1. **Introduction.** An alphabetic script for the Fulani language initially devised in 1989 by brothers Abdoulaye Barry and Ibrahima Barry, when they were children, 14 and 10 years of age respectively, in Guinea. One of them asked their father why they could not write their language, and when their father wrote a few words in Fulani in Arabic script, he said “That’s not our script. We should have our own.” Some time later the boys proved to their father that they had devised by engaging in blind testing—similar to the way in which Sequoyah proved the efficacy of the Cherokee syllabary to his colleagues. One wrote a text and left the room; his brother came in and read it aloud, and then wrote down something else that he was told to write. Then he left the room and his sister, who had learned the script, came in to read what he had written. Over the next few years the Adlam script continued development. It is currently in use in Guinea and in other countries, and its use is increasing.

The Fulani people represent one of the larger linguistic groups in Africa, the language being spoken by more than 40 million Fulani and non-Fulani people and spread across the band of the Sahel from Senegal to Eritrea. A widespread ethnic group, Fulani speakers can be found in all of the major cities of Sub-Saharan Africa as well as throughout the Western world. The Fulani are called by a variety of names in different areas: Fulani, Fula, Peul, Pul, Fut, Fellata, Tekruri, Toucouleur, Peulh, Wasolonka, Kourte, and so on. They refer to themselves as **Pullo** (singular) and **Fulɓe** or **Fulбе** (plural). Their language is called **Pular** in the western part of West Africa (Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone); it is called **Fulfulde** on the Eastern side of the West African region and Central and Eastern Africa in countries such as Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. Despite this large geographical dispersion of the language, the different dialects are mutually intelligible for the most part.

The name Adlam is an anagram; the first four letters of the alphabet 𞤀 𞤁 𞤂 𞤃, representing 𞤤𞤮𞤺𞤵𞤤𞤵𞤃 𞤤𞤮𞤽𞤫𞤂 𞤫𞤯𞤴𞤢𞤣𞤲𞤢𞤁 𞤫𞤤𞤵𞤳𞤤𞤀 Alkule Dandaydhe Leñol Mulugol (‘the alphabet which protects the peoples from vanishing’).

2. **Structure.** Adlam is a casing script with right-to-left directionality. Its letters can be written separately or can be joined together cursorly. Cursive joining is optional not obligatory; it is a question of font style (see §9 below).

3. **Diacritical marks.** A range of diacritical marks is used.

3.1. The **ADLAM ALIF LENGTHENER** is used only on the letter **ALIF**; it is typically drawn higher when used with the capital **ALIF** than when it is used with the small **ALIF**: compare 𞤀 𞥄 and 𞤢 𞥤. Alif is a very frequent
vowel, which accounts for it having its own sign. ᵃ is *da; ᵉ *da ( gridView DÂ) can also be written gridView dâ ( gridView DÂ); ᵉ* *da can be considered a misspelling.

3.2. The ADLAM VOWEL LENGTHENER is used with other vowels: ᵃ *du is lengthened to ᵉ *da. This typically has a different glyph shape when used with the capital letters than when it is used with the small letters: compare gridView I and gridView i.

3.3. The ADLAM GEMINATION MARK marks long consonants; compare gridView *sake ‘warehouse’ with gridView sakke ‘leather worker’. This and other marks are typically high with capital letters and small letters with ascenders but low with ordinary small letters: Compare gridView DD, gridView dd, gridView LL, gridView ll.

3.4. The ADLAM HAMZA is used atop a consonant when a glottal stop occurs between it and the following vowel; compare gridView *Qurân with gridView Qur’ân. The hamza has high and low variants: gridView R’, gridView r’.

