

# Proposal for Emoji: ID CARD

Submitter: Jian Chung Lee

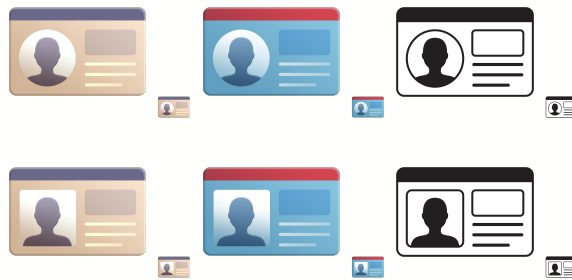
Date: November 17 2019

Emoji Name: ID CARD

Sort Order: in the other-object category, before CIGARETTE

Reference Emoji: Elephant

Keywords: ID | IC | IDENTIFICATION | CARD | CREDENTIALS | LICENSE | CITIZEN | IMMIGRANT | SECURITY



*Four color and shape variations for an ID CARD emoji.*

*Credit: Apee Messer/Emojination. Free for use in context of this proposal.*

## Abstract

Most countries issue an ID CARD to its citizens as a way for them to prove their identities.<sup>1</sup> Many employers and organizations do the same for their employees and members as a means for them to identify themselves as such. It's used in many regular and important interactions, such as presenting one's driver's license during a traffic stop. It also has cultural resonance, as evidenced by the film and television trope of using a "fake ID."

As such, we propose an ID CARD emoji to represent these concepts:

- Recognition / Verification
- Documentation / Credentials
- Authority / Establishment
- Classification

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_national\\_identity\\_card\\_policies\\_by\\_country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_identity_card_policies_by_country)

- Identity

## Introduction

Most of us have some form of government-issued identity document, or ID, that proves our identity and lists other details about us. We carry it in our wallets, purses and backpacks wherever we travel, and it causes us nothing short of anxiety when we find it missing. It's what we present to police officers when we're pulled over; to bartenders when we order a drink; and to the people behind airport check-in counters before we get on our flights.

There are other types of ID cards, of course. Companies may issue an ID CARD to its employees so that they can identify themselves as such and be given certain privileges, such as access to their offices. Organizations may give an ID CARD to its members so that others may recognize their affiliation.

It's such a part of our day-to-day lives that, at least in the U.S., some colloquialisms and phrases have come to be associated with the ID card. For instance, we know that we will be "carded" or "ID'ed" for age-restricted activities, such as purchasing alcohol at the liquor store or watching an R-rated movie at the movie theater. We know that, when we're asked for our "license and registration," police officers means our ID card and not our library card.

ID cards are how some authority figures verify our identities and scrutinize our activities. One needs to look no further than the debate around voter ID laws to see how such scrutiny has been questioned. Proponents have argued that they protect against voter fraud, which [is rare in the U.S.](#); whereas opponents have claimed it's been used to disenfranchise young and minority voters, who may not have the money, transportation or time off work needed to get an ID card.

There has been controversy about the use of municipal ID cards, which has been credited with helping disenfranchised people who can't get a driver's license. [New Haven, Connecticut, was the first city to adopt the use of municipal cards](#) so that those without an ID can open bank accounts and access government services. Despite this, some lawmakers have argued that it incentivizes crime and even terrorism.

The importance of ID cards in our day-to-day lives has been reflected in popular culture. The *fake* ID card, specifically, has become a regular trope in film and television. For example, the 2007 comedy film "Superbad" sees the underage Fogell (portrayed by Christopher Mintz-Passe) attempting to buy alcohol using a fake ID card that identifies him only as "McLovin."



