

Title: CJK Ideographs Radical Stroke status update

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Summary: This document is requesting to change the status of the Radical Stroke information provided for each CJK Ideographs and Tangut characters from informative to normative.

Historically, ISO/IEC 10646 did not maintain a RS value. Its former CJK multi-column format did not have that info. It is only when Unicode and 10646 merged their chart format that the information appeared in 10646. The info came from the UniHan kRSUnicode value and was initially limited to the first value (no alternate). To facilitate the synchronization of both standards the additional values were added to 10646 as well. Now the value of all IRG related information (kIRG sources and kRSUnicode) are identical between Unicode and ISO/IEC 10646.

There is however a discrepancy in the status of the RS value between the two standards. Unicode/Unihan treats all kIRG source and the kRSUnicode as normative while ISO/IEC treats only the kIRG source values as normative. To complete the synchronization, it is desirable to make kRSUnicode normative as well in ISO/IEC 10646.

Changes needed in the text of the standard:

It is in fact a very simple change. The sub-clause 23.2 Sources Reference file for CJK Ideograph contains in table 5 the term 'informative' in its description of the Radical-Stroke index. Removing that adjective would make it normative as the other fields.

By analogy the Tangut Radical-Stroke index should be modified in the same fashion by removing the term 'informative', and any future addition of Radical-Stroke information for a new script with a similar construction should be constructed similarly.

It is important to mention that making these RS values normative does not make them immutable. While affecting a normative status to a value tend to make it more stable, it does not prevent fixes in case of errata or further refinement.