3.5. The ADLAM CONSONANT MODIFIER is used to indicate foreign sounds, primarily in Arabic transcription.

3.6. The ADLAM HOORTOBHERE and ADLAM LESTOBHERE are used to indicate both native and borrowed sounds. The HOORTOBHERE is used with the vowels gridView e and gridView o to indicate gridView e and gridView o respectively. When either of those vowels is lengthened, however, the LESTOBHERE is used to indicate the quality change: thus vowels gridView e and gridView o to indicate gridView e and gridView o. (The LESTOBHERE should be entered before the length mark.) As shown in 3.5, these marks are also used with two consonants in transcription: gridView represents gridView th and gridView represents gridView z, and when geminate these are written gridView and gridView respectively.

4. Collating order. Basic collation order follows the order of letters in the code chart, with capital and small letters interfiled. Letters with diacritics are sorted as variants of the base letter.
5. **Character names.** The usual UCS conventions are used, with the following conventions: BH is used for ɓ, B for b, BH is used for ɓ, B for b, DH for ɗ, D for d, YH for ƴ, and Y for y. Long vowels and geminate consonants are doubled.

6. **Linebreaking.** Letters behave as in N’Ko.

7. **Digits.** Ten digits are used in Adlam; their directionality is also right-to-left, like the digits in N’Ko.

8. **Punctuation.** Adlam makes use of European punctuation, alongside U+061F ARABIC QUESTION MARK, U+2E41 REVERSED COMMA, and U+204F REVERSED SEMICOLON. While ARABIC QUESTION MARK and U+0021 EXCLAMATION MARK are used at the ends of sentences, two script specific characters, 𞥟 ADLAM QUESTION MARK and 𞥞 ADLAM EXCLAMATION MARK, are used at the beginnings of those sentences (similar to the use of ¿ and ¡ in Spanish orthography). One might write 𞥟 𞥟 𞥟 ¿alā? ‘no?’! 𞥟 𞥟 𞥟 ¡alā! ‘no!’

9. **Script connections.** In some contexts, such as in translations of the Qur’ān, fonts with script connections between letters are used. For most letters, the script connections are similar to those in Arabic, where letters may have a base form, an left-joining form, a dual-joining form, and a right-joining form. This is analogous to Arabic, but the intrinsic encoding model for Adlam is alphabetic, and script connections in Adlam fonts are of the same sort as script connections in Latin fonts, where a part of the font glyph is simply extended to overlap part of the next glyph. Script fonts for Adlam can be complex or simple. Note that letters with diacritics connect; the diacritics do not break the script connectivity. A few letters have special contextual forms, however. Here is a chart of the forms.
10. Unicode Character Properties.

