

To: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 WG2

From: suzuki toshiya

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Title: Report of Discussion on Small Seal Script during WG2 #67

The 3rd day of WG2 #67 at London, June 20th, there was a discussion about Small Seal script. The discussion was done during WG2 plenary, so no official adhoc report. Here is a report of the discussion but this document is not confirmed by WG2 during the confirmation of the recommendation.

Selena presented the contribution from China + TCA experts, N4973. The key points were 2:

- 2 tasks in the previous adhoc report, the preparation of the list of duplicated characters, and deformed-by-taboo (避諱) characters are almost completed. they are confirmed by China + TCA experts and provided in the document, ready to be reviewed by other WG2 experts.
 - among the possibly-duplicated characters list, there are several pairs whose glyph structures are same but their script classifications are different, aslike, Zhuanwen (篆文) versus Guwen (古文), or, Zhuanwen versus Zhouwen (籀文). the experts from China + TCA propose to encode them separately, regardless with their shape similarities.
- no adhoc meeting was held since last Taipei adhoc in 2017. she hopes to have the 2nd adhoc meeting in Taipei, around the end of 2018.

suzuki presented his contribution WG2 N4992, dealing with the handling of Zhuanwen, Guwen and Zhouwen scripts distinction.

- the difference of the typeface design between Guwen and Zhouwen is sometimes very subtle and the implementers would be unable to design them distinctively. The typical example would be the Guwen and Zhouwen form of “Horse” (馬).
- however, he recognizes the request of the separated encoding of them based on the assumption “Guwen and Zhouwen are separately dealt in Shuowen”. so he proposed to allow the separate encoding of such cases as “exceptionally for Shuowen sourced character”.
 - but NFKC/NFKD should unify them.
 - Guwen, Zhouwen from non-Shuowen sources with very subtle or no glyph-structural difference should be unified to Zhuanwen with similar shape.

No WG2 experts supported his suggestions. the basic responses to his suggestions were below (the response from Selena was submitted as N4996).

- the glyph similarity between Guwen-Horse and Zhouwen-Horse is too subtle to encode them separately. exceptional separation is confusing idea. having one codepoint and using VS would

be better solution (Michel and the majority of WG2)

- NFKC/NFKD do not normalize CJK Unified Ideographs, so they should not normalize Seal script either (Selena and the majority of WG2)

Michel's suggestion was almost consensus in WG2. suzuki agreed to withdraw his suggestion for exceptional disunification, if the cases like Guwen-Horse and Zhouwen-Horse are regarded as to-be-unified cases.

About the future schedule questioned by Michel, suzuki proposed to have another 1 year for reviewing, by the fact the contribution N4973 was submitted just a few weeks before WG2 meeting, and not reviewed at all. Selena emphasized that the contributed list is already confirmed by the experts from China + TCA experts, so it should be sufficiently qualified to proceed to the next step. Also suzuki asked whether there is any update of the TrueType font since the previous submission. Selena responded she would submit the materials for the review to WG2. There was no clear consensus about the schedule when Seal adhoc group finalizes the submission to WG2, but it was agreed that the schedule to the next step would be decided in the next adhoc meeting. If a consensus is formed, the resulted code chart would be submitted before next WG2 meeting.

At the last, the script block name is discussed; the candidates are Shuowen Small Seal, Small Seal or Seal. The majority of WG2 experts supported Small Seal. suzuki concerned that Guwen and Zhouwen are not Small Seal, thus "Seal" is the best. Selena responded Guwen and Zhouwen are Small Seal. In this meeting, it was decided to use the name "Small Seal", however, it could be revised when non-Shuowen sourced characters are added in future.

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