

N3157

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TITLE: Liaison report from UC Berkeley (Script Encoding Initiative)

SOURCE: Deborah Anderson, UC Berkeley liaison representative and Project Leader of Script Encoding Initiative.

ACTION: For consideration by WG2

DISTRIBUTION: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG 2

This document serves as a summary of the UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative's recent activities as they relate to WG2. The Script Encoding Initiative was established to help scholars and user communities get various unencoded characters and scripts proposed for inclusion in the UCS/Unicode, and to ensure that current proposals are reviewed by specialists. SEI focusses on unencoded modern minority scripts and historic scripts.

Proposals on Lanna (3121R), Cham (N3120), and Myanmar Extensions (for Shan and Palaung, N3143, and for Karen and Kayah, N3142) have been submitted to WG2.

Ongoing Work

Anatolian Hieroglyphs (a.k.a. Luwian Hieroglyphs): A preliminary proposal by Michael Everson has been written (N3144) and is being reviewed by experts in the field.

Kaithi, North Indian Accounting Signs: A graduate student from the University of Washington (/University of Michigan), Anshuman Pandey, is working on two proposals: one on the Kaithi script and a second one on North Indian Accounting Signs. These will be submitted to WG2 in the near future.

Egyptian Hieroglyphs: Michael Everson and Bob Richmond are preparing a proposal and an accompanying database, which cover the basic set of Egyptian hieroglyphs (the "Gardiner set"). Two draft documents -- a draft of a proposal and sources -- are available at <http://www.evertype.com/informal.html>. The proposal should appear at the next WG2 meeting in April 2007.

Meitei: Michael Everson is completing a preliminary proposal on this script, and input from the user community is being sought. This proposal should be completed in 2006.

Avestan: Michael Everson is slated to complete work on an Avestan proposal in 2006.

Old Cyrillic: Work on characters for Old Cyrillic is being undertaken as part of the SEI project, and a proposal is due later in 2006.

Tangut: Richard Cook is working on a proposal for Tangut, with work to proceed into 2007. A set of notes (with images) is available at: <http://unicode.org/~rscook/Xixia/>.

Naxi Pictographic and Syllabographic Scripts: Richard Cook has done preliminary research for the eventual encoding of Naxi. A brief report and images are available at: <http://unicode.org/~rscook/Naxi/>. Work is envisioned as continuing into 2007.

Bamum: Documents and information on the Bamum script was collected in August 2006 by Chuck Riley during a trip to the Cameroon; the eventual goal is to develop a script proposal, probably in 2007 or 2008, based in part on the collected materials. (The fieldwork was being done in collaboration with Konrad Tuchscherer, whose work is underwritten by the Endangered Archives Programme of the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund.)

Medieval (European) texts: A proposal on punctuation needed by medievalists will be forthcoming, probably in time for the April 2007 WG2 meeting. Support comes from the Medieval Unicode Funding Initiative.

Greek Papyrological symbols: The Center for Tebtunis Papyri at UC Berkeley will be working on a proposal for those Greek symbols needed by papyrologists, but not yet in UCS/Unicode.

Alchemical symbols: "The Chymistry of Isaac Newton" project hosted by Indiana University Digital Library Program (<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/newton>) will be working on a proposal for missing alchemical symbols.

Byzantine Epigraphic symbols: Maria Pantelia of UC Irvine's Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG), in conjunction with Joel Kalvesmaki at Dumbarton Oaks, will work on a proposal on Byzantine epigraphic symbols.

Future Activities

In June 2006, Deborah Anderson submitted a funding proposal to the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities for work on unencoded scripts. In preparing the NEH proposal, experts and users in 15 selected unencoded scripts were contacted and have written that they are willing to participate in proposal creation and/or review. If the grant is successful, work will take place over two years, from 2007 to 2008.