

Date: August 4, 2010
To: L2
From: CLDR Technical Committee
Subject: LDML as an ISO standard, and L2 as US TAG to SC35/WG5

In the L2 meeting May 14, a discussion about the work currently in development by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC35/WG5 "Cultural and Linguistic Adaptability" (see <http://www.open-std.org/JTC1/SC35/WG5/>) raised the following points:

- L2 should try to become the US TAG for SC35/WG5.
- Perhaps CLDR should consider promoting LDML as an alternative to the work in progress by SC35/WG5.

This was discussed in the CLDR meeting May 19, and the CLDR Technical Committee would like to convey the following responses:

1. CLDR supports L2 becoming the US TAG for SC35/WG5.
2. L2 should consider sending a letter to SC35 indicating why a new standard for locale-related information is a bad idea: It creates confusion among developers and users about which standard to use, and dilutes efforts to have a central repository of locale data.
3. It would be too much work for too little benefit to make an ISO standard from LDML; LDML needs to be much more flexible than the ISO process permits.
4. One possibility might be to have an ISO standard that references LDML, if this is possible without imposing ISO process constraints on the development of LDML.