

Status report on Vai encoding

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Charles Riley

An active working group of scholars, linguists and members of the Vai community has drafted a preliminary code chart and compiled a bibliography for use in developing a proposal for the script. Two scholars in particular are surveying Vai as it was used in a collection of manuscripts from the early 20th century, to determine which characters were in common use. While that work is in progress, other members of the group have been examining more recent modifications to the script, based in part on documentation available from SIL. Recommendations from the group will be forthcoming on a range of issues, such as the particularities of archaic characters and of those used for borrowed foreign words. Outstanding issues include whether or not to precompose glyphs for the 'R'-series of characters ('rah', 'roo', etc.), and whether to encode the archaic character set separately.