

PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM

L2/02-317

A. Administrative

1. Title

Proposal to encoding New Testament editorial characters in the UCS

2. Requester's name

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae Project (University of California, Irvine)

3. Requester type

Expert contribution

4. Submission date:

2002-08-21

5. Requester's reference

6. Completion

This is a complete proposal. Additional information may be provided upon request

B. Technical - General

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:

Name of the existing block:

Greek and Coptic

2. Number of characters in proposal:

11

3. Proposed category

Category B.2

4. Proposed Level of Implementation:

Level 1

5a. Character names provided?

Yes.

5b. Character names in accordance with guidelines

Yes.

5c. Character shapes reviewable?

Yes.

6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font for publishing the standard?

TLG Project

6b. Fonts currently available.

A number of Greek Unicode fonts are already available and listed at:

<http://www.tlg.uci.edu/help/UnicodeTest.html>. The proposed characters are included in the LaserGreek® font distributed by Linguists' Software.

6c. Font format

True Type

7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes

7b. Are published examples of use of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

8. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing

No.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?

No.

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community?

Yes. The TLG has been in contact with experts in the field of Biblical Studies. We have consulted with the Institute for New Testament Textual Research (University of Muenster, Westfalia, Germany), especially with Dr. Luc Herren, Editor of the forthcoming digital version of the Nestle-Aland edition of the New Testament and Dr. Klaus. The proposal has also been reviewed by Dr. James Adair, General Editor of *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*, and Tim Feeney, organizer of the Greek New Testament Project.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters:

Scholarly community.

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

These characters are used in the Nestle Critical Apparatus of the New Testament and other secondary sources about it or derived from it.

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes. Characters are present in the Nestle and Aland (UBS) edition and used extensively by scholars in the field. A new digital version of the Nestle Aland edition is currently under preparation. General references provided in attached bibliography.

6. After giving due consideration to the principles in *Principles and Procedures document*, must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

If YES, is a rationale provided?

Accordance with the Roadmap.

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Contiguous.

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

No.

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences

No.

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

NEW TESTAMENT SIGLA

Proposal

As the New Testament has held a central place in the West for 2,000 years, there exist myriad manuscripts with many textual variants. While a ‘Majority text’ has largely been agreed upon, it is important for scholars to be able to discuss these textual variants succinctly. The most widely used critical edition of the New Testament is the Nestle and Aland edition published by the United Bible Societies (UBS), currently in its 27th revised edition. In order to clearly and accurately represent and discuss the various textual variants in the New Testament while still leaving the text clear and readable, Nestle introduced a set of editorial characters.¹ The editorial system introduced by Nestle goes far beyond a standard system of critical apparatus: rather than simply referring the reader to the footnotes, the sigla in the text show the reader instantly exactly what sort of textual variants exist. So, for instance, there are sigla to show that a word or words have been substituted with others in the textual variants; there are sigla to show that there is extra text in the variants and sigla to show that a piece of text is missing from some or all of the textual variants.

A digital version of the Nestle and Aland edition is currently under preparation by the Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung at the University of Muenster, Germany. In addition, these editorial characters are regularly used in a number of journals and other publications² and have, thus, become the recognized method of annotating the New Testament. LaserGreek, one of the most popular and widely used fonts (distributed by Linguists Software) already includes these sigla in its repertoire.

Approximately half of the editorial NT characters can currently be encoded in the Unicode Standard. There are, however, 11 sigla which cannot currently be encoded in Unicode. These are proposed below.

¹ Nestle, Nestle, Aland (1963) *64

² E.g. *New Testament Studies*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Novum Testamentum*, etc.

Bibliography

Aland, K., *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*, 15th ed. (Stuttgart, 1997)

Aland, K. and Aland, B., *The Text of the New Testament: An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism*, 2nd ed. (Leiden: Brill, 1989),

David M., & Van Groningen B.A., *Papyrological Primer*, 4th ed. (Leiden: Brill, 1965).

Modern New Testament Editorial Characters

Table of Characters Proposed

Number	Character	Name	Unicode	Comment
1	ᵀ	Substitution Marker		Similar to <superscript>231C and <superscript>250C
2	ᵀ	Repeat Substitution Marker		
3	ƒ	Opening Substitution Bracket		
4	ƒ	Closing Substitution Bracket		
5	ƒ	Repeat Opening Substitution Bracket		
6	ƒ	Repeat Closing Substitution Bracket		
7	ᵀ	Interpolation Marker		
8	ᵀ	Repeat Interpolation Marker		
9	ᵀ	Closing Transposition Bracket		
10	ᵀ	Transposition Marker		
11	ᵀ	Opening Transposition Bracket		