

To Script Encoding Working Group
Re Suggested change to the glyph of U+06C4
Date March 16, 2026
From Kamal Mansour

Comment submitted by Ayaan Farooq (ayaanfarooq54@gmail.com) posted 3/10/26 1:51 am:

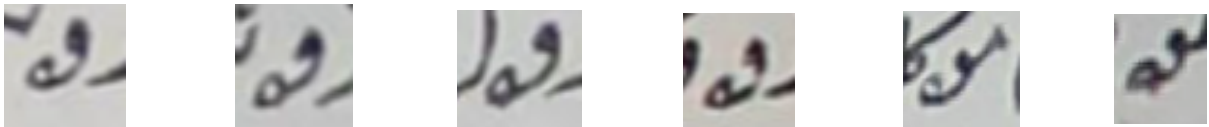
Unicode charts display incorrect glyph of Unicode Character “و” (U+06C4), which is used for Kashmiri Language. The correct glyph should have the 'small circle' as the last part of the stroke. It should not extend further beyond that point. But the current glyph incorrectly extends the basal part after the 'small circle', instead of terminating.

Here are some screenshots of correct version from Kashmiri Books.

Source 1: Kashir Dictionary (<https://archive.org/details/dli.ernet.241982/page/n51/mode/2up>)

Source 2: JKBOSE Class 6 textbook (<https://jkbose.jk.gov.in/PageDoc/Kashmiri%20class%20VI%20-2024.pdf>)

In response to the above feedback, I collected some visual samples from *Kashir Dictionary* (Source 1), shown below. Source 2 turned out to be inaccessible.



1

2

3

4

5

6

All the 6 samples depict the tail of the Waw-ring (U+06C4) extending upward and to the right before looping down to overlap the diagonal of the letter form. The loop is ovoid in shape. In the sixth sample, the loop is wider than usual and fully crosses the diagonal of the Waw. While the form of the sixth sample appears occasionally, the forms in the first 5 samples are most common.

Koul [1] exhibits letter forms similar to those of *Kashir Dictionary*, in addition to other variants such as the two immediately below. The one on the left shows a curved triangular loop, while the one on the right demonstrates an elongated one.



On the other hand, the *Kashmiri Phonetic Reader* [2] includes numerous letter forms with the most regular-shaped loops:



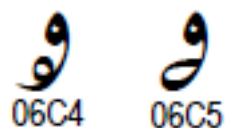
Since Nastaliq is the preferred writing style for Kashmiri, it is not surprising that few samples exist in Naskh style. An edition of PASCII [4] that lists its character repertoire in Naskh includes the following rendering of Waw-Ring:

| | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| 182 | و | LETTER VAO |
| | | • Kashmiri |

Finally, after surveying multiple reference works for Kashmiri (all of which are handwritten), I found a single occurrence in *TDIL Kashmiri Design Guide* [5] that clearly shows a discrete ring at the far tip of the Waw:



Since Kashmiri sources include examples with long loops as well as closed ones, why does the Standard include both U+06C4 and U+06C5?



Utilized solely for the Kyrgyz language, U+06C5 can also appear in an alternative form with a crossbar rather than a loop:



Though U+06C4 and U+06C5 can resemble each other in rendered form, they each represent distinct characters.

In conclusion, I agree with Ayaan Farooq's recommendation that the representative glyph for U+06C4 should be amended. I recommend that it assume a form in which the ring sits at the very tip of the tail, rather than in the middle.



References

- [1] *Kashir Dictionary (Vol. 4)*
Jammu and Kashmir Academy Of Art Culture and Languages, Srinagar.
(Accessed at <https://archive.org/details/dli.ernet.241982>)
- [2] *Kashmiri Phonetic Reader*
Jawaharlal Handoo
Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, 1973
(Accessed at <https://archive.org/details/dli.language.1685>)
- [3] *An Intensive Course in Kashmiri*
Omkar N. Koul
Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, 1985
- [4] *Perso-Arabic Standard for Information Interchange (PASCII), Version 1.0*
CDAC Gist, 2002
- [5] *Kashmiri Design Guide*
Technology Development for Indian Languages, October 2002