

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

The following terms are used throughout this documentation:

Term	Definition
Browse program	Program that retrieves records from a specified file and allows users to select a record for processing. Sometimes referred to as a query program.
Browse a file	View the records in a specified file.
Code frame	Block of code that performs a specified function. A code frame is the basic element of a model; it is a skeleton outline of the code generated by the model.
Constant	Value that is always the same.
Copycode	Static code that is provided to copy and use in INCLUDE statements.
Cursor-sensitive or Cursor sensitivity	Ability to move the cursor to an item on the screen and press Enter to select the item. If you are using a PC connection to access Natural Construct, you can double-click with the mouse to select.
Data area	Natural module in which data is stored. For example, a parameter data area (PDA) stores parameters that are passed between subprograms, and a global data area (GDA) stores data that is used by all programs within an application.
Enter	Type a value in a field and press Enter (or Return).
Execute	Start or display a program, menu, panel, editor, utility, etc. Also referred to as “invoke”.
Field	Area in a window or on a panel that either displays information or requires the user to specify information (for example, type or select information).
Function	Menu option, for example, the Maintain Models function on the Administration main menu.
Helproutine	Natural module that displays a help panel.
Invoke	See Execute.
Mark a field	Type any non-blank character in the field. Note: You may also be required to press the Enter key.
Model	Natural Construct template used to record specifications and generate source code into a Natural buffer.
Module	Any object that is generated by Natural Construct or created in Natural.
Object	Any entity that represents a business function and is used by Natural Construct.
Optional field	Field for which information is optional rather than required.
Panel	Screen or map on which parameters may be specified.

Term	Definition
Parameter	Value for a field.
PF-key	Program function key. To perform the associated function, press that key. For example, pressing PF1 (help) displays help information.
Program	Block of code that performs a function, such as a subprogram, subroutine, help routine, etc. Also referred to as a module.
Query program	See Browse program.
Required field	Field for which input is required.
Return code	Code entered on a menu to return to the previous panel. The return code on Natural Construct menus is a period (.)
Scroll	Move forward (down), backward (up), left, or right through the information displayed on a panel or in a window.
Specify	Supply a value for an input field (for example, by typing a value in the field and pressing the Enter key or by marking the field).
Subprogram	Self-contained block of code that is called via parameters by a program to perform a function.
Subroutine	Block of code (within a larger block of code) that is referenced one or more times. A subroutine is typically used to perform repetitive tasks or to isolate a specific task.
Substitution parameters	Parameters that have the same format and different values at generation time.
Terminate	End your Natural Construct session.
User exit	Area in the program code that is reserved for user-defined functions. In these areas, users can change the functionality of the generated functions to suit their own requirements. User exit code is preserved when the program is regenerated.
Utility	Supplied program that performs a specific function (for example, the model load utility).
Variable	Value that represents one of many possible values. The actual value can be supplied by Natural when the program is executed or supplied by other variables (either user-supplied or derived).
Window	Separate, self-contained area displayed on a panel (for example, a help window).