

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
**PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
 FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest *Roadmaps*.

A. Administrative

1. Title: Proposal for addition of characters to Malayalam Block

2. Requester's name: R. Chitrajakumar on behalf of Rachana Akshara Vedi

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Individual Contribution

4. Submission date: October 24, 2005

5. Requester's reference (if applicable): General Secretary, Rachana Akshara Vedi

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal: YES

or, More information will be provided later: _____

B. Technical - General

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): _____ NO _____

Proposed name of script: _____

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

Name of the existing block: MALAYALAM

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2. Number of characters in proposal:

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary _____ B.1-Specialized (small collection) YES B.2-Specialized (large collection) _____

C-Major extinct _____ D-Attested extinct _____ E-Minor extinct _____

F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic _____ G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols _____

4. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see Annex K in P&P document): 2

Is a rationale provided for the choice? YES

If Yes, reference: _____

5. Is a repertoire including character names provided? YES

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? YES

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? YES

6. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard? Rachana Akshara Vedi (TrueType format)

If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used: chitrajakumar@rachanamalayalam.org, email

7. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? NO

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? NO

8. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? YES

9. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other

¹ Form number: N2652-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11)

Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	NO
If YES explain _____	
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	YES
If YES, with whom? General Council, Rachana Akshara Vedi,	
If YES, available relevant documents: _____	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	YES
Reference: _____	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	COMMON
Reference: _____	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	YES
If YES, where? Reference: _____	
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	_____
If YES, is a rationale provided?	YES
If YES, reference: _____	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	NO
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	NO
If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?	NO
If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?	
If YES, reference: _____	

Proposed Characters

MALAYALAM VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC RR

Representative glyph shape: 

Proposed code point: U+0D44 (corresponding to the Devanagari codepoint for Vowel sign Vocalic RR).

Usage: It is the vowel sign of the Vowel Vocalic RR (U+0D60). It is a common character, used wherever Sanskrit words are transcribed to Malayalam.

MALAYALAM VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L

Representative glyph shape: 

Proposed code point: U+0D62 (corresponding to the Devanagari codepoint for Vowel sign Vocalic L).

Usage: It is the vowel sign of the Vowel Vocalic L (U+0D0C). It is a common character, used wherever Sanskrit words are transcribed to Malayalam.

E.g. of use -

കുലം (kLptam)

MALAYALAM PRASLESHAM

Representative glyph shape: 

Proposed code point: U+0D3D (corresponding to the Devanagari codepoint for Avagraha).

Usage: It is the same as Devanagari Avagraha (U+093D). It is a common character, used wherever Sanskrit words containing avagraha are transcribed to Malayalam. It is the mark used to indicate the elision of അ (a) after ആ (ā), ഏ (ē) and ഓ (ō) in coalition of sanskrit words. From the point of view of shaping, such combinations should not automatically be shaped into “Praslesham”. Instead, the user will specifically use this character where required. This character is used in great frequency in writing Sanskrit words in Malayalam text and in writing Sanskrit texts using Malayalam script. It is unavoidable, as in the case of visargam.

Due to non-availability of the nominal glyph in various typefaces, some publishers use the italic lower case 'f'.

E.g. of use

സീതാദർശി (sītā/darśi) -> സീതാ + അദർശി

ആകാശഖിലതാരകാ (ākāśē/khilatārakā) -> ആകാശ + അഖിലതാരകാ

പുത്രോയം (putrō/yam) -> പുത്രോ + അയം

സോയം (sō/yam) -> സോ + അയം

MALAYALAM DATE MARK

Representative glyph shape: 

Proposed code point: U+0D71 (codepoint in area reserved for characters unique to script in Indic family)

Usage: It is a character unique to Malayalam, similar to the use of “th” in English used with numeric dates for e.g., 5th, 16th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. In Malayalam, it is used as an abbreviation like
16-൯ for 16-ാം തീയതി,
1-൯ for 1-ാം തീയതി

Unlike English, in Malayalam all numeric dates are suffixed with ൯. It can be considered a special feature of Malayalam.