

## Appendix 1. Glossary of terms used in this manual

“Navigational” sequence	The hierarchical sequence of Parent Rivers, their tributaries, subregions and sites can be sorted either alphabetically, or according to the sequence of occurrence from source to sea. The navigational sequence is therefore the "map" of the route to navigate to a site.
Biomonitoring	“The systematic use of biological responses to evaluate (primarily anthropogenic) changes in the environment with the intent to use this information in a quality control programme” (Matthews <i>et al.</i> 1982).
Criteria	The conditions that control which records to display in a query; the words or values used to determine the data that appears in a data list.
Data "owner"	The person responsible for either site or site visit information which is entered into the database. The “ownership” of data is automatically assigned to the user who enters the data into the database. Information can only be altered or changed when the user and owner are the same.
Data “user”	The person who is logged on to the Rivers Database according to a predetermined user name and password.
Data Joiner	The Data Joiner defines a common link between the different data components that have been defined.
Design Master	The copy of the database that acts as a template for the other replicates. Changes to the database structure of the design master will automatically be propagated to the replica during the process of synchronisation.
Drop-down list	A predetermined list of options for a text box which limits the user to select one of these text options.
Ecological Reference Condition	This is the condition that is representative of a group of "least-impacted" or minimally disturbed habitats organised by selected physical, chemical and biological attributes (Reynoldson <i>et al.</i> 1997). It acts as a bench mark with which monitoring information can be compared thereby providing a

	means of estimating the degree of degradation or deviation from natural conditions.
Free text box	A box which allows the user to type whatever text is desired within that box. See drop-down list for a comparison.
Geological-type	Simplified lithostratigraphic units as defined by Vegter (1995).
Hydrological-type	Can be one of three types based on the occurrence of flowing water in the system <i>i.e.</i> perennial: flows continuously all year round; seasonal: flows annually at a predictable time of year, but ceases to flow for some time each year; and ephemeral: flows periodically every few years (Dallas 2000).
Parent river	The central or common river into which all rivers within a catchment flow.
Quaternary catchment code	A code for each quaternary drainage region as classified for South Africa by DWAF.
Replica	A replica is a copy of the database. A replica is a member of a replica set and can be synchronized with other replicas in the set. Changes to the data in a replicated table in one replica are sent and applied to the other replicas and the Design Master.
Replication	Replication is the process of creating and synchronizing replicas in separate locations. Replication ensures that changes made to the data of a database are sent and applied to all the members of the replica set.
Secondary catchment code	A code for secondary drainage regions as classified for South Africa by DWAF.
Segment	A length of river which is regarded as uniform in terms of the integrity of habitat for fish as defined by Kleynhans (1999).
Site level components	All information which is specific to a site but does not vary over time. <i>i.e.</i> information which is spatially defined rather than temporally defined.
Site visit components	All information which is specific to the date of collection of such information. <i>i.e.</i> information about a site which may vary over time.

Subregion	The geomorphological zones of river channels based on channel gradient as defined by Rowntree <i>et. al.</i> (1996).
Synchronization	The process of updating a pair of replicas: all modifications and additions to data are exchanged.
Tick boxes	A box which is ticked when a positive action is recorded.
Tree-View	A form showing the hierarchical sequence of Parent Rivers and their tributaries as well as their subregions and site codes.
Vegetation-type	The potential natural vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland according to Low and Rebelo (1996).