abstract class A class which cannot be instantiated, for example, **ActiveValue**.

Xerox LOOPS. Active values send messages as a side effect of having an

object's variable referenced.

active Value The previous implementation of the active value concept.

ActiveValue An abstract class that defines the general protocol followed by all active value

objects.

annotatedValue A special Interlisp-D data type that wraps each **ActiveValue** instance.

AnnotatedValue An abstract class that allows an annotatedValue to be treated as an object.

browser A window that allows you to examine and change items in a data structure.

class A description of one or more similar objects; that is, objects containing the

sames types of data fields and responding to the same messages.

class inheritance The means by which a class inherits variables, values, and methods from its

super class(es).

class lattice A network showing the inheritance relationship among classes.

class variable (CV) A variable that contains information shared by all instances of the class. A

class variable is typically used for information about a class taken as a whole.

inheritance The means by which you can organize information in objects, create objects

that are similar to other objects, and update objects in a simplified way.

Inspector A Xerox Lisp display program that has been modified to allow you to view

classes, objects, and active values.

instance An object described by a particular class. Every object within Xerox LOOPS is

an instance of exactly one class.

instance variable (IV) A variable that contains information specific to an instance.

instantiate To make a new instance of a class.

lattice An arrangement of nodes in a hierarchical network, which allows for multiple

parents of each node.

Masterscope A Xerox Lisp Library Module program analysis tool that has been modified to

allow analysis of Xerox LOOPS files.

message A command sent to an object that activates a method defined in the object's

class. The object responds by computing a value that is returned to the

sender of the message.

metaclass Classes whose instances are classes or abstract classes.

method What an object applies to the arguments of a message it receives. This is

similar to a procedure in procedure-oriented programming, except that here, you determine the message to send and the object receiving the message

determines the method to apply, instead of the calling routine determining which procedure to apply.

mixin A class that is used in conjunction with another class to create a subclass. Mixins never have instances, and hence have AbstractClass as their

metaclass.

object A data structure that contains data and a pointer to functionality that can

manipulate the data.

property list A place for storing additional information on classes, their variables, and their

methods.

selector Part of a message that is sent to an object. The object uses the selector to

determine which method is appropriate to apply to the message arguments.

self A method argument that represents the receiver of the message.

specialization The process of creating a subclass from a class, or the result of that process.

subclass A class that is a specialization of another class.

super class A class from which a given class inherits variables, values, and methods.

An acronym for Top of the universe, which is the highest class in the Xerox LOOPS hierarchy. Tofu

Unique Identifier (UID) An alphanumeric identifier that Xerox LOOPS uses to store and retrieve

objects. Objects do not have UIDs unless they are named, are instances of

indexed objects, or are instances printed to a file.

Objects have fields that can contain data. Some ActiveValue can be added wrap

so this data is stored within it. When this occurs, the ActiveValue wraps the

data.