

To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Deborah Anderson, Script Encoding Initiative, Dept. of Linguistics, UC Berkeley
Date: June 9, 2003

This represents an update on work that is currently in progress.

Contact with the user community is ongoing for two scripts:

a. N'Ko: This native script is used in West Africa for the Mande languages (Malinke, Bambara, Dioula and their dialects, especially in Guinea, Mali and Ivory Coast). Some funds have been raised to help pay for the encoding and I am beginning to receive letters in support of encoding N'Ko. Additional grassroots funding is being sought to help pay for the proposal.

(Further info on the history and use of this script:

<http://www.kanjamadi.com/n'koliteracy&guinea.html>;

Books/publications: <http://home.gwu.edu/~cwme/Nko/publications.htm>)

b. Balinese: Seven letters have been received in support of encoding Balinese, one from the Dept. of National Education, Language Center, Denpasar Language Council (L2/03-156) and six from individuals (contained in L2/03-152 and L2/03-153). An additional document on the "Contemporary Use of the Balinese Script" by Ida Bagus Adi Sudewa (L2/03-118) has also been submitted. Some donations have been received to work on this script.

Note: I have applied for U.S. government funding (NEH) for Unicode proposals for these scripts (amongst others). However, in late April 2003 we learned the proposal was not given a high enough priority to rate funding. We will re-apply, but the reviewers requested a few changes: (1) that user communities need to show their participation more actively (in part with financial support) and (2) that we publicize the script proposals in need of review so more feedback can be obtained from scholars and users. Both of these recommendations are being incorporated in the project.

Tifinagh: Several documents have been submitted in response to the L2/03-083, the Tifinagh proposal by Madi Mohammed (with supplemental documents: L2/03-076, L2/03-077, L2/03-078): Geoffrey Hunt has submitted comments on the Tifinagh proposal by Madi Mohammed (L2/03-110) and script samples were collected by Andrew Savage (script samples: L2/03-143; additional information L2/03-150). A fuller proposal that consolidates these materials with information on use of this script in Mali and other areas will be prepared (primarily based on work done by SIL linguists). Outside of linguists and members of the Tamazight community, there has been interest from IBM.

Medieval (European) manuscripts: There will be a meeting this week (June 11-12, 2003) at Oxford between Michael Everson and medievalists (Odd Einar Haugen, Norway and António Emiliano, Lisbon) to help identify those characters that might be eligible for encoding in Unicode.

Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform: SEI is also assisting with Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform encoding and has funded the involvement of Michael Everson in the SEI meeting held last week in Baltimore as well as continuing consultation.

Other missing Latin symbols: A proposal will be worked on over the summer on missing Latin symbols, based on an earlier document written by a Latin epigraphist, Marcus Dohnicht, Berlin Academy. The proposal is being prepared in conjunction with the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae.

Old Persian cuneiform: The final form of this proposal has been submitted by Michael Everson. Like the Avestan/Pahlavi and Manichaean proposals, OP was written in conjunction with members of the TITUS group (gathered by Jost Gippert, University of Frankfurt).

Glagolitic: Ralph Cleminson has been orchestrating feedback on this proposal, which he co-authored with Michael Everson.

Manichaean: I have solicited feedback on this script proposal from various scholars.

Missing Symbols for Linguists: Raised theta (a voiceless dental fricative release) was requested as being needed for Salishan materials from a group working on a digital dictionary at the University of Victoria. This character is now incorporated in Peter Constable's proposal on Additional Phonetic Modifier Letters, L2/03-180.

Deborah Anderson
Researcher, Dept. of Linguistics
UC Berkeley