TO:	UTC
FROM:	Anushah Hossain and Deborah Anderson
	Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley
TITLE:	SEI Liaison Report
DATE:	July 17, 2025

This document provides a summary of the UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative's recent activities.

Proposals/documents

The following SEI-funded proposals were recently submitted to Unicode:

- Proposed Update to UAX #57: Unicode **Egyptian Hieroglyph** Database [L2/25-108]*
- Revised proposal to encode **Sirmauri** in Unicode, Anshuman Pandey and Biswajit Mandal [L2/25-134]*
- Final Proposal for Encoding the **Mwangwego** script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Daniel Yacob [L2/25-135]*
- Proposal to encode the **Minim Dag Noore** script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf [L2/25-136R]*
- **Sidetic** Naming Conventions, Debbie Anderson, Robin Leroy, and Ken Whistler [L2/25-141]
- Review on the **Rejang** Unicode Range a930–a95f, Ariq Syauqi and Sarwit Sarwono [L2/25-162]
- IR report from ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 and WG2 meeting June 23-27, 2025, Debbie Anderson [L2/25-173]
- Glyph error in U+A93D **Rejang Letter Ra**, Ariq Syauqi and Sarwit Sarwono [L2/25-177]
- **Small Seal** Code charts and Data set, Michel Suignard [WG2 N5341]

*Submitted in 2025 Q1 but reviewed by the Script Encoding Working Group in Q2

Ongoing Script Work

The following script proposals are in active development, and are expected to be submitted to SEWG for review in the next six months:

- Small Seal (Revised)
- Codical Maya (Preliminary)
- Proto-Cuneiform (Revised)
- Lampung (Revised)
- Zou (Zolai) (Revised)
- Kulitan (Revised)
- Masaba (Revised)
- Sheek Bakrii Saphaloo (Revised)
- Odùduwà (Preliminary)
- N'Ti (Preliminary)
- Luo Lakeside (Preliminary)

Other ongoing projects include: Book Pahlavi, Proto-Elamite, Proto-Sinaitic, Vatteluttu, Ranjana, Linear Elamite, Byblos, Kerinci, Maya Hieroglyphs (Classic).

The full list of SEI-funded projects, including those currently inactive or awaiting more information, is available on the SEI website (sei.berkeley.edu/scripts-to-encode).

Research and Technical Activities

Debbie Anderson and Anushah Hossain participated in the annual ISO/IEC 10646 SC2 and WG2 meetings in June 2025, held in Niigata, Japan and online.

We have been continuing collaborative work that extends beyond proposal-writing. SEI worked with the JamraPatel type design studio to prepare a working Sunuwar font, which has been published as Noto Sans Sunuwar. This font has also been supplied to the Unicode Common Locale Data Repository (CLDR) for the upcoming release.

We are continuing our testing of a PUA-based messaging app for Bété, as a possible strategy for aiding new/experimental script communities.

