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1 Introduction

This is preliminary proposal to encode letter numerals found in Devanagari script. The objective is to bring them to the attention of the Unicode Technical Committee and to seek advice regarding the encoding of the numerals.

2 Background

The modern Devanagari has a set of digits with the use of zero. In addition to digits, a distinct numerical notation system is attested early and medieval manuscripts. These numerals are referred as 'letter numerals' in the scholarly literature to distinguish from regular digits. The letter numerals were largely used for marking page numbers in manuscripts.

These numbers are derived from Brahmi numbers (U+11052...U+11065). These Devanagari numerals are paleographically analogous to letter numerals found in closely related North Indic scripts like Bhaikṣukī, Tocharian, Khotanese, Ranjana, Newa and Sharada.

Often the numbers were used alongside with digits. Letter numerals are written in the margin to the left, whereas digits are written in the margin to the right. North Indian letters numerals are distinct from alphasyllabic numeration used in of other parts of India such as Aksharapalli and Katapayadi systems. In these notations existing letters are reused, whereas the North Indian numerals are evolved from Brahmi numbers. The term 'letter-numerals' here does not symbolize that these numerals are evolved or conceptually derived from letters.

These numerals were used predominantly in states of Gujarat and Rajasthan of Western India. These numerals occur in both 'Jainanagari' and regular styles of Devanagari. These numbers have been at least used up to the 16th century. The widespread use of decimal digits led to decline of these numerals.

3 Details

Block name The proposed characters belong to a new block named 'Devanagari Supplement'. Currently five columns are allocated in the Supplementary Multilingual Plane at the range U+11F00..U+11F4F to avoid the creation of new scattered blocks in the future. The allocation of range and number of columns are tentative and is subjected to change.

Character repertoire and representative glyphs The character repertoire and representative glyphs are based upon on the examinations of the numerals, as found in various manuscripts and scholarly articles on these numerals.

Directionality Devanagari numbers are commonly written vertically with each unit occupying a separate line, such that the largest unit is at the top and the smallest unit is at the bottom. The reason for the vertical directionality may be attributed for economizing space in the margin. However, when the numerals are employed in inside the texts of the Chedasutras, Bhashyas, Churnis etc. and in mathematical manuscripts are not written vertical line but in a horizontally similar to regular digits.

Structure and Representation The numerals represent units of a decimal positional system. There is no character for zero; it is represented in the distinct numbers for the various decimal orders. There are distinctive numbers for the primary units from 1 to 9, tens from 10 to 90 and hundreds from 100 to 500. The hundreds beyond 500 are not found as manuscripts exceeding 500 folios are rarely attested. In the following extract 123 is represented having 100 is placed on the top, 20 beneath the 100 and 3 in the bottom.



Note on some characters Some numbers like 10 and 30 show some resemblance visually with ऌ VOCALIC L or \vec{e} LA. Both forms are evolved from Brahmi numbers \propto and \vec{o} respectively. They have no genetic association with letters. The situation is comparable to Tamil digits & one and 6T seven which are graphically similar to க ka and ст e. The numbers 10 and 30 may be considered as confusables and thus are proposed for independent encoding.

4 Characters proposed

4.1 Primary numbers

The following 7 characters are proposed for the primary units:

- DEVANAGARI NUMBER ONE
- DEVANAGARI NUMBER FOUR
- DEVANAGARI NUMBER FIVE
- ন্থ্য জ জ জ জ জ DEVANAGARI NUMBER SIX
- DEVANAGARI NUMBER SEVEN
- DEVANAGARI NUMBER EIGHT
- न DEVANAGARI NUMBER NINE

The numbers two and three are represented using

0968 R DEVANAGARI DIGIT TWO

0969 3 DEVANAGARI DIGIT THREE

4.2 Tens

The following 9 characters are used for representing the tens:

4.3 Hundreds

The following 5 characters are proposed for the hundreds:

- **E** DEVANAGARI NUMBER ONE HUNDRED
- DEVANAGARI NUMBER TWO HUNDRED
- DEVANAGARI NUMBER THREE HUNDRED
- म्रो DEVANAGARI NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED
- ाम्रो DEVANAGARI NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED

5 Characters not proposed

The following characters not proposed as they require additional research. Spaces have been reserved in case of their discovery in future.

