

GIGO, or...is it ?

1. Preamble.

Don't tell me it is a misspelling for a French dish! If I were to tell you that GIGO is a computer acronym, what would you say? Would you go with it? Or, would you pooh-pooh it out of the window double quick? I for one have been using it as early as 1972 in Stockholm!

2. Disambiguation.

By the way one disentangles the acronym G.I.G.O, I clearly distinguish—and they are objectively real—two distinct groups of computer addicts! Thus, there are the really computer-mad, who keep dreaming that it does mean **Garbage In, GOSPEL Out** (for whatever you put into a computer, it'll come out right and correct!), and then there are the far more realistic ones, who are most acutely aware that it underlies the far more down-to-earth “canteen-type” meaning **Garbage In, GARBAGE Out**.

Anthony Burgess, the BAM writer in residence for a quarter century or so, (before your time!), used to give talks for BAM benefit, (free entrance!), by the half dozen, under the benevolent eye of Mr Klein Senior (and predecessors)... And it was within the BAM of long ago that he invented the **backronym** for **BOOK**, as “**Bo**x of **O**rganized **K**nowledge”. Check it on the Web, if you do not believe me! at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acronym_and_initialism (under the heading Backronym).

3. A Word of Wit, or ... is it Wisdom? I cannot quite remember. It surfaced on the BBC NEWS Front Page only the other day, and it runs—**Anyone who is tired of TWITTER is tired of life!** Does it ring a bell? Who said that first and how long ago, can you tell me? Please do!

ends