

A comment about the encoding of control characters for Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic text

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The encoding of control characters for Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic text is an interesting discussion. I am not an Egyptologist. I am interested in the way that new ideas and existing complexity can become encoded into plain text streams. I also like progress.

I am concerned that as there seems to be two different approaches being suggested for the encoding of control characters for Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic text that it might become the situation that progress will be delayed until a consensus amongst Egyptologists on what they wish to achieve is reached. That delay being so that a consensus view becomes available to the Unicode Technical Committee.

Maybe such a consensus could take years to achieve, if indeed it were ever achieved.

So I write to put forward the idea that the Unicode Technical Committee encode both proposals please. As I say, I am not an Egyptologist so I cannot seek to express an opinion as to which proposal it is better to encode, or indeed if either proposal is better than the other proposal. If both proposals are encoded then both proposals can go forward and each find their respective domains of applicability and progress can be made.

I am concerned that otherwise there may be a delay, maybe a long delay, to progress. In the absence of a formal encoding into Unicode, there could perhaps be attempts to use Private Use Area encodings for the control characters. Yet although a Private Use Area encoding can be very useful and is good for tests and so on, there might well then be huge problems over getting any progress in even test implementation of such a non-standardized format.

I appreciate that this is an unusual suggestion. Yet there is a problem and so I put forward a suggestion for a solution that I hope will be accepted so that progress can be made please.