

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N43xx

2012-10-24

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации
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Doc Type: Working Group Document**Title: About the consensus of the Rovas encoding - Response to N4373****Source: Jenő Demeczky, György Giczi, Gábor Hosszú, Gergely Kliha, Borbála Obrusánszky, Tamás Rumi, László Sípos, & Erzsébet Zelliger****Status: Individual Contribution****Action: For consideration by UTC and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2****Introduction**

This document clarifies some aspects of the **Rovas** (*r-o-v-a-sh*) encoding and contains the requirement for postponing of the process, until the Hungarian National Body reaches consensus. Please, send any response to this proposal to Tamás Rumi (email: rovasinfo@gmail.com), Editor-in-Chief, Rovas Info News Portal or László Sípos (email: rovasfoundation@gmail.com), President of the Rovas Foundation.

Summary

As the encoding process of the Rovas (erroneously: Old Hungarian or Hungarian Runic) faces contradictions and procedural errors, the author experts do have to draw attention to the need of suspending the process until the Hungarian National Body can settle all the major issues, such as terminology, character set and elementary consensus building among the professional stakeholders.

Response to N4373

The authors refuse the statements of the recently submitted document N4373 (“Resolutions of the 8th Hungarian World Congress on the encoding of Old Hungarian”, 2012-10-22).

1. The WFH is neither a specialist, nor a scientific forum, nor representative of the Rovas users. The WHF is political organization with marginal importance and influence in Hungary, and represents only one vote in MSZT/MB-819 Informatics National Standardization Committee since June 2012.

2. The incompetence of the WFH is summarized already by the author of N4373, A. Sz. Szelp in 2008 in the Unicode mailing list: <http://unicode.org/mail-arch/unicode-ml/y2008-m10/0100.html>

From: André Szabolcs Szelp (a.sz.szelp@gmail.com)**Date: Fri Oct 31 2008 - 14:19:48 CST**

“The “World Federation of Hungarians” is an umbrella organisation of emigrant Hungarian organisations/associations. In the last years the people who got elected into key positions have a questionable ideology, to say the least. With all due respect, the “World Congress” of the WFH is a bunch of delegates from the emigrant Hungarian associations. They have neither deep knowledge about rovás, nor about Unicode or encoding. I’m sure that not one read the 106 pages document of HG. Their statement therefore completely irrelevant.”

3. The statements of N4373 about the “round table” can not be verified as there are no official minutes (log, name list, polls) presented about the meeting and its resolution.

4. The N4373 cites highly dubious statements ascribed to the chief of the Hungarian National Body that most probably will be addressed by the National Body itself.

5. The N4373 contains false information: “7 September 2012 session the working group expressed its intent with a majority vote to remove Dr. Gábor Hosszú from his position as representative.”

Note that this “Working Group” does not officially exist yet and in the MSZT/MB-819, where the clear majority always supported the proposals written by Dr. Gábor Hosszú. In the last ballot of the MSZT/MB-819, the 55% of the votes definitely opposed the ISO/IEC 10646:2012 / Amd.2.2:

2012 (E) and only 33% supported with comments, and nobody supported it without comments.

6. Oppositely to the statements of N4373, the proposals written by Dr. Gábor Hosszú and submitted by the Hungarian NB in the last years were always based on expert backed process involving encoding and computing specialists, Rovas researchers and representatives of the user community.

7. N4373 falsely states that “The 8th Hungarian World Congress included the above resolution in its Closing Declaration”. In fact, the declaration signed by the president of WFH (issued 27.08.2012) does not contain any “resolution”, there is not even one word about the Rovas script.

<http://magyarmegmaradasert.hu/in-english/current-issues/1689-the-hungarian-nation> or http://www.magtudin.org/The_Hungarian_Nation.htm

Reasons of opposing the ISO/IEC 10646:2012 / Amd.2.2: 2012 (E)

The erroneous “Old Hungarian” code block in the ISO/IEC 10646: 2012/ Amd. 2.2 is unacceptable for encoding the Rovas for the following reasons:

- erroneous terminology (block, script and character names)
- inadequate character set (with partially erroneous and missing characters)
- missing consensus among the professional stakeholders
- missing approval from the Hungarian National Body

Detailed reasons opposing the term “Old Hungarian”.

The term “Old Hungarian” is unsuitable for the following reasons:

- The expression “Old Hungarian” is ambiguous, since **this term is already used by Hungarian linguists for denoting the medieval version of the Hungarian Latin-based script**, which is totally different from the Rovas script. For example,

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funeral_Sermon_and_Prayer is written with Latin-based Old Hungarian script. Therefore, using the term “Old Hungarian” for the Rovas leads to serious collision.

- According to the latest results of the Hungarian paleography, the Szekely-Hungarian Rovas has been developed before the Old Hungarian linguistic period (896–1526, see Erzsébet E. Abaffy (2003): *Hangtörténet. Az ómagyar kor* [Phoneme history. The Old Hungarian period]. In Kiss, Jenő & Pusztai, Ferenc (2003, ed.): *Magyar Nyelvtörténet* [Hungarian Language History], Budapest: Osiris Kiadó, pp. 301-351). Consequently, using the name “Old Hungarian script” for an earlier alphabet is misleading.

About the authors

The affiliation and the background of the authors are the following:

- Mr. **Jenő Demeczky**, MSc in Electronic Engineering, BME, MA in general and applied linguistics, ELTE, IBM World Wide Translation Terminologist, IBM Hungarian Terminologist, IBM Translation Services Center Terminologist for Central and Eastern Europe, International Business Machines Corporation Hungary Ltd., representative in the MSZT/MB-819 “Informatics” National Standardization Technical Committee,
- Mr. **György Giczi**, MSc in Electrical Engineering at the Budapest University of Technology, Rovas transcribing software developer,
- Dr. **Gábor Hosszú**, Candidate of Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, MSc in Law (Péter Pázmány Catholic University), Associate Professor in the Department of Electron Devices at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, researcher in the field of computerized paleography, author of several Rovas-related books and conference papers, developer of the first Rovas fonts being available in the Internet from 1994, representative in the MSZT/MB-819 “Informatics” National Standardization Technical Committee,
- Mr. **Gergely Kliha**, MSc in Programming Mathematics at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Rovas transcribing software developer
- Dr. **Borbála Obrusánszky**, PhD in Philology, PhD in Ethnography and Cultural Anthropology, MSc in Mongolistics and History, Orientalist, Member of the Scholarly Public Body of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences,
- Mr. **Tamás Rumi**, MSc in Architecture, MBA, researcher in the field of computerized paleography, author of several Rovas-related books and conference papers, Curator of the Rovas Foundation, editor-in-chief of the Rovas Info News Portal, the largest Rovas information center and the Rovaspedia, the comprehensive knowledge base of the Rovas and related orthographies, individual member of the Unicode, representative of Chamber of Hungarian Architects in the MSZT/MB-819 “Informatics” National Standardization Technical Committee,
- Mr. **László Sípos**, MSc in Architecture, MBA, researcher in the field of computerized paleography, author of several Rovas-related books and conference papers, President of the Rovas Foundation – the most significant Rovas book and electronic publisher, representative in the MSZT/MB-819 “Informatics” National Standardization Technical Committee, and
- Dr. **Erzsébet Zelliger**, Candidate of Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Associate Professor in the Department of Hungarian Historical Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, and Dialectology at the Eötvös Loránd University.