TWO and **THREE:** The glyphs of these two numbers are identical to 0968 **3** DEVANAGARI DIGIT TWO 0969 **3** DEVANAGARI DIGIT THREE. They are represented using existing characters. Since both digits and letter numerals derive from same Brahmi forms, they are not proposed independently.

600-900: The primary purpose of letter numbers is Page numbering. So far the hundreds beyond five hundred are not attested as manuscripts exceeding 500 folios are rarely attested. It is possible that numbers beyond 500 are found in mathematical manuscripts.

6 Variants and alternate forms

The shapes of glyphs are based on the observation as found in manuscripts. The shapes are relatively homogenous in nature. However, in many manuscripts we notice a repha like element \bigcirc is affixed above the headstroke. Perhaps, it is an ornamental element used to embellish the writing. Such variations are to be handled at font level.

Apart from regular forms, the numbers 1-3 are also written in following ways.

1. Q e & dvi and A tri

2. म sva सि sti and श्री śrī

3. श्री śrī दे de and द va

4. जैom न na and मः mah

In the first method they represent the initial letter of the word \overline{va} -one and the entire words \overline{k} -two and \overline{a} -three. The second method indicates splitting up of word $\mathfrak{A}\overline{k}a$, a sacred word. In the third method the word $\overline{\mathfrak{A}}\overline{\mathfrak{A}}\mathfrak{A}$ is split up into three syllables make up the well known benedictory phrase. The use of $\overline{\mathfrak{I}}$, $\overline{\mathfrak{A}}$ and $\overline{\mathfrak{R}}$ together make up $\overline{\mathfrak{I}}\overline{\mathfrak{A}}\overline{\mathfrak{R}}$. The above forms can be represented using existing characters.

7 Character Data

Character Properties

The character properties are as follows:

11F00;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	ONE;No;0;L;;;;1;N;;;;;
11F03;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	<pre>FOUR;No;0;L;;;;4;N;;;;;</pre>
11F04;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	FIVE;No;0;L;;;;5;N;;;;;
11F05;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	SIX;No;0;L;;;;6;N;;;;;
11F06;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	SEVEN;No;0;L;;;;7;N;;;;;
11F07;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	EIGHT;No;0;L;;;;8;N;;;;;
11F08;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	NINE;No;0;L;;;;9;N;;;;;
11F09;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	TEN;No;0;L;;;;10;N;;;;;
11F0A; DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	TWENTY;No;0;L;;;;20;N;;;;;
11F0B;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	THIRTY;No;0;L;;;;30;N;;;;;
11F0C;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	<pre>FORTY;No;0;L;;;;40;N;;;;;</pre>
11F0D;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	<pre>FIFTY;No;0;L;;;;50;N;;;;;</pre>
11F0E;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	SIXTY;No;0;L;;;;60;N;;;;;
11F0F;DEVANAGARI	NUMBER	SEVENTY; No; 0; L;;;; 70; N;;;;

;

11F10; DEVANAGARI NUMBER EIGHTY; No; 0; L;;;; 80; N;;;;; 11F11; DEVANAGARI NUMBER NINETY; No; 0; L;;;; 90; N;;;;; 11F12; DEVANAGARI NUMBER ONE HUNDRED; No; 0; L;;;; 100; N;;;; 11F13; DEVANAGARI NUMBER TWO HUNDRED; No; 0; L;;;; 200; N;;;; 11F14; DEVANAGARI NUMBER THREE HUNDRED; No; 0; L;;;; 300; N;;;; 11F15; DEVANAGARI NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED; No; 0; L;;;; 400; N;;;; 11F16; DEVANAGARI NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED; No; 0; L;;;; 500; N;;;;

8 References

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Datta, Bibhutibhusan and Singh, Avadhesh Narayan. History of Hindu mathematics, 1935.

Kapadia, Hiralal Rasikdas. *Foliation of Jaina Manuscripts and Letter-Numerals*. Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute 18.2, 1937: 171-186.

