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January 09, 2004

Subject:	Comments Request on JTC 1 N 7335 - Response to JTC 1 Sophia Antipolis Resolution #39: Development of a Solution for the Unambiguous Identification and Interworking of Codes Representing Countries, Languages and Currencies (prepared on behalf of SC 32/WG 1)
From:	Bruce E. Peoples, INCITS/V36 Chair

Jennifer,

As requested, V36 membership has provided comments on JTC1 N 7335. They are consolidated below.

4.1. Agree with the default country, language, and currency coding.

4.2. Disagree. Since many countries share a common language, it seems that the language identifier should come first. While there are some variations between usage and spelling between countries, it is less than between languages. Also, when obtaining information the first thing some would want to know is what language is it in so the person can tell if they can read it.

4.3. Agree, allowing for a preference for language code first being the default. As to the delimiter, while it would be nice to have one, why not support both the underscore and hyphen? If a preference has to be made, some would say the underscore should be the default delimiter. Hyphens are sometimes used inside compound words and can make parsing more difficult if it is sometimes also used as a delimiter.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional details.

Bruce E. Peoples

V36 Chair