only-restrictions) field for restrictions and the \st (status for editing or printing) field for printability.