1E900;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER ALIF;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E922;1E922
1E901;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER DAALI;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E923;1E923
1E902;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER LAAM;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E924;1E924
1E903;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER MIIM;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E925;1E925
1E904;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER BA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E926;1E926
1E905;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER SINNYIYHE;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E927;1E927
1E906;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER PE;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E928;1E928
1E907;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER BHE;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E929;1E929
1E908;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER RA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E92A;1E92A
1E909;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER E;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E92B;1E92B
1E90A;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER FA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E92C;1E92C
1E90B;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER I;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E92D;1E92D
1E90C;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER O;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E92E;1E92E
1E90D;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER DHA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E92F;1E92F
1E90E;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER YHE;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E930;1E930
1E90F;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER WAW;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E931;1E931
1E910;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER NUN;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E932;1E932
1E911;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER KAF;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E933;1E933
1E912;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER YA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E934;1E934
1E913;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER U;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E935;1E935
1E914;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER JIIM;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E936;1E936
1E915;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER CHI;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E937;1E937
1E916;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER KPO;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E938;1E938
1E917;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER QAAF;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E939;1E939
1E918;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER GA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E93A;1E93A
1E919;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER NYA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E93B;1E93B
1E91A;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER TU;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E93C;1E93C
1E91B;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER NHA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E93D;1E93D
1E91C;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER V;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E93E;1E93E
1E91D;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER KHA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E93F;1E93F
1E91E;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER GBE;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E940;1E940
1E91F;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER ZAL;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E941;1E941
1E920;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER KPO;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E942;1E942
1E921;ADLAM CAPITAL LETTER SHA;Lu;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E943;1E943
1E922;ADLAM SMALL LETTER ALIF;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E90D;1E90D
1E923;ADLAM SMALL LETTER DAALI;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E901;1E901
1E924;ADLAM SMALL LETTER LAAM;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E902;1E902
1E925;ADLAM SMALL LETTER MIIM;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E903;1E903
1E926;ADLAM SMALL LETTER BA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E904;1E904
1E927;ADLAM SMALL LETTER SINNYIYHE;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;1E905;1E905
1E928;ADLAM SMALL LETTER PE;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E906;1E906
1E929;ADLAM SMALL LETTER BHE;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E907;1E907
1E92A;ADLAM SMALL LETTER RA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E908;1E908
1E92B;ADLAM SMALL LETTER E;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E909;1E909
1E92C;ADLAM SMALL LETTER FA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E90A;1E90A
1E92D;ADLAM SMALL LETTER I;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E90B;1E90B
1E92E;ADLAM SMALL LETTER O;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E90C;1E90C
1E92F;ADLAM SMALL LETTER DHA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E90D;1E90D
1E930;ADLAM SMALL LETTER YHE;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E90E;1E90E
1E931;ADLAM SMALL LETTER WAW;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E90F;1E90F
1E932;ADLAM SMALL LETTER NUN;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E910;1E910
1E933;ADLAM SMALL LETTER KAF;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E911;1E911
1E934;ADLAM SMALL LETTER VA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E912;1E912
1E935;ADLAM SMALL LETTER U;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E913;1E913
1E936;ADLAM SMALL LETTER JIIM;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E914;1E914
1E937;ADLAM SMALL LETTER TEH;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E915;1E915
1E938;ADLAM SMALL LETTER HA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E916;1E916
1E939;ADLAM SMALL LETTER QAAF;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E917;1E917
1E93A;ADLAM SMALL LETTER GA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E918;1E918
1E93B;ADLAM SMALL LETTER NUN;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E919;1E919
1E93C;ADLAM SMALL LETTER TU;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E91A;1E91A
1E93D;ADLAM SMALL LETTER NHA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E91B;1E91B
1E93E;ADLAM SMALL LETTER VA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E91C;1E91C
1E93F;ADLAM SMALL LETTER KHA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E91D;1E91D
1E940;ADLAM SMALL LETTER GBE;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E91E;1E91E
1E941;ADLAM SMALL LETTER ZAL;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E91F;1E91F
1E942;ADLAM SMALL LETTER KPO;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E920;1E920
1E943;ADLAM SMALL LETTER SHA;Ll;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E921;1E921
1E944;ADLAM SIGN ALIF LENGTHENER;Mn;230;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;1E945;1E945
1E946;ADLAM SIGN VOWEL LENGTHENER;Mn;230;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;1E947;1E947
1E948;ADLAM SIGN CONSONANT MODIFIER;Mn;230;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;1E949;1E949
1E94A;ADLAM SIGN HOORTOBHERE;Mn;230;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;1E94B;1E94B
1E950;ADLAM DIGIT ZERO;Nd;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E951;1E951
1E952;ADLAM DIGIT ONE;Nd;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E953;1E953
1E954;ADLAM DIGIT TWO;Nd;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E955;1E955
1E956;ADLAM DIGIT THREE;Nd;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E957;1E957
1E958;ADLAM DIGIT FOUR;Nd;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;1E959;1E959
11. Acknowledgements. This project was made possible by support from the Winden Jangen Fulani cultural organization based in New York, from Diwal Timbo (the Fulani Elders’ Association based in New York), by Union Fouta (a non-profit Fulani organization covering New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut), by Fulani People Organization of USA (supporting Fulani from Sierra Leone), Pottal Fi Bchantal (supporting Fulani from Guinea), the Fulani organizations of Boston, the Fulani Organization of Seattle, the North American Fulani and Friends Association, (NAFFA, in Portland, Oregon), and the Fulani Taxi Driver Union (Philadelphia). This project was also made possible in part by a grant from the Script Encoding Initiative at UC Berkeley in respect of the Adlam encoding. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the University of California Berkeley.

