

TO: UTC
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Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley
TITLE: SEI Liaison Report
DATE: January 21, 2026

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:

- Preliminary Proposal to Encode the **Odùduwà** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Vyshantha Simha [[L2/26-026](#)]
- Proposal to Encode the **Ndiko Jonam** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf [[L2/26-027](#)]
- Preliminary Proposal for Encoding the **N'ti** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Ibrahima Ceesay [[L2/26-028](#)]
- Final Proposal for Encoding the **Mwangwego** script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Daniel Yacob [[L2/26-029](#)]**
- Updated Proposal to Encode the **Lampung** Script (Second Revision), Febri Muhammad Nasrullah [[L2/26-036](#)]*
- Revised Proposal for Encoding the **Shaaldaa** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Daniel Yacob [[L2/26-040](#)]**

*not yet reviewed by the Script Encoding Working Group

** recommended for provisional assignment

Ongoing Script Work

In addition to those listed above, the following script proposals are in active development, and are expected to be submitted to SEW for review in the next six months:

- Codical Maya (Preliminary)
- Kulitan (Revised)
- Kurukh Banna (Revised)
- Masaba (Revised)
- Minim Dag Noore (Revised)
- Persian Siyaq (Revised)
- Proto-Sinaitic (Preliminary)
- Vatteluttu (Revised)
- Zou (Zolai) (Revised)

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

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

SEI is currently working with UC Berkeley PhD student Julián Vargo on an ongoing project estimating the time it takes to achieve “full stack support” for encoded scripts.

This year’s research fellows, working on Buginese-derived scripts (Febri Muhammad Nasrullah), Nsibidi (Jordan Williams), and Kulitan (Julie Sayo), have begun collecting data from the field in support of their projects.

SEI is beginning a new stream of research on modern “neographies,” or recently invented scripts. This work will involve compiling data on past encoding decisions with respect to neographies and engaging with neography communities to understand how digital tools interact with script stability and adoption. This research is primarily funded by a new grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation, under the Science and Technology Studies program. We are currently in the process of recruiting a two-year postdoctoral scholar to support this project. A preliminary article in this area by Anushah Hossain, “Unsettled Scripts: Script Invention and the Bind of Digital Recognition” will appear in *Modern Languages Open* this spring.

This spring, SEI will be hosting Bríd-Áine Parnell, doctoral researcher at the University of Edinburgh, as a visiting scholar in the UC Berkeley Department of Linguistics. Bríd-Áine is investigating the gap between design and implementation of the Unicode Standard in government databases.

Public Communications

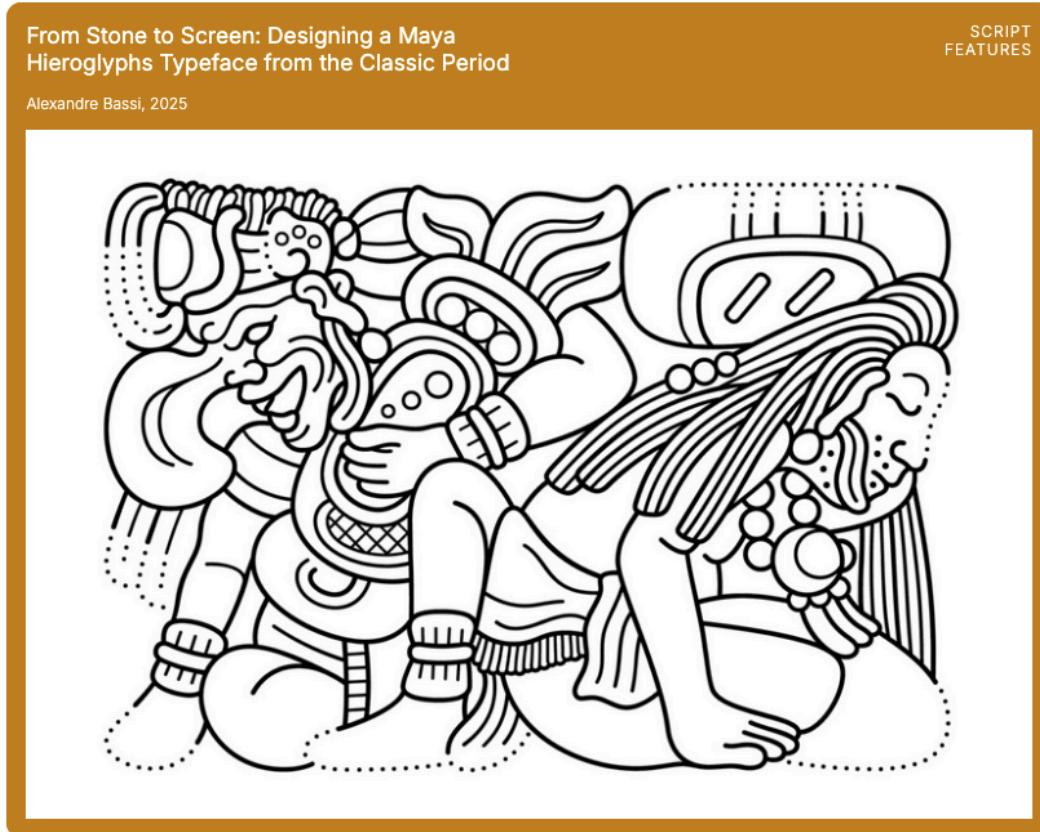
Several SEI affiliates gave talks at the 2025 Unicode Technology Workshop:

