

Unicode is more than The Unicode Standard

Markus Scherer, 2026-apr-15

Problem

Many people aren't aware of the breadth of work that the Unicode Consortium delivers. They believe that "Unicode" is the same as The Unicode Standard and that that's all that the Unicode Consortium does. We explain in some places (e.g., www.unicode.org/about.html) that there is more to it. However, landing on [The Unicode Standard](#) itself reenforces the narrow impression. Only an appendix, that is, a chapter near the bottom of the contents, provides the context for this one standard in what we do.

Say this up front in The Unicode Standard

I propose that very near the start of The Unicode Standard we insert a short piece of text that provides this context, and points to our website where we hopefully make relevant information easy to find.

Possible locations

1. On the [TUS landing page](#) just before the "Copyright and Terms of Use"
2. In the [Preface](#), after "Why Unicode?" and before "Organization of This Standard"

Possible text

Unicode is more than this standard

The Unicode Consortium is responsible for much more than this one "Unicode Standard", its first of several standards. It develops and publishes important specifications, data, and code libraries for a wide range of software internationalization, including consistent low-level text processing, specifications and data for core i18n in hundreds of languages, and widely used production code libraries that implement these specifications. For details, see <https://www.unicode.org/>.

TUS Appendix B

The existing Unicode Standard [Appendix B](#) seems misplaced, outdated, and too UTC-centric.

In my opinion, we need to have that short, early statement in The Unicode Standard that says that "Unicode" is more than that, but the larger discussion of what other work and work products there are should be relegated to our website.

The current Appendix B also focuses very much on products of the UTC (which is at this point one of four Technical Committees) and then a little bit of "Other Activities".

Unicode homepage

When you go to www.unicode.org/ = home.unicode.org/ today and glance at the landing page, you do get the impression that it's all about characters, and that the interesting ones are emoji. While the first nav bar item is "[About Unicode](#)" which then provides the larger scope, I think the main page should be more balanced.