12. Bibliography
### Table of Adlam Syllables from Barry 2006

Some of the glyphs were different in 2006 than they are now, but note that the script has been designed as casing: capital and small letters are given in the right two columns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment Lire</th>
<th>Équiv.</th>
<th>Lettres Minuscule</th>
<th>Lettres Majuscule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alif</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>ו ל</td>
<td>ג</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dâli</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>י ל</td>
<td>י</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lam</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>ל</td>
<td>ל</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mim</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>ג</td>
<td>ג</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1a.** Table of Adlam syllables from Barry 2006.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ba</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>ɣ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>singniyhe</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>ɣ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pê</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bhê</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ka</td>
<td>ò</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ê</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fa</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ò</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dha</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>ñ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yhê</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wâwou</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñoun</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaf</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yè</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ou</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>djim</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1b.** Table of Adlam syllables from Barry 2006.
**Figure 1c.** Table of Adlam syllables from Barry 2006.
Figure 2. Sample of handwritten calligraphic Adlam capital letters. This is the most recent, and final, development in terms of character design, having been informed by courses in calligraphy.

Figure 3. Sample of handwritten calligraphic Adlam small letters.

Figure 4. Sample of handwritten calligraphic Adlam digits, punctuation, and diacritical marks.
Figure 5. Page from one of the first books written in Adlam script, written by Aissata Barry, sister of Ibrahima and Abdoulaye.

Figure 6. Page from a hand-written book. Ngurdan Annabi Yusuf
‘The life of the Prophet Joseph’.
Figure 7. Masthead and interior of the periodical _TABALDE_ ‘Drum’, published in Lagos, Nigeria. Here and in Figures 8 and 9 case pairs are not found, but the reason for this was the use of Arabic code points to get right-to-left text processing behaviour via a font hack.

Figure 8. Text from a booklet in Fulani discussing democracy, entitled  DEMOKARAKU. The text is written in an older-style font which used Arabic code points to get right-to-left processing behaviour. The unsightly tatweels here are an artifact of that font hack; it is not to be considered normal in Adlam, in particular because in a non-cursive font such spacing would make the text illegible.

Non-cursive text is used in the header.
Figure 9. Text from a booklet in Fulani discussing Arabic terminology. The booklet is called "Deftere Laklarıyi Nden" 'the Book of Laklari'.

Figure 10. Adlam calligraphy by Ibrahima Barry. Capital and small letters are used.
Figure 11. Adlam being taught in a school in Conakry.

Figure 12. A classroom in Nigeria where children are taught Adlam.
Figure 13. A classroom in Nigeria where children are taught Adlam.

Figure 14. Some teachers of Adlam in Guinea.
Figure 15. Hand-written text in the modern unjoined form of the script (above) and in the modern cursive form of the script (below), written by Ibrahima Barry. In addition to the text of the two samples not being identical, there are some differences in orthographic conventions between the two. Compare, for instance, მოუმუშავე Kubiya above and დიდობები Kubiya below.
Figure 16. Letter of support from IRLA, the Institut de Recherche Linguistique Appliquée. This is the institute in charge of the national languages in Guinea. They support the fight against illiteracy. This is a branch of the government that gives authorization to teach Fulani in Adlam script.
MINISTRE DEL'ALPHABETISATION
ET DE LA PROMOTION DES LANGUES
NATIONALES

Direction Nationale de la Promotion
des Langues Nationales

REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE

Travail-Justice-Solidarité

Conakry, le 15 Novembre 2011

LE DIRECTEUR NATIONAL

TEMOIGNAGE

Dans le cadre des activités de recherche linguistique menées en collaboration avec les institutions spécialisées, la Direction Nationale de la Promotion des Langues Nationales a reçu, examiné et transmis à l’Institut de Recherche Linguistique Appliquée (IRLA), courant année 2011, les dossiers relatifs aux travaux d’expérimentation de l’alphabet ADLAM.

