L2/04-159

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1]
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html **for guidelines and details before filling this form.**
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html**.**
See also http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest *Roadmaps*.**

A. Administrative

1. **Title:** **Proposal to add Samaritan Pointing to ISO 10646**
2. Requester's name: Elaine Keown
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Individual contribution
4. Submission date: May 12, 2004
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following: More information will be provided later (see D. Proposal)

B. Technical - General

1. Choose one of the following:
   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters) No
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: X
      Name of the existing block: Hebrew
2. Number of characters in proposal: 18
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
   A-Contemporary X
4. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see Annex K in P&P document): 1
   Is a rationale provided for the choice? Yes
   If Yes, reference: Characters in use by living, well known community
5. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes
   a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? Yes
   b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes
6. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard? John Hudson Tiro Typeworks True Type
   If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used: Font should be available in July 2004
7. References:
   a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes, see Bibliogr.
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? No
8. Special encoding issues:
   Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?
   No
9. Additional Information:

No. Several characters resemble existing diacritics, but they are vowel marks (a, e, I, etc.) or indicate doubling (germination) of a consonant, or express the interpretation of verse(s) of the Samaritan Hebrew Bible text.

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

[1] Form number: N2652-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? No

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

No—only made inquiries of Israeli scholars about availability of digital Samaritan manuscripts.

Still do not know status of digital Samaritan—an important point.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

1) The ethnic Samaritan community consists of a few hundred people near Nablus, Holon, Tel Aviv, etc.

There may also be a small Samaritan diaspora. The community produces prayerbooks, manuscripts,

and other material in their set of Hebrew glyphs. They may have small local newspapers in their script;

I would guess that the script may be seen on local TV. They certainly use it for personal correspondence.

Samaritan word processing software would be used by the community, their scholars, and by

outside experts. There is a recently revived professional group of Samaritan scholars.

2) The Samaritan material is widely used by scholars because it is an independent tradition, a

'non-Masoretic' tradition of the first five books of the Bible (plus, I believe, a version of the book of Joshua).

Reference: _____

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) common in Nablus

Reference: _____

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? Yes

If YES, where? Reference: _____

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? Yes

If YES, is a rationale provided? yes, see 3.

If YES, reference: _____

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? Yes

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? No

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? _____

If YES, reference: _____

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? Yes

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? No

If YES, reference: _____

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? Yes

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? Yes, see B.9

If YES, reference: _____

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? yes

If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? yes, see B.9

If YES, reference: _____

Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? yes

If YES, reference: _____

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? no

If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary) _____

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? No

D. Proposal

The Hebrew and Aramaic languages have been written with at least 5 sets of diacritics for vowels, punctuation, accents, text markup, etc.:

1. **Tiberian** - the vowels, accents, and diacritics (incompletely) in Unicode
2. **Samaritan** – this proposal
3. **Babylonian** – regional vowels, etc., perhaps from Mesopotamia
4. **Palestinian** – another regional system of diacritics, not as widely known or used
5. **Arabic** - vowels, diacritics, etc. (used by Karaite scribes)

In addition, the Hebrew language has been written in at least two sets of 'base characters,' namely Hebrew and Arabic. The Aramaic language, apparently the most polyscriptal on earth, has been written in at least eight writing systems, including both Hebrew and Arabic characters, plus Syriac, Roman, Cyrillic, and all the Egyptian writing systems except for the most recent, Coptic.

This proposal covers the vowel, diacritic, and punctuation marks used for both Hebrew and Aramaic within the Samaritan community. Samaritans also use Arabic extensively in their literature. Samaritan dialects are very important because they are independent dialectal traditions of Hebrew and Aramaic, with different numbers of consonants and vowels.

Samaritans also have an independent, 'non-Masoretic' tradition of Bible manuscripts. Their manuscripts of the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) and of Joshua are highly valued by scholars. Within Jewish studies and Biblical studies, this is an important and well-known tradition.

Samaritan manuscripts usually do not have vowel marks. When they do, the pointing (probably reflecting Islamic manuscript influence) is a bright fuchsia. With the aethetically pleasing Samaritan letter shapes and the fuchsia pointing, the manuscripts are lovely. Sometimes the manuscripts are written with parallel columns of Arabic and Samaritan Hebrew. In Samaritan halachic (Biblical law) manuscripts, sometimes technical terms are translated into Arabic (but written in Samaritan Hebrew) or translated into Arabic and also written in Arabic.

The ISO proposal form requires the author to select whether the points should be put in a new block or an old one. The author selected 'old block' on the basis of some technical factors. But she hopes that the final decision on the block will be made by the Samaritan community in Nablus, Holon, and elsewhere. It is her hope that they will become fully informed on ISO 10646 and will be given ample time to make a decision suitable for their community.

Section 1: Ancient Samaritan vowel points, diacritic (germination), and ancient word divider:

◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN POINT FATH AL-IHA
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN POINT FATH AL-IMA
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN POINT FATH AL-NIDA
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN POINT KASR
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN POINT DAMM
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN POINT SHADD
· HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION WORD DIVIDER

Section 2: Ancient Samaritan accent signs, the 'sēdāri māqrāta,' or 'arrangements of Scripture,' for marking basic interpretation of a section of Bible text.

◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION NAGAD
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION PASAQ
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION ANAKHO
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION ARKHANO
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION SHE'ELAH
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION ZE'IQA
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION ETMAKHO
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION BA'U
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION ZAEF
◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION TORO

Section 3: More recent Samaritan punctuation marks:

◌ HEBREW SAMARITAN PUNCTUATION AYIN

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Boid, Iain. Principles of Samaritan Halachah. E.J. Brill: New York, 1989.
Dotan, Aron. "Masorah." Encyclopaedia Judaica. Keter: Jerusalem, 1971, cols. 1469-1470.
Keown, E.R. "Hebrew alphabets, symbols and computer codes: history and preliminary tabulation." Revue des Études Juives, 161 (1-2), pp. 235-240. N.B. this article is an earlier and less interesting version of my research and has miscellaneous errors. I have never had an affiliation of any kind with UPenn.
Macuch, Rudolf. Grammatik des Samaritanischen Hebräisch. Walter de Gruyter & Co.: Berlin, 1969.

Macuch, Rudolf. Grammatik des Samaritanischen Aramäisch. Walter de Gruyter & Co.: Berlin, 1982.
Morag, Shelomo. The vocalization systems of Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic; their phonetic and phonemic principles. 's-Gravenhage: Mouton, 1962 [c1961].