L2/12-170

Request to correct the LineBreak.txt entry for U+2E3A TWO-EM DASH

Karl Pentzlin — 2012-05-03

The punctuation mark U+2E3A TWO-EM DASH was encoded with Unicode 6.1 according to the proposal L2/10-037R = WG2 N3770 "Proposal to encode two dashes required by the Chicago Manual of Style in the UCS".

It has the alternative name "omission dash" (as proposed) due to its use to mark the omission of either a whole word (then being surrounded by spaces) or of some letters within a word (then used without spaces).

An example given in the proposal is the example cited from the "Chicago Manual of Style", indicating letters not readable in the original source:

David H——h [Hirsch?] voted aye.

Based on this usage, the proposal states:

The two-em dash, in its function as an omission dash, usually behaves like the letter sequence which it represents, i.e. it acts like a non-breaking hyphen (see the example "H——h" above). Thus, in LineBreak.TXT, it should have the attribute "GL".

However, in the LineBreak.TXT file supplied with Unicode 6.1, it has the attribute B2 there (like U+2014 EM DASH, or e.g. U+2E3B THREE-EM DASH from the same proposal, for which this attribute is correct).

As the UTC #121 minutes (L2/10-015) do not show an explicit decision to deviate from the proposal regarding the LineBreak.TXT attribute of U+2E3A TWO-EM DASH, it is presumed that this entry is due to an editing error.

Therefore, it is requested to correct this and to change the line in LineBreak.TXT to

2E3A;GL # TWO-EM DASH

on the next occasion where such a change is possible.