What is an Artificial Neural Network (ANN)?

"An Artificial Neural Network is an information processing system that has certain performance characteristics in common with biological neural networks" (Fausett, 1994).

Characteristic Features:

1.   Information Processing occurs at many simple elements called neurons or Processing Elements (P.E.s)

2.   Signals are passed between neurons over connection links.

3.   Each connection link has an associated weight, which typically multiplies the signal transmitted.

4.   An "activation function", usually nonlinear, is applied in each PE to obtain the output from the sum of weighted input signals.