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Title: Preliminary Proposal to Encode the Dhivehi Script in ISO/IEC 10646
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1 Introduction

This is a preliminary proposal to encode the Dhivehi Script in the Universal Character Set (ISO/IEC 10646). The intent is to bring the Dhivehi script to the attention of the Unicode Technical Committee. The present author is researching the script and will provide more information as it is discovered. A formal proposed to encode the Dhivehi script in the UCS will follow.

The Dhivehi (Divehi) script is a Brahmi-based left-to-right script that was used to write Dhivehi, an Indo-Aryan language spoken in the Maldives. It was used in the Maldives before the introduction of the Arabic-based Thaana script. The *Rādavaḷī*, a chronical of the Maldivian kings, and official letters were written in Dhivehi and several inscriptions were produced using the script. Popular use of Dhivehi subsided by the 18th century and the script is now extinct. The modern form of Dhivehi is known as *Dhivehi akuru* ‘island letters’ and an older form is called *Evela akuru* ‘ancient letters’. It is believed to have developed from an early form of Sinhala.

The Dhivehi script proposed for encoding in the UCS is based on *Dhivehi akuru*. The *Evela akuru* form may be unified with *Dhivehi akuru* since the latter has all of the characters of the former as well as some additional characters.

A total of 47 characters is required to encode a basic character set for Dhivehi. This character set consists of 10 independent vowel letters and 9 dependent vowel signs, 26 consonant letters, and two signs. These characters are shown in the tables below. Dhivehi digits are attested, but it may be possible to unify them with sinhala. Dhivehi should be allocated in the SMP at U+118C0..118FF. It is expected that further research will uncover additional characters.

2 Character Set

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118C0;DHIVEHI SIGN ANUSVARA;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
118C1;DHIVEHI LETTER A;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C2;DHIVEHI LETTER AA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C3;DHIVEHI LETTER I;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C4;DHIVEHI LETTER II;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C5;DHIVEHI LETTER U;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C6;DHIVEHI LETTER UU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C7;DHIVEHI LETTER E;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C8;DHIVEHI LETTER AI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118C9;DHIVEHI LETTER O;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118CA;DHIVEHI LETTER AU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118CB;DHIVEHI LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118CC;DHIVEHI LETTER KHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118CD;DHIVEHI LETTER GA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
118CE;DHIVEHI LETTER CA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
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118CF;DHIVEHI LETTER JA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D0;DHIVEHI LETTER NYA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D1;DHIVEHI LETTER TTA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D2;DHIVEHI LETTER DDA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D3;DHIVEHI LETTER NNA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D4;DHIVEHI LETTER TA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D5;DHIVEHI LETTER DA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D6;DHIVEHI LETTER DHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D7;DHIVEHI LETTER NA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D8;DHIVEHI LETTER PA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118D9;DHIVEHI LETTER BA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118DA;DHIVEHI LETTER MA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118DB;DHIVEHI LETTER YA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118DC;DHIVEHI LETTER RA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118DD;DHIVEHI LETTER LA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118DE;DHIVEHI LETTER LLA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118DF;DHIVEHI LETTER VA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E0;DHIVEHI LETTER SHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E1;DHIVEHI LETTER SSA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E2;DHIVEHI LETTER SA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E3;DHIVEHI LETTER HA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E4;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN AA;Mc;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E5;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN I;Mc;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E6;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN II;Mc;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118E7;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN U;Mn;0;NSM;;;;N;;;;;
118E8;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN UU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;N;;;;;
118E9;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN E;Mn;0;NSM;;;;N;;;;;
118EA;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN AI;Mn;0;NSM;;;;N;;;;;
118EB;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN O;Mn;0;NSM;;;;N;;;;;
118EC;DHIVEHI VOWEL SIGN AU;Mc;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
118ED;DHIVEHI SIGN VIRAMA;Mc;9;L;;;;N;;;;;

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	DHIVES AKURU	EVELA AKURU		
A			A	—
AA			AA	
I			I	
II			II	
U			U	
UU		?	UU	
E			E	
AI			AI	
O			O	
AU		?	AU	

Table 1: Dhivehi vowel letters and signs

	DHIVES AKURU	EVELA AKURU
VIRAMA		?
NASAL SIGN	?	

Table 2: Dhivehi various signs

	DHIVES AKURU	EVELA AKURU		DHIVES AKURU	EVELA AKURU
KA	ක	ආ	PA	ප	ඵ
KHA	ඡ	ච	BA	බ	භ
GA	ග	ඟ	MA	ම	ඹ
CA	ඣ	චා	YA	ය	ඡා
JA	ඤ	ඣ	RA	ර	ඊ
NYA	න	ඤ	LA	ල	ඹ
TTA	ඳ	උ	VA	ව	ඵ
DDA	ඳ	ඳ	SHA	ඣ	ඡ
NNA	ඳ	ඳ	SSA	ඳ	ඡ
TA	ත	ආ	SA	ස	ඵ
DA	ඳ	ඳ	HA	හ	ඵ
DHA	ඳ	ඳ	LLA	ඳ	ඳ
NA	න	න	ZA	න	?

Table 3: Dhivehi consonant letters