_____. Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Government Manuscripts library. Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona, 1936.

Muni Punyavijaya, ભારતીય જૈન શ્રમણસંસ્કૃતિ અને લેખનકળા (Bhāratīya jaina śramaņasaṃskṛti ane lekhanakalā).

Nawab, Sarabhai Manilal. Jaina Chitrakalpadruma. 1935

Renou, L., & J. Filliozat. L'Inde classique: manuel des études indiennes, Hanoi, 1953.

11F00

Devanagari Supplement

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1	11100	22 11F11			
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В	11F0B				
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F	11F0E E 11F0F				

11F00	Devanagari Supplement	11F4F
Numbers		
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11F01 <reserved></reserved>		
11F02 <reserved></reserved>		
11F03 DEVANAGARI NUMBER FOUR		
11F04 DEVANAGARI NUMBER FIVE		
11F05 DEVANAGARI NUMBER SIX		
11F06 DEVANAGARI NUMBER SEVEN	I	
11F07 DEVANAGARI NUMBER EIGHT		
11F08 DEVANAGARI NUMBER NINE		
11F09 DEVANAGARI NUMBER TEN		
11F0A DEVANAGARI NUMBER TWEN	TY	
11F0B DEVANAGARI NUMBER THIRT	Y	
11F0C DEVANAGARI NUMBER FORTY	Y	
11F0D DEVANAGARI NUMBER FIFTY		
11F0E DEVANAGARI NUMBER SIXTY		
11F0F DEVANAGARI NUMBER SEVEN	TY	
11F10 DEVANAGARI NUMBER EIGHT	Y	
11F11 DEVANAGARI NUMBER NINET	Y	
11F12 DEVANAGARI NUMBER ONE H	UNDRED	
11F13 DEVANAGARI NUMBER TWO H	IUNDRED	
11F14 DEVANAGARI NUMBER THREE	EHUNDRED	
11F15 DEVANAGARI NUMBER FOUR	HUNDRED	
11F16 DEVANAGARI NUMBER FIVE H	IUNDRED	
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11F18 <reserved></reserved>		
11F19 <reserved></reserved>		
11F1A <reserved></reserved>		



Figure 1. Folios from the manuscript *Kalpa-sūtra* and *Kālakācārya-kathā* in 'Jainanagari' style depicting the letter numerals in the left margin and digits in right margin. The page numbers are 16 and 25 respectively. 1404 CE (from Royal Asiatic Society, Tod MS 34).¹

¹ http://www.jainpedia.org/manuscripts/detail-view-meta/manuscript/kalpa-sutra-and-kalakacarya-katha-tod-ms-34/ras-todms34-034.html

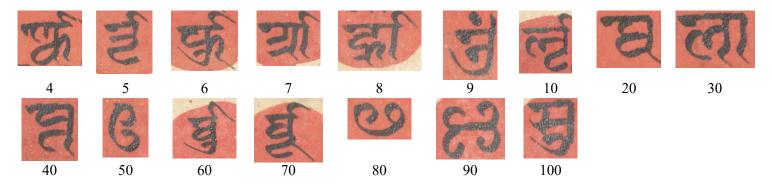


Figure 2. A table showing inventory of letter numerals found in the manuscript Kalpa-sūtra and Kālakācārya-kathā.



Figure 3. A folio from the manuscript *Dhvanyālokalocana*, written by Abhinavagupta in regular Devanagari. This manuscript was copied in 1647 CE. The page number is 19 in this folio (from Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur).