This year we launched the SEI Research Fellows program, a new fieldwork-oriented fellowship designed to support early-stage research on unencoded scripts. We selected three projects to receive funding, including script research on Kulitan in the Philippines, Nsibidi in Nigeria, and Kerinci and Buginese-derived scripts (Bima, Sumbawa, and Ende) in Indonesia. Information about last year's pilot run of the program is available on the SEI website here.
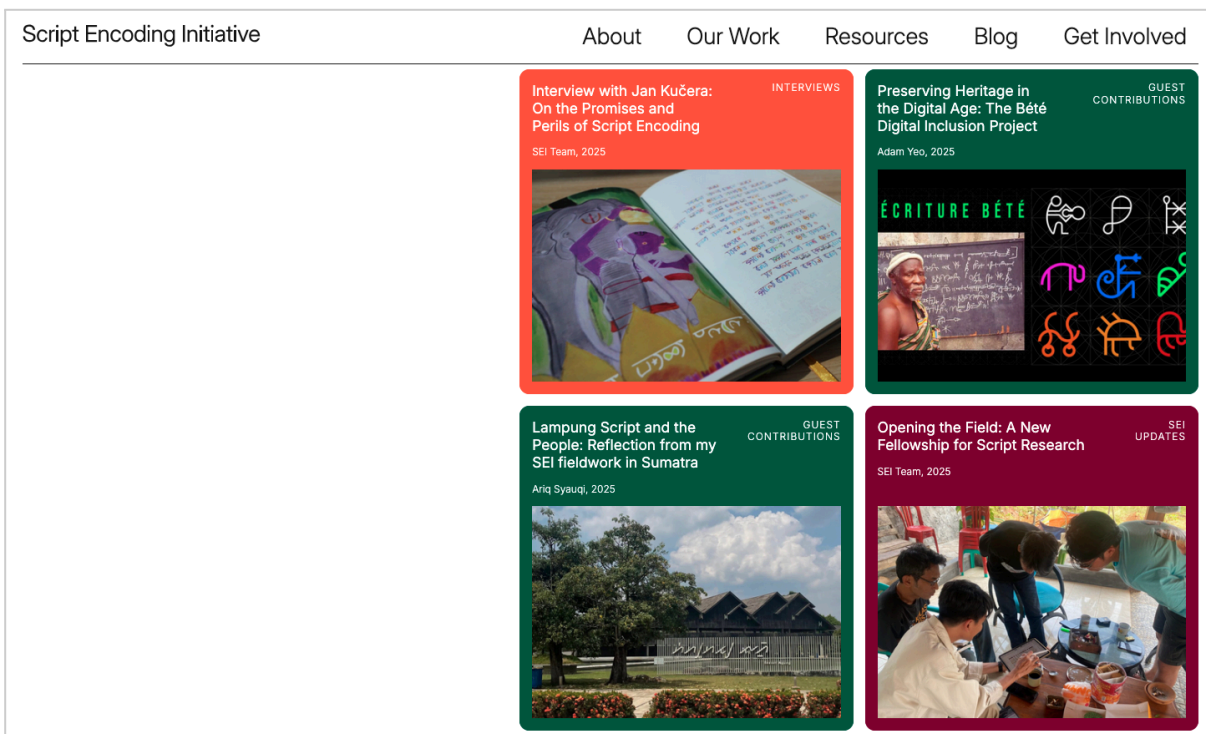
SEI took on two research interns for this summer, who will be investigating a range of projects including the history of the *zwj* and *zwnj* and typewriter reforms in South Asia.

Public Communications

Gabrielle Vail, Alexandre Bassi, and Andrew Glass presented their talk "New Digital Tools for Engaging Audiences with Maya Texts: Unicode Fonts for Maya Hieroglyphs" at Tulane University's Latin American Library on April 11th.

Anushah Hossain spoke on the panel "Character Building" at the Computer History Museum on May 13th, alongside Mark Davis from the Unicode Consortium and Roy Boney from the Cherokee Nation. Hossain also spoke to the International Multilingual User Group (IMUG) on May 15th about the "Trailblazers that Made Bangla Computing Viable."

SEI's new website launched in May 2025. It features an updated script database, blog, and resources for learning and teaching about script digitization. Recent blog topics include: interviews with Unicode contributors such as Debbie Anderson, Jan Kučera, and Oreen Yousuf; details about our Script Readiness Rubric; and a short history of our website. We welcome ideas for feature stories and guest posts. Visit us at sei.berkeley.edu to learn more and sign up for our monthly newsletter here to receive ongoing updates about our work.

Preview of SEI blog homepage, found at sei.berkeley.edu/blog

Administrative Updates & Funding

In late April, SEI hired a Program Manager (Helena Kansa) to provide administrative and logistical support, oversee special projects like the script database, and assist with new initiatives like the SEI fieldwork fellowship.

SEI is looking forward to hosting UTC #187 at UC Berkeley in April 2026.

SEI is formally housed in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, but is entirely sustained by external grants and donations. Basic operations and script research funding currently comes from the Mellon Foundation's Public Knowledge program, and will provide support from Sept 2024 – Aug 2028. Additional support for public communications projects from Sept 2024 - Aug 2026 comes from the Internet Society Foundation. Proposal work by Anshuman Pandey is also being supported through the Unicode Adopt-a-Character (AAC) program.

SEI accepts donations from private donors via our website (https://sei.berkeley.edu/donate/). We are continually seeking funding to be able to expand our team with postdoctoral scholars and administrative support.