Title: Introducing a Script for Writing Dhimal
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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to bring to the attention of the Unicode Technical Committee (UTC) the Dhimal script. Research on the script is ongoing. This document provides a preliminary list of characters and some specimens. Additional information will be provided as it is obtained.

This script is associated with Dhimal (ISO 639-3: dhi), a Tibeto-Burman language spoken by nearly 18,000 persons in the Mechi and Koshi zones of Nepal, as well as across the border in West Bengal, India. Dhimal is typically written in Devanagari in Nepal.

The Dhimal script described here appears to be a newly-devised script. The creator is Daya Ram Dhimal, who also authored a book, titled “Newly Discovered Dhimal Script” (see figure 1). The cover refers to a script called ‘Dham’. It is unknown if this is the formal name for the Dhimal script. Information about usage of the script is unknown.

Structurally, Dhimal is an alphasyllabic script. It is based upon the Brahmi model. The available sources indicate that Dhimal would require a minimum of 54 code-points. It has independent vowel letters and a full set of consonant letters (see figures 2), as well as combining vowel signs and a \textit{virama} 3). It is unknown if there are script-specific digits. The character glyphs exhibit influence from writing systems used throughout the region, such as Limbu and Lepcha.

2 Tentative Character Repertoire and Properties

\begin{verbatim}
xx00;DHIMAL LETTER A;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx01;DHIMAL LETTER AA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx02;DHIMAL LETTER I;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx03;DHIMAL LETTER II;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx04;DHIMAL LETTER U;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx05;DHIMAL LETTER UU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx06;DHIMAL LETTER E;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx07;DHIMAL LETTER AI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx08;DHIMAL LETTER O;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx09;DHIMAL LETTER AU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0A;DHIMAL LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0B;DHIMAL LETTER KHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0C;DHIMAL LETTER GA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0D;DHIMAL LETTER GHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0E;DHIMAL LETTER NGA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0F;DHIMAL LETTER CA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx10;DHIMAL LETTER CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx11;DHIMAL LETTER JA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx12;DHIMAL LETTER JHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
\end{verbatim}
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3 References

Newly Discovered Dhimal Script by Daya Ram Dhimal"Lengbang"

Figure 1: Cover of a book about the Dhimal script (from Dhimal 2008).
**Figure 2: Vowel and consonant letters of Dhimal (from Dhimal 2008).**
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Figure 3: Vowel signs and half-forms of consonants producing using virama (from Dhimal 2008).