

Orthography

In this book, many of the original spellings used by early ethnographers such as Schürmann, Reuther, the Strehlows, Spencer and Gillen, Howitt, Róheim and Berndt have been retained. The early writings include well-known spellings of group or language names and of complex terms such as ‘*altjira*’ or ‘*tjurunga*’. Some authors in this volume have adopted modern phonemic spelling systems developed by linguists, while others have opted to stick with the original spellings of the authors they are discussing. For example, in the common Institute of Aboriginal Development orthography, the language name ‘Aranda’ is spelt ‘Arrernté’, and elsewhere the name Dieri is now rendered ‘Diyari’. However, in some instances, the Aboriginal groups involved have clear and strong preferences for the spelling of their language name. Thus, the people belonging to the Arandic areas on the Upper Finke River in Central Australia prefer to spell their language name ‘Aranda’ and the native title holders east of Lake Eyre prefer their language name to be spelt ‘Dieri’. Otherwise, the spelling of Aboriginal words—including names of individuals, subsections, sites, countries (estates) and dreamings—that are in use today follow modern phonemic spelling systems unless they are established placenames or personal names of people who have long passed away or no longer in use.

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