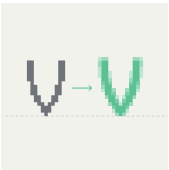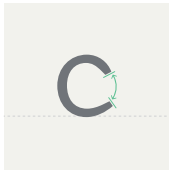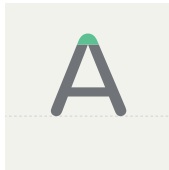# TYPOGRAPHY TERMS

ANTI-ALIASING
Semi-transparent pixels along the edges of letterform outlines to smooth jagged edges

ANTIQUA / ANTIKVA
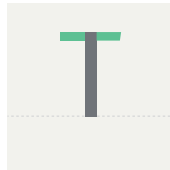Serif typefaces designed between 16th–17th century (or new designs following the style)

APERTURE
The opening of a partially enclosed counter shape

APEX
Point at the top of a letterform where two strokes meet

ARC
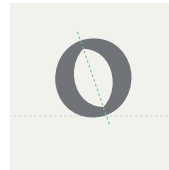Curved part of a letterform leading into a straight stem

ARM
A stroke that doesn't connect to another stroke or stem on one or both ends
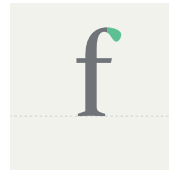
ASCENDER
On lowercase letters the vertical stroke that extends above the x-height

ASCENDER LINE
Invisible line marking the height of all ascenders in a font

AXIS / STRESS
Invisible line dissecting the glyph from top to bottom at its thinnest point

BALL TERMINAL
Terminal with a circular shape

BASELINE
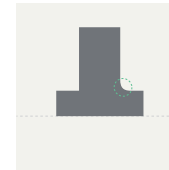Invisible line on which the letters in a font rest

BEAK
Decorative stroke at the end of the arm of a letter, similar to a serif but more pronounced

BILATERAL SERIF
Serif extending to both sides of a main stroke

BOWL
Fully closed rounded part of a letter

BRACKET
Curved or wedge-like connection between the stem and serif of some fonts
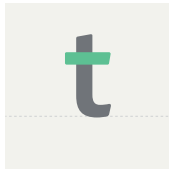
CAP HEIGHT
Height of a capital letter measured from the baseline

CONDENSED
Type style designed with narrow width proportions

COUNTER
An area partially or entirely enclosed in a letterform or symbol like an 'o', 'p' or 'c'

CROSS STROKE
The horizontal stroke across a lowercase 't' or 'f'

CROSSBAR
Horizontal stroke like the middle of an 'H', 'A' and 'e'

CROTCH
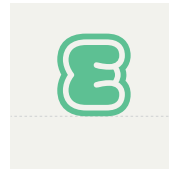Inside angle where two strokes meet

CURSIVE
Handwriting with joined-up letters. Can be used to describe an italic font which is similar to handwriting

DESCENDER
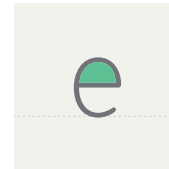Parts of lowercase letters that extend below the baseline

DESCENDER LINE
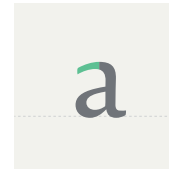Invisible line marking the lowest part of the descenders

DISPLAY FONT
Typefaces used for large type like banners and headlines

EAR
Small stroke extending from the bowl of a lowercase 'g' or 'r'
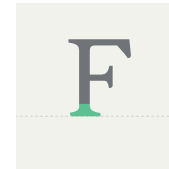
EYE
Enclosed space in a lowercase 'e' similar to a counter

FINIAL
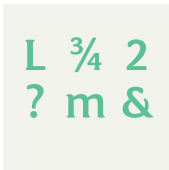Tapered or curved end on letters like the bottom of a 'c' or 'e' or the top of a double storey 'a'

FLAG
Horizontal stroke on the figure '5'

FOOT
The part of a stem that rests on the baseline

GADZOOK
An embellishment in a ligature that is not originally part of either letter

GLYPH
A single character (number, letter, mark or symbol) is represented by a glyph
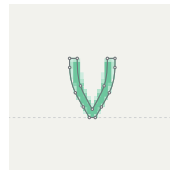
GROTESK
German name for sans serif

HAIRLINE
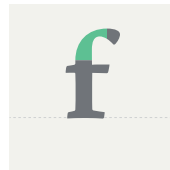The lightest font family weight name; can refer to thinnest stroke of a letter