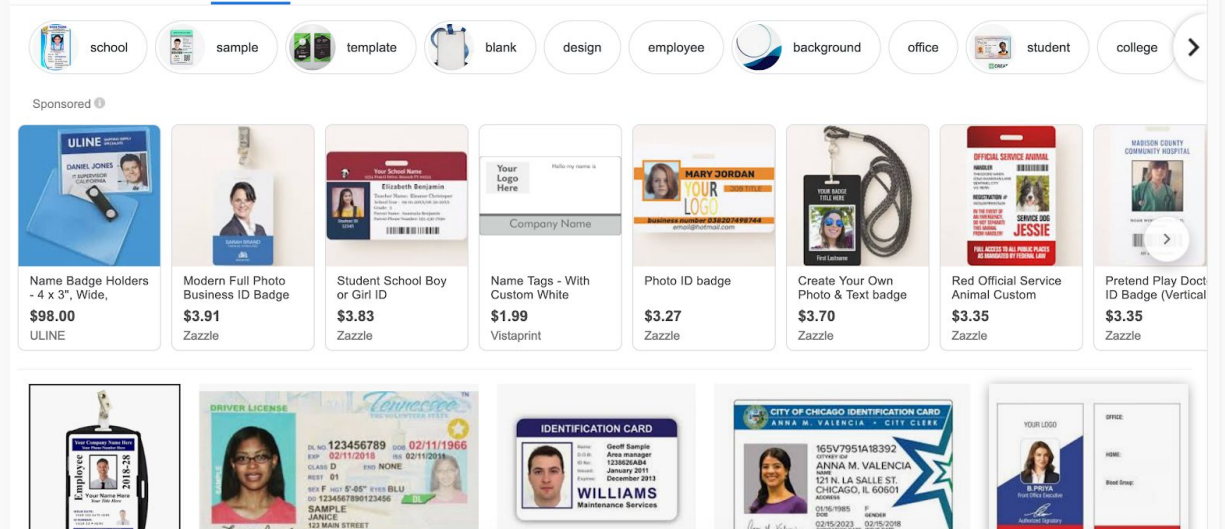
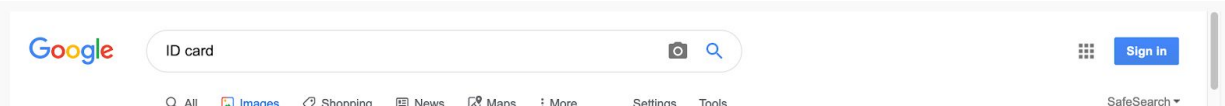
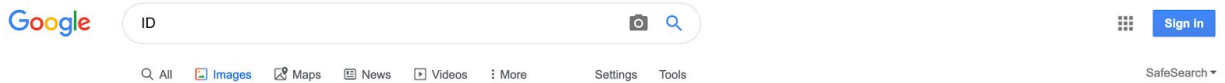
Fogell attempts to buy alcohol with a fake ID card in the 2007 comedy film “Superbad” ([Movieclips on YouTube](#))

There has also been heated discussions about how ID cards come to represent certain populations. U.S. states, such as [Washington](#) and [Massachusetts](#), for instance, only recently allowed residents to identify as non-binary on their driver’s licenses. Another — admittedly more light-hearted — example is how anti-creationist Pastafarians have fought for the last eight years to gain the legal right to wear a pasta strainer on their heads in their ID photos. Sean Corbett, one such member who won that right in Arizona, told the [Arizona Republic](#) that he hoped it would “pave the way” for those of other faiths to wear their own religious attire for such documents.



Sean Corbett is shown wearing a pasta strainer in his Arizona driver's license ([USA Today](#))

A Google Image Search for "ID" results in predominantly American driver's licenses; whereas a search for "ID card" shows more variety of identity documents, which include employee badges. Despite this, certain characteristics of ID cards are standardized throughout the world. The ISO/IEC 7810 is the international standard for identification cards, which specifies dimensions, stiffness, durability and even flammability among other things. Its four sizes maintain the same rectangular shape that has come to be associated with identification, banking, visa and government ID cards.





*Pictured are the Google Image Search results for the search terms “ID” and “ID cards” as of Nov. 17, 2019 (Google)*

The use of a photograph in identity documents dates back to the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where exhibitors and employees were required to carry around a “photographic ticket” that had their face on it. Despite this, photo identification only started to become more common in the early 20th century. For instance, Great Britain and Australia both adopted photo identification following the trial of Carl Hans Lody, a German spy who used a stolen passport to obscure his identity during World War I.

We believe these searches show the different types of identity documents that an ID CARD emoji would be able to reference. Furthermore, such documents are so often used in daily life that an emoji would be able to reference such interactions.

## Selection Factors Inclusion

### A. Compatibility

There are no emojis for ID cards on any platform. The CREDIT CARD (💳) may have the same shape, but it is distinctive enough that people would be able to easily distinguish it from an ID card. Additionally, there are emojis for a CARD INDEX (🗂️), but such holders are used for calling and business cards and aren’t associated with ID cards. An ID CARD emoji could, in combination with other emojis, indicate different kinds of identification or interactions that require the verification of one’s identity.

## B. Expected Usage Level

### Evidence of Frequency


We have included searches for “ID” and “ID card,” which can be used interchangeably when referencing such documents. However, it should be noted that the term ID could also mean the Freudian concept “Id” or the abbreviation for the state of Idaho.

Google Search:

The image displays three sequential Google search results. Each result shows the Google logo, a search bar with the query, navigation links (All, Images, Maps, Videos, News, More, Settings, Tools), and the number of results and search time.

- Search 1:** Query: "ID". Results: About 19,390,000,000 results (0.48 seconds).
- Search 2:** Query: "ID card". Results: About 3,190,000,000 results (0.98 seconds).
- Search 3:** Query: "elephant". Results: About 964,000,000 results (0.74 seconds).


