

Title: *Shuowen Seal Encoding Design Issues*++

Type: Individual Contribution

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The document WG2/N4834 was also submitted to UTC (L2/17-250),
<<http://www.unicode.org/cgi-bin/GetMatchingDocs.pl?L2/17-250>>
and in response the following UTC opinions were recorded.

C.21 Shuowen Seal Encoding Design Issues [Cook, L2/17-250]

- The UTC has reviewed this document. Our sense is that Seal Script should be separately encoded even though we recognize there is a clear historical relationship between Seal Script and Han. See Aramaic, Brahmi.
- UTC recognizes that major sources may have duplicate entries. So a strict source-separation rule should not be imposed on the encoding.
- UTC has no position on question 3 of the document [Compatibility with existing reference and research implementations], lacking the particular expertise.

The current document also comments on the following issues.

(1) Mappings between Seal and CJK Unified Ideographs (CJKUI)

- The compilation of a complete set of mappings to CJKUI for any proposed Seal repertory will be necessary for use of that repertory. How will these mappings be compiled, in what form, and how will these mappings be integrated into UCS property data?
- The set of mappings may identify unencoded CJKUI, which should be documented in IRG and proposed for future encoding. This process should probably be completed in determining the proposed UCS Seal repertory.

(2) Mutli-column Seal charts and bounds of the repertory

- In a multi-column chart approach, in order to decide what columns might be included, it is important to compile a bibliography of important SW editions, even if it is not clear that a particular source will be included, or who will provide specific data. In addition to major primary editions (平津館本, 陳昌治本, 藤花樹本, 汲古閣未改本, 岩崎), major commentary editions should also be included (繫傳, 段注, 桂馥, 朱駿聲), along with major compilations (詁林), and major derivatives (康熙字典).
- Digital images of the main bibliographic items may be available, for use in standardization of the repertory (see #4 below).
- A main Seal block might be proposed initially (to standardize the repertory required for primary SW editions), to be followed by supplementary blocks (for other editions).

(3) Compatibility with existing implementations

- Existing implementations may focus on specific editions, and make use of non-standard (private-use) encodings. A bibliography of such implementations should be compiled, along with mappings to the proposed repertory (as available).
- For details of one such implementation:
 - 《說文解字·電子版》
 - Shuō Wén Jiě Zì – Diànzǐ Bǎn:*
 - Digital Recension of the Eastern Hàn Chinese Grammaticon.
 - <<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~rscook/html/writing.html#EHC>>

(4) Additional Resources

- Photographic reproduction of 《說文解字·藤花樹本》 (THX) is available online from Waseda University:
 - <http://www.wul.waseda.ac.jp/kotenseki/html/ho04/ho04_00025/>
 - [My own THX mappings are based on this edition.]