En raison de quoi le présent témoignage est délivré aux créateurs dudit alphabet.

Pépé Jérôme HABA

Figure 17. Letter of support from the Ministre de l’Alphabetisation et de la Promotion des Langues Nationales. This is the Guinean Ministry in charge of literacy.
Figure 18. Letter of support from the Ministère de l’Administration du Territoire et de la Décentralisation. This is the Guinean equivalent to the Ministry for the Interior.
MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE
ET DU PATRIMOINE HISTORIQUE

A Monsieur le Président de l’Association
DARUL-ILMI
BP1798 – Tel : 622.06.47.58
CONAKRY

Objet : Encouragements

Monsieur le Président,

J’ai l’honneur d’accuser réception de votre courrier S/N du 05/02/2014 relatif à la création de l’alphabet ADLAM.

Je voudrais avant tout vous féliciter et encourager votre initiative qui vise à promouvoir la culture guinéenne.

Les témoignages des services techniques compétents des différents Ministères de l’enseignement prouvent à suffisance la pertinence de votre noble entreprise dans le développement culturel.

A ce titre, je tiens à vous exprimer toute ma disponibilité.

Me réjouissant d’avance de cette collaboration, veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, l’assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Ahmed Tidiane CISSÉ

Figure 19. Letter of support from the Ministère de la Culture et du Patrimoine Historique. This is the Guinean Ministry of Culture.
November 11, 2013

**Letter of Attestation**

This is to inform the Foundation Literacy School, Fish Market, Monrovia, Liberia that after inspection of your school facilities, you are permitted to operate as a Literacy School for One Year pending the lifting of the Moratorium placed on the Operational Permit.

We therefore, request that the school be accorded all privileges befitting its status as a recognized School by the Ministry of Education.

Authorized Signature

[Signature]

Tokunboh E. Lawrence
Assistant Minister
Bureau of Basic and Secondary Education

Cell: +231-0886365332
Email: tlawrence@moe.gov.lr

---

**Figure 20.** Letter of support from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Liberia.
République de Guinée
Travail - Justice - Solidarité

Conakry, le 21/01/2014

Le Secrétaire Général

Temoignage

Suite au témoignage de l’IRLA (Institut de Recherche Linguistique Appliquée) par son Directeur Général sur l’Alphabet ADLAM, j’adresse aussi mon témoignage aux créateurs en reconnaissance des efforts louables fournis.

Toutefois, pour leur application sur le terrain, les initiateurs prendront attache avec les différents ministères techniques concernés.

En foi de quoi, je leur délivre le présent témoignage pour servir et valoir ce que de droit.

Ibrahima Solo CONDE
Cher Monsieur Michael Everson,

Evertype Publishing/ Consortium Unicode

Au nom de la Coordination Nationale Haali pular, nous vous adressons cette lettre en appui à la proposition de codage de l’alphabet ADLAM.

La Coordination Nationale Haali Pular est une Association Guinéenne représentant les intérêts de tous les Peuls et des locuteurs de la langue Pular de Guineens. Notre Association représente de ce fait plus de 5 millions de Guineens.

Nous soutenons pleinement cette proposition et ne pouvons insister assez sur l’importance de ce projet pour nos communautés. ADLAM est devenu un outil très important dans la lutte contre l’analphabétisme au sein de la population peule. Cet alphabet est à l’étude dans toutes la Guinée et dans certains pays voisins. A Conakry, nous avons plus de 200 centres d’apprentissage de l’ADLAM et nous pouvons affirmer sans aucun doute que l’ADLAM est l’alphabet le plus étudié à Conakry, la capitale de la Guinée.