- Deborah Anderson spoke on the panel “Behind the Curtain: The Unicode Technical Committee”
- Anshuman Pandey presented “Guidelines for Handling Unstandardized and Undeciphered Scripts in Unicode”
- Anushah Hossain, Helena Kansa, and Kyra Ann Dawkins presented “Assessing a Script’s Unicode Readiness”
- Karthik Malli presented “Capturing Script Dynamism: The Indic Case”
- Andrew Glass presented “CLDR Has a Home for Keyboards”

In October 2025, Anushah Hossain gave a talk at *Alphabetica II: Entering Otherworlds* at the West Den Haag Museum in the Netherlands. Watch “At the Edges of Encoding: Experimental Scripts and the Limits of Unicode” [here](#).

Deborah Anderson spoke on the panel, “[Digital Discourses: The Digital Future of Indigenous Languages from a Global Perspective](#),” hosted by the Goethe Institute - Indonesia in November 2025.

SEI has continued sharing its work via a [monthly newsletter](#) and its [blog](#). Recent blog posts include: [reflections on the 2025 Unicode Technology Workshop](#), an [interview with Unicode Consortium CEO, Toral Cowieson](#), and a guest post on [designing a Classic Maya hieroglyphs typeface](#).



Interview with Toral Cowieson: On Stewardship of the Unicode Consortium

SEI Team, 2025

Reflections on the 2025 Unicode Technology Workshop

Anushah Hossain, 2025

Recent SEI blog posts

Administrative Updates & Funding

SEI is looking forward to hosting UTC #187 at UC Berkeley in April 2026. We look forward to organizing a group dinner and opportunities to interact with UCB students for those interested.

SEI is also looking forward to partnering with Unicode as part of the Missing Scripts program to host UTW 2026 this October in Nancy, France. This event will include opportunities to expand international engagement with type designers, policy makers, and software internationalization experts and will feature curated multidisciplinary panels. **Initial information about the event is available at: <https://www.unicode.org/events/utw/2026/>**



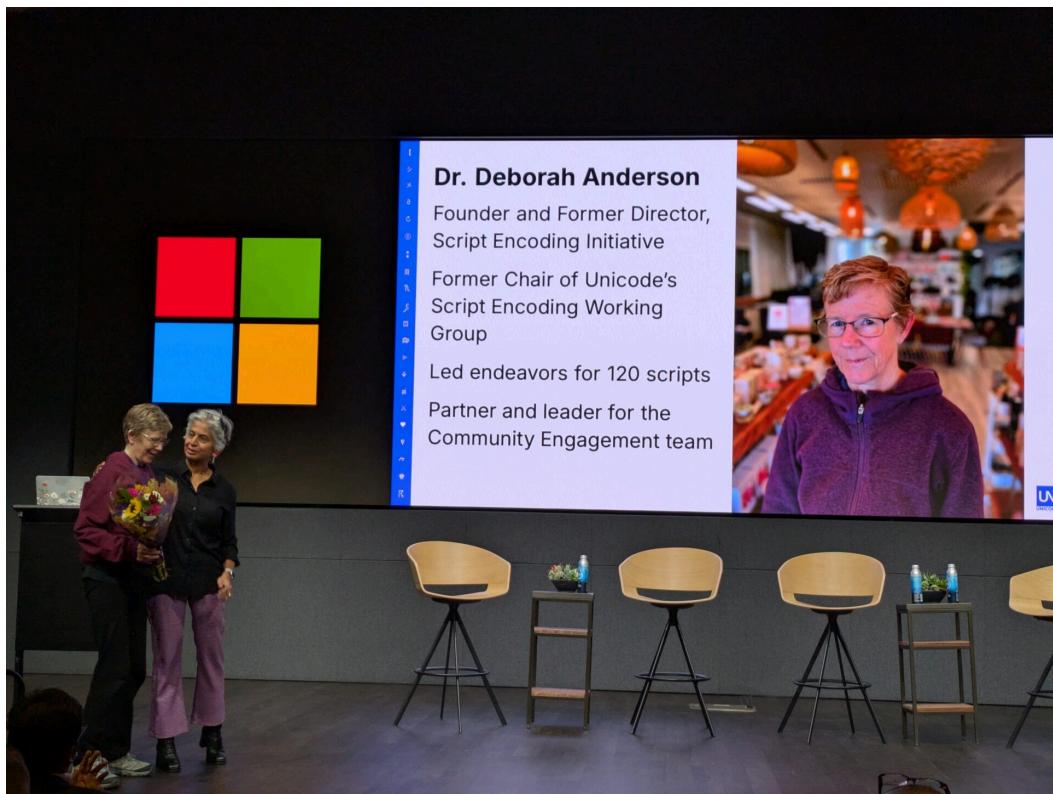
ENSAD campus and site of UTW 2026

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 and the projects we support.

Accolades

SEI was delighted to see Deborah Anderson honored with the Unicode Bulldog Award at the 2025 Unicode Technology Workshop for her two decades of contributions to the Unicode Standard and to the field of script digitization.



We thank the Unicode Consortium for their recognition of her efforts!