HALBFETT
German name for the semi-bold weight in a type family

HEAD SERIF
Half serif at the top starting point of the letterform

HINTING
Data instructions within a font to help it render clearly at varying sizes
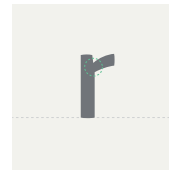
HOOK
Curved stroke in a lowercase 'f'

INK TRAP
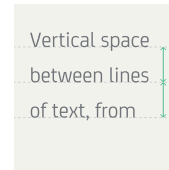Areas of the counter are opened to allow for ink to spread, avoiding dark spots

ITALIC
Slanted to the right unlike roman typefaces which are upright

JOINT / JUNCTURE
Where a stroke joins a stem

KERNING
Adjustments to the space between pairs of letters, used to correct spacing problems in combinations like 'VA'

LEADING / LINESPACING
Vertical space between lines of text, from baseline to baseline
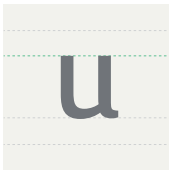
LEG
Downward sloping stroke on a 'k' and 'R'

LIGATURE
Two or more letters joined together to form one glyph

LINK / NECK
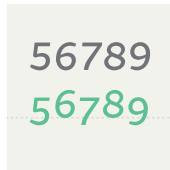The link connecting the top and bottom bowls of a lowercase 'g'

LOOP / LOBE
A rounded enclosed or partially-enclosed projecting stroke

MIDLINE
Invisible line resting on the body of the lowercase letters

OBLIQUE / SLANTED
Slanted typeface, mechanically sheared unlike italics which are drawn and crafted separately
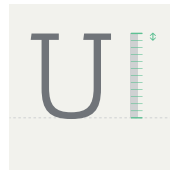
OLDSTYLE / HANGING FIGURES
Numbers aligned with the lowercase, traditionally used for body text setting

OVERSHOOT
A round or pointed letter extends higher or lower than a flat letter to make it optically appear the same size
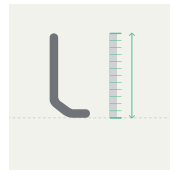
PICA
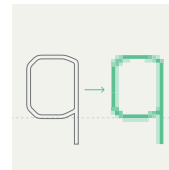A unit of measure corresponding to 12 points or pixels

POINT
A unit of measure corresponding 1/12 of a pica or 1 pixel

POINT SIZE
The size of the body of each character in a font

PRO
Support additional languages including Central European and Cyrillic and/or Greek

RASTERIZATION
Converting an image from vector to raster (pixels or dots)

ROMAN
Standard type style or regular weight of an upright typeface

SERIF
Small stroke at the beginning or end of main strokes of a letter

SHOULDER
Curved part in a lowercase 'h', 'm' and 'n'

SINGLE-TIER
When an 'a' or 'g' has one counter rather than two

SMALL CAPS
Capitals which are a similar height to the lowercase, designed for abbreviation and emphasis in texts

SPACING
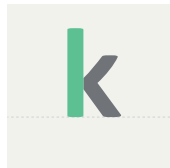Horizontal space on the side of each character

SPINE
The main curve in 'S' and 's'
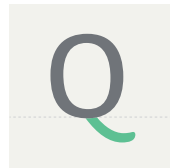
SPUR
Small protruding part off a main stroke

SPURLESS
Curves transition into straight stems without a spur

STEM
A vertical stroke in a character

SWASH
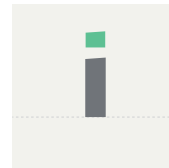Exaggerated decorative serif, terminal or tail

TAIL
The descending stroke of the letter 'Q'

TAPER
Thinner and refined end of a stroke

TERMINAL
The end of any stroke that doesn't have a serif

TITTLE
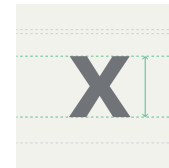The dot on the 'i' and the 'j'

TRACKING
Spacing added to or removed from groups of letters outside the original spacing and kerning specified within a font file

VERTEX
The point where two strokes meet at the bottom of a character

WEIGHT
The heaviness of a typeface, independent of its size; can refer to a style within a font family (Thin or Regular)

X-HEIGHT
Height of the lowercase 'x' which is used as a guideline for the height of unextended lowercase letters

Title and descriptions set in FS Aldrin