Nous comprenons que le codage ADLAM ouvrira de nombreuses portes technologiques qui permettront à notre communauté de profiter des progrès de la communication et de l’éducation. Nous croyons que cet alphabet est l’une des clés pour libérer le potentiel insuffisamment exploité de nos communautés, en particulier les paysans et les Femmes qui ont moins de possibilités d’accès à l’éducation formelle.

Dans la ville de Pita Timbi-Madina par exemple, l’ADLAM est largement utilisé par les Femmes et les habitants pour la comptabilisation de leurs activités commerciales et les échanges entre eux.

Nous croyons donc que l’encodage de l’ADLAM aura dans nos communautés un impact important dont l’ampleur ne peut pas être sous estimée.

Nous soutenons pleinement ce projet et si nous pouvons être d’une utilité quelconque, n’hésitez pas de nous contacter.

Cordialement,

Le Président de la Coordination Nationale Haali Pular

Elhadj Saikou Yaya Barry
Compagnon de l’Indépendance

Siège Touguiwondoy Commune de Matam-Conakry : Tél : (+224) 022 3108 069 ; E-mail : jeunesehalaipular@yahoo.fr

Figure 22a. Letter of support from the Coordination Nationale Haali Pular. This is the largest Fulani organization in the world, which co-ordinates the ethnic group relations across borders. Their headquarters are based in Guinea.
Dear M. Michael Everson,

Evertype Publishing/ Consortium Unicode

Conakry, 20 November 2013

On behalf of the Haali Pular National Coordination, we are writing this in support of the proposal to encode the ADLAM script.

The Haali Pular National Coordination is a Guinean Association representing the interests of all Fulani and pular speakers of Guinea. Our Association therefore represents more than 3 million Guineans.

We fully support this proposal and couldn’t to stress enough how important this project is to our communities. ADLAM has become a very important tool in fighting illiteracy among the Fulani population. This alphabet is being studied throughout Guinea and in some neighboring countries. In Conakry alone, we have more than 200 ADLAM learning centers and we can state without a doubt that ADLAM is the most learned and studied alphabet in Conakry, the of Guinea.

We understand that encoding ADLAM will open many technological doors that will enable our community to take advantage of advances in communication and education. We believe that this alphabet is one of the keys to unlocking the underutilized potential of our communities especially peasants and women who have less access to formal education.

In the town of Pita Timbi-Madina for example, ADLAM is widely used by women and locals to keep track of their commercial activities and to exchange among themselves.

We therefore believe that encoding ADLAM will have a significant impact in our communities the extent of which cannot be overstated.

We fully support this project and if we could be of any assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elhadji Saikou Yaya Barry
The President of the Haali Pular National Coordination

Figure 22b. English translation of the preceding.
December 20th, 2013

UNION FOUTA NY
3393 3rd Avenue
Bronx, NY 10456
Tel: 718 414-6597
Fax: 718 213-4388

Mr Michael Everson
Evertype Publishing/Unicode Consortium

Dear Mr. Everson,

On behalf of the Union Fouta NY, we are writing this letter in support of the proposal to encode the ADLaM script.

The Union Fouta NY is an organization representing the interests of all Fulani and Pulaar speakers in the USA. Our organization therefore represents more than 20,000 fulanis living in the USA.

We fully support this proposal and couldn’t stress enough how important this project is to our communities. ADLaM has become a very important tool in fighting illiteracy among the Fulani population. This alphabet is being studied throughout Guinea and in New York City. In NY alone, we have lots of ADLaM students taking classes weekly and in other states on the web.

We understand that encoding ADLaM will open many technological doors that will enable our community to take advantage of advances in communication and education. We believe that this alphabet is one of the keys to unlocking the under-utilized potential of our communities especially peasants and women who have less access to formal education.

