

Title: Seal Script Naming Considerations

Type: Individual Contribution

Action: For consideration by L2, and JTC1/SC2/WG2

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- About the choice of script name: “Small Seal” or “Shuowen Seal” or “Seal”.

In the Taipei ad hoc meeting report (N4853) under **Q1** it was proposed to use “Shuowen Seal” rather than “Small Seal” for the script name. The current document responds to questions arising in WG2 #66 (in Inner Mongolia), with background details from the discussion in Taipei, and new recommendations.

Background: The term 篆 Seal refers to both 小篆 Small Seal, and 大篆 Large Seal (籀文); in addition to 小篆 and 籀文, Shuowen (SW) also includes 重文 (variants), and 古文 (old forms). In general, the term 篆 Seal refers to all of the styles evident in SW head entries; but 小篆 Small Seal properly refers to only one of these styles.

The name “Seal Supplement” for any supplemental block was suggested under **Q1** (N4853), recognizing that supplemental characters and components might be drawn not only from outside the set of SW head entries, but also from outside the set of SW editions. For example: various components lacking SW head entries (esp. 象形 components) appear in SW glosses; Kangxi Dictionary includes many Seal forms not to be found in any edition of SW. Such forms might perhaps be proposed for encoding at some future time.

Recommendations: Naming the script “Seal” (rather than “Small Seal” or “Shuowen Seal”) would seem to be a more general solution, in agreement with the proposed name “Seal Supplement”. And since there should be no “U+” in the character names, it is suggested that the Seal script character names follow the pattern “Seal Character 3XXXX” (assuming that the code points will be assigned as currently proposed in the Road Map).

- A new mailing list was created for announcements and discussion related to ongoing UCS Seal script encoding work. Experts who attended the ad hoc meeting in Taipei have already been invited. Subscription information is available here:

<<http://unicode.org/mailman/listinfo/seal-script>>