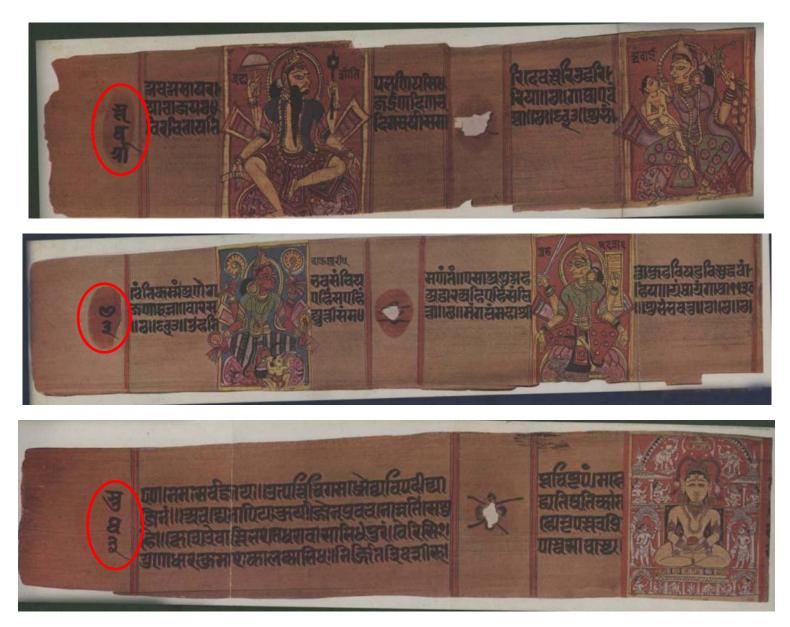


Figure 4. Letter numerals used in various illustrated Jaina manuscripts (from Nawab 1935).

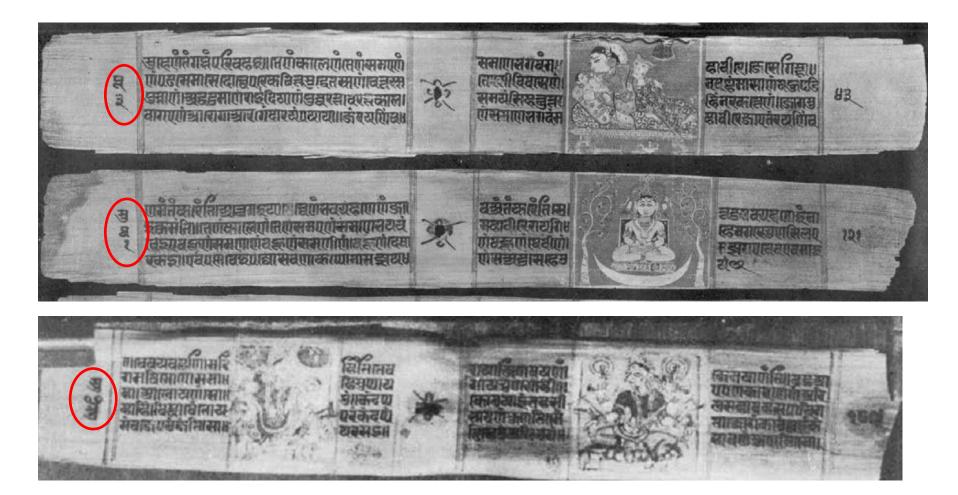


Figure 5. Letter numerals used in various illustrated Jaina manuscripts (from Nawab 1935).



Figure 6. Folios from the Sanskrit manuscript *Bṛhaccūrṇivyākhyā* showing the use of letter numerals.13th century (from Digitised manuscripts of British Library, Or 1386).



Figure 7. Folios from the manuscript *Jītakalpacūrņi* showing the use of letter numerals.13th century (from Digitised manuscripts of British Library, Or 1385).



Figure 8. Folio from the manuscript Śrāvakapratikramasūtra-cūrni using distinct glyphs for number and digit one.

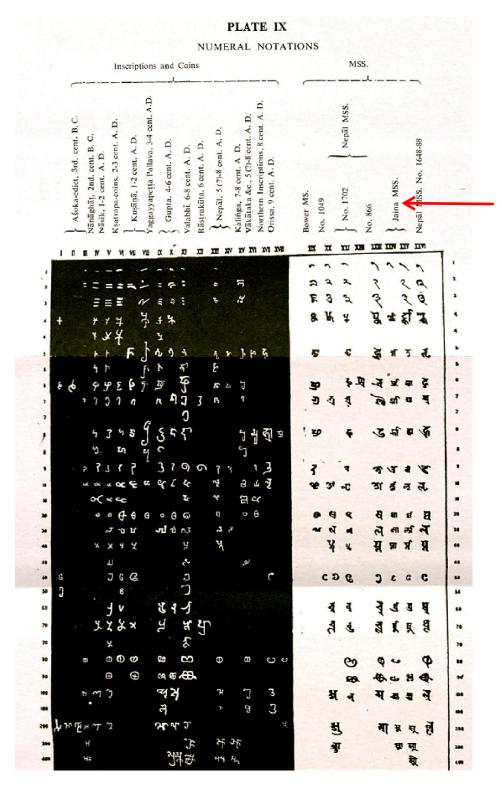


Figure 9. A table showing numerals in Devanagari (Jaina mss) and their evolution from Brahmi (from Bühler 1904, Plate IX).