Google Video Search:

Google  

[All](#) [Images](#) [Maps](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

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About 1,610,000,000 results (0.28 seconds)

Google  

[All](#) [Images](#) [Shopping](#) [News](#) [Videos](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

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About 128,000,000 results (0.44 seconds)

Google  

[All](#) [Images](#) [News](#) [Videos](#) [Shopping](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

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About 153,000,000 results (0.24 seconds)

Bing:

 ID  

**All** Images Videos Maps News | My saves

9.450.000.000 Results Date ▾ Language ▾ Region ▾

 ID Card  

**All** Images Videos Maps News | My saves


312.000.000 Results Date ▾ Language ▾ Region ▾


 elephant  


**All** Images Videos Maps News | My saves

62.500.000 Results Date ▾ Language ▾ Region ▾

## Google Trends: Web Search

 ID  
Search term

 ID card  
Search term

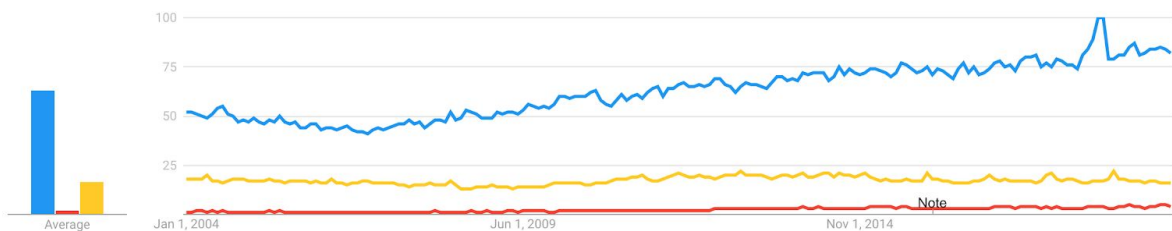
 elephant  
Search term

+ Add comparison

Worldwide ▾ 2004 - present ▾ All categories ▾ Web Search ▾

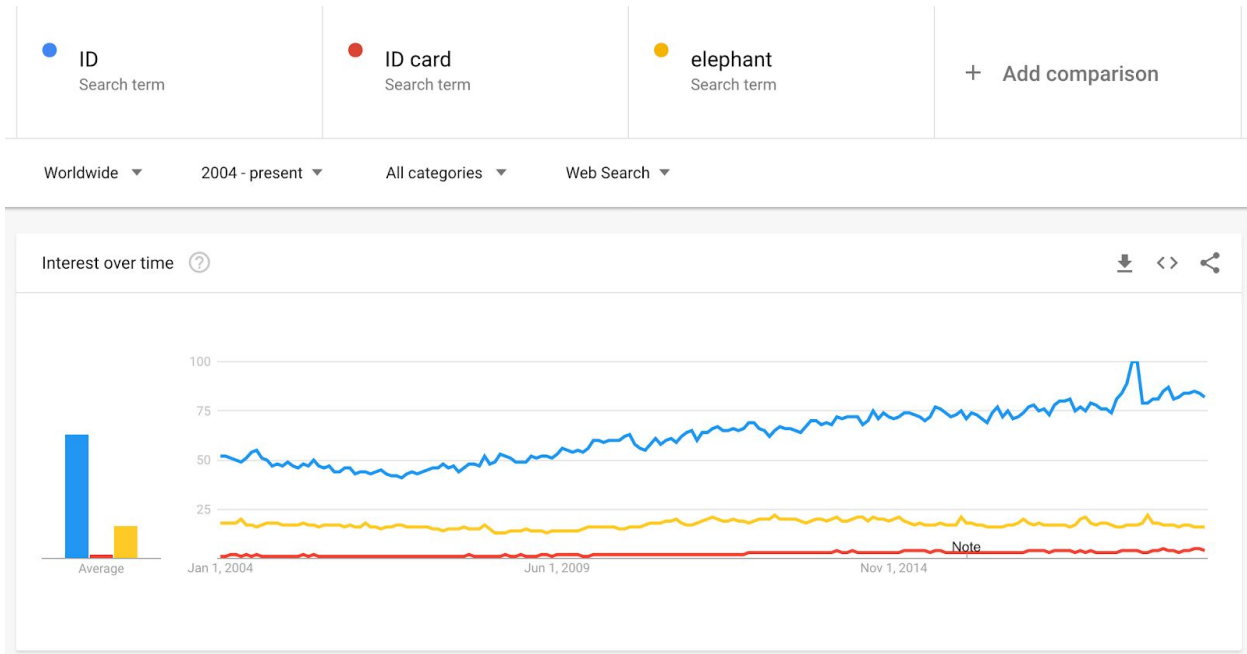
Interest over time 



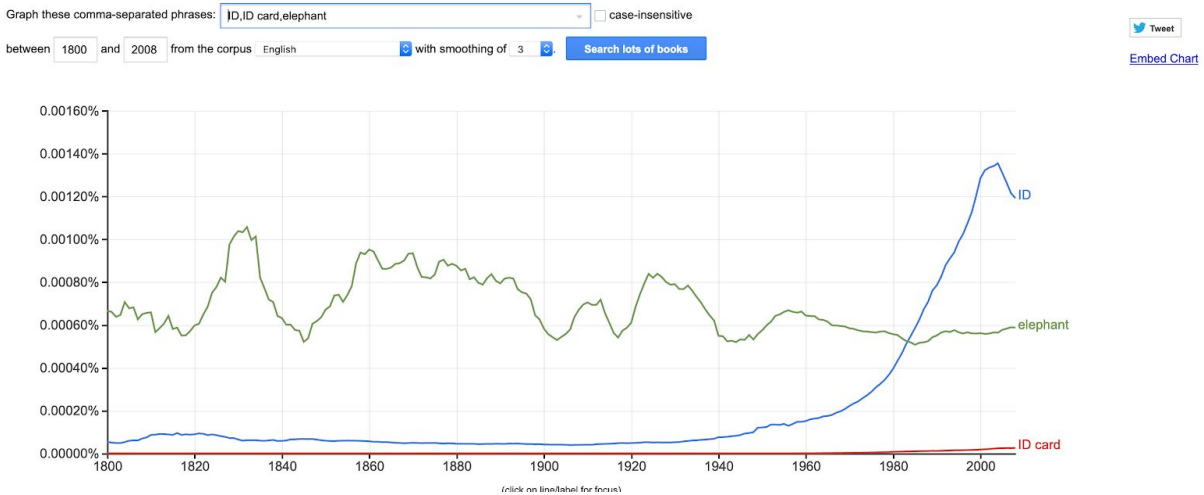


## Google Trends: Image Search



## Ngram Viewer:

### Google Books Ngram Viewer



## Multiple Usages

ID CARD, when used in combination with other emojis, can reference governmental, organizational and other different types of identity documents. It can also refer to different

interactions that require people to prove their identities, such as traffic stops or passport control. Even if the term ID CARD is not searched for as often as the other terms, we believe that its use is common enough to warrant its own emoji.

## Use in Sequences

The ID CARD can be used in a number of sequences with other emojis, including:

AUTOMOBILE (🚗) + ID CARD = DRIVER'S LICENSE

PISTOL (🔫) + ID CARD = FIREARMS LICENSE

NECKTIE (👔) + ID CARD = EMPLOYEE BADGE

AIRPLANE (✈️) + ID CARD = PASSPORT

BALLOT BOX WITH BALLOT (🗳️) + ID CARD = VOTER ID

## Breaking New Ground

As stated earlier, there are currently no emojis for ID CARD.