We therefore believe that encoding ADLaM will have a significant impact in our communities the extent of which cannot be overstated.

We fully support this project and if we could be of any assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Dr Thierno Mombeya Diallo

President

Figure 23. Letter of support from the Union Fouta NY. This is the co-ordinating body for Fulani people in North American (the US and Canada). It is based in New York.
N°826/NKO DOUMBOU/2013

Conakry, le 23/Décembre 2013

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L’ACADEMIE N’KO

A

Monsieur le Président de ADALAMA

Objet : Invitation

Monsieur le Président,
J’ai l’honneur de venir par la présente, solliciter d’honorer de votre présence la commémoration du 26ème anniversaire de la mort de Souleymane Kanté, Inventeur de l’Alphabet N’ko, ce Dimanche 29 Décembre 2013 à l’Université Koffi Amman de Guinée à partir de 12h00. C’est une journée consacrée à rendre hommage au Savant KANTE.

Placé sous le haut patronage de Madame la Première Dame de la République, cet événement trouve sa particularité dans les points inscrits à l’ordre du jour dont entre autres : l’exposé sur les avancées scientifiques, techniques et technologiques de l’écriture N’ko occupe une place de choix, la dédicace de deux nouveaux ouvrages en N’ko.

Sachant d’avance votre engagement habituel en faveur du rayonnement de la culture Guinéenne et du développement du N’ko, je vous prie Monsieur le Président, de recevoir l’expression de ma haute considération.

Le Secrétaire Général

Haya Mady SYLLA

---

Figure 24. Letter of support from the Secretary General of the Académie N’Ko. This is a sister organization supporting the Fulani language and its script. Fulani is in a different language family but Manden people using the N’Ko script support it and work together jointly on literacy projects.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unicode</th>
<th>Adlam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E90</td>
<td>𞤀</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E91</td>
<td>𞤁</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E92</td>
<td>𞤂</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E93</td>
<td>𞤃</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E94</td>
<td>𞤄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E95</td>
<td>𞤅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E96</td>
<td>𞤆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E97</td>
<td>𞤇</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E98</td>
<td>𞤈</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E99</td>
<td>𞤉</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E9A</td>
<td>𞤊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E9B</td>
<td>𞤋</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E9C</td>
<td>𞤌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E9D</td>
<td>𞤍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E9E</td>
<td>𞤎</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E9F</td>
<td>𞤏</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adlam is a script used for writing the Wolof language in Senegal. The table above shows some Adlam characters along with their Unicode representations.
### Capital letters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E900</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter alif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E901</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter daali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E902</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter laam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E903</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter mib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E904</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter ba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E905</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter sinnyiyyhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E906</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter pe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E907</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter bhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E908</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter ra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E909</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E90A</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter fa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E90B</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E90C</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E90D</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter dha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E90E</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter yhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E90F</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter waw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E910</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter nun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E911</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter kaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E912</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E913</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E914</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter jim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E915</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter chi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E916</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E917</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter qaaaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E918</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter ga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E919</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter nya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E91A</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter tu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E91B</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter nha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supplementary small letters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E93E</td>
<td>Adlam small letter va</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E93F</td>
<td>Adlam small letter kha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E940</td>
<td>Adlam small letter gbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E941</td>
<td>Adlam small letter zal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E942</td>
<td>Adlam small letter kpo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E943</td>
<td>Adlam small letter sha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Diacritical marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E944</td>
<td>Adlam alif lengthener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E945</td>
<td>Adlam vowel lengthener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E946</td>
<td>Adlam gemination mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E947</td>
<td>Adlam hamza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E948</td>
<td>Adlam consonant modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E949</td>
<td>Adlam geminate consonant modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E94A</td>
<td>Adlam hoortobbhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E94B</td>
<td>Adlam lestobbhere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Digits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E950</td>
<td>Adlam digit zero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E951</td>
<td>Adlam digit one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E952</td>
<td>Adlam digit two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E953</td>
<td>Adlam digit three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E954</td>
<td>Adlam digit four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E955</td>
<td>Adlam digit five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E956</td>
<td>Adlam digit six</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E957</td>
<td>Adlam digit seven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E958</td>
<td>Adlam digit eight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E959</td>
<td>Adlam digit nine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supplementary capital letters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E91C</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter va</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E91D</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter kha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E91E</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter gbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E91F</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter zal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E920</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter kpo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E921</td>
<td>Adlam capital letter sha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Small letters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E922</td>
<td>Adlam small letter alif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E923</td>
<td>Adlam small letter daali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E924</td>
<td>Adlam small letter laam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E925</td>
<td>Adlam small letter mib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E926</td>
<td>Adlam small letter ba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E927</td>
<td>Adlam small letter sinnyiyyhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E928</td>
<td>Adlam small letter pe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E929</td>
<td>Adlam small letter bhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E92A</td>
<td>Adlam small letter ra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E92B</td>
<td>Adlam small letter e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E92C</td>
<td>Adlam small letter fa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E92D</td>
<td>Adlam small letter i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E92E</td>
<td>Adlam small letter o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E92F</td>
<td>Adlam small letter dha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E930</td>
<td>Adlam small letter yhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E931</td>
<td>Adlam small letter waw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E932</td>
<td>Adlam small letter nun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E933</td>
<td>Adlam small letter kaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E934</td>
<td>Adlam small letter ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E935</td>
<td>Adlam small letter u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E936</td>
<td>Adlam small letter jim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E937</td>
<td>Adlam small letter chi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E938</td>
<td>Adlam small letter ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E939</td>
<td>Adlam small letter qaaaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E93A</td>
<td>Adlam small letter ga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E93B</td>
<td>Adlam small letter nya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E93C</td>
<td>Adlam small letter tu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E93D</td>
<td>Adlam small letter nha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. Administrative
1. Title
Proposal for encoding the Adlam script in the SMP of the UCS
2. Requester’s name
Michael Everson
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)
Liaison contribution.
4. Submission date
2010-09-23
5. Requester’s reference (if applicable)
6. Choose one of the following:
6a. This is a complete proposal
Yes.
6b. More information will be provided later
No.