## C. Image Distinctiveness

The CREDIT CARD (💳) has same shape as an ID CARD, but it has a distinctive look that sets it from any other type of card. The black strip along the top, the signature field and the gold chip (when presented from the front) makes it easily recognizable. We believe an ID CARD has visual characteristics that makes it easy to tell apart from a CREDIT CARD (💳), such as its use of a photograph for visual verification.

## D. Completeness

N/A

## E. Frequently Requested

N/A

## Selection Factors Exclusion

## F. Overly Specific

An ID CARD emoji would be distinctive enough that people — no matter what they call it or whether it's governmental, organizational or otherwise — would be able to recognize it as such. When used in combination with different emojis, it can also come to reference different kinds of identification or interactions that require proof of identity.

## G. Open Ended

We do not believe that the inclusion of an ID CARD emoji would open up a new category.

## H. Already Representable

ID cards are not represented in the official Unicode library. A search for "ID CARD" on Emojipedia only brings up CREDIT CARD (💳) which, as discussed previously, is distinctive enough to not be mistaken for anything else.

## I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The ID CARD is not subject to any copyright as it is a general term used to signify different types of identity documents.

## J. Transient

The ID CARD is a common type of documentation in many countries, and the use of an identifying photograph distinguishes it clearly as such. Many interactions require the use of an ID CARD to verify one's identity, which makes it unlikely that it would become unrecognizable in the future.

As stated previously, the ISO/IEC 7810 is the international standard for such documentation. This includes four sizes that maintain the familiar rectangular shape associated with ID cards. Furthermore, the use of photographs in such documents became common practice in the early 20th century. For these reasons, we believe the ID CARD would be easily recognizable throughout the world given these common characteristics.

## K. Faulty Comparison

N/A

## Other Information

### Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category:

Canonical Combining Class:

Bidirectional Class:

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

### Authors

Jian Chung Lee ([jianchunglee@protonmail.com](mailto:jianchunglee@protonmail.com)) enjoys creatively pairing emojis and still feels nervous about presenting his ID when purchasing alcohol, even though he's been of legal drinking age for years.