B. Technical – General
1. Choose one of the following:
1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)
Yes.
1b. Proposed name of script
Adlam.
1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block
No.
1d. Name of the existing block
2. Number of characters in proposal
88.
3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)
Category A.
4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?
Yes.
4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?
Yes.
4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?
Yes.
5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?
Michael Everson.
5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:
Michael Everson, FontLab.
6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?
Yes.
6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?
Yes.
7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?
Yes.
8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.
See above.

C. Technical – Justification
1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.
Yes, preliminary proposal in N4488.
2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?
Yes.
2b. If YES, with whom?
Ibrahima Barry, Abdoulaye Barry (script inventors); Thierno Boubacar Sow (the second student of the script, in Germany); Abdoulaye Barry (President of Winden Jangen); Ali Jallow (teacher of Adlam in New York); Boubacar Diakite (Harverd University); Randall Hanson (calligrapher), Rebecca Wild (calligrapher); Oumary Barry (writer and teacher in Guinea), Abdourahim Balde (writer and teacher in Saudi Arabia); Aboubacar Barry (teacher in Guinea), Jindé Gnass (teacher in Senegal), Mohomed Bah (teacher in Gambia), Mamadou Malal Jalloh (teacher in Nigeria), Moussa Diallo (teacher in Niger), Halidou Diallo
2c. If YES, available relevant documents
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

40 million speakers of Fulani worldwide.

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)
Common.

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?
Yes.

5b. If YES, where?
In Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, and the United States.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?
No.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?
Yes.

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?
No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?
No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?
No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?
No.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
No.

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?
No.

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?
No.

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?