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Figure 10. Comparison of numerals found in Devanagari (Jaina mss) with scripts of Nepal, Khotanese and their evolution from Gupta Brahmi (from Renou & Filliozat 1953: 706).

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Figure 11.Numerals used in Devanagari (Jaina mss) and other scripts (from Bhagvanlal Indraji 1887: 44).

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Figure 12.Numerals used in Devanagari (Jaina mss) and other scripts (from Bhagvanlal Indraji 1887: 45).

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TABLE V—Bráhmî Numerals

Figure 13.Numerals used in Devanagari (Jaina mss) and other scripts (from Datta and Singh 1935: 111).

TABLE VIII—Brâhmî Numerals									
I	IX—X Cent. A.D.	V—VIII Century A.D.		Manuscripts					
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TABLE X—Brâhmî Numerals

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Figure 14.Numerals used in Devanagari (Jaina mss) and other scripts (from Datta and Singh 1935: 114,116).

Appendix III

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Typical Letter-numerals from No 36 of 1880-81

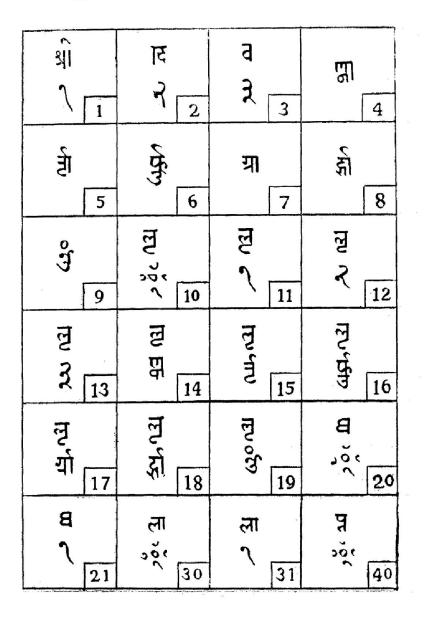


Figure 15. Typical letter numerals found in Devanagari manuscripts (from Kapadia 1936:15).

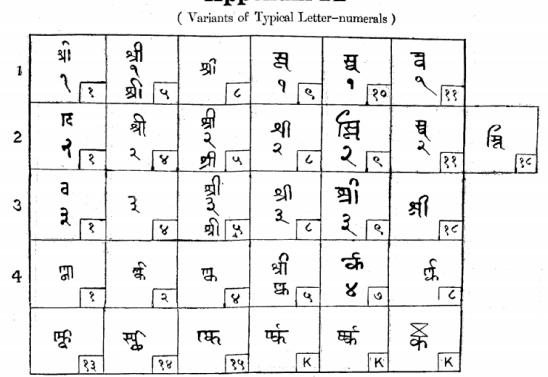
16

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N. B.-- Figures in inset squares represent numerical values of the corresponding letter-numerals.



Appendix III



Appendix IV

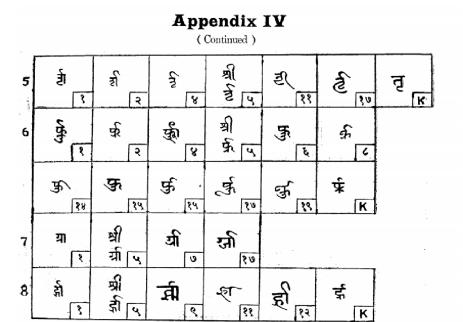


Figure 17. Variants of letter numerals found in Devanagari manuscripts (from Kapadia 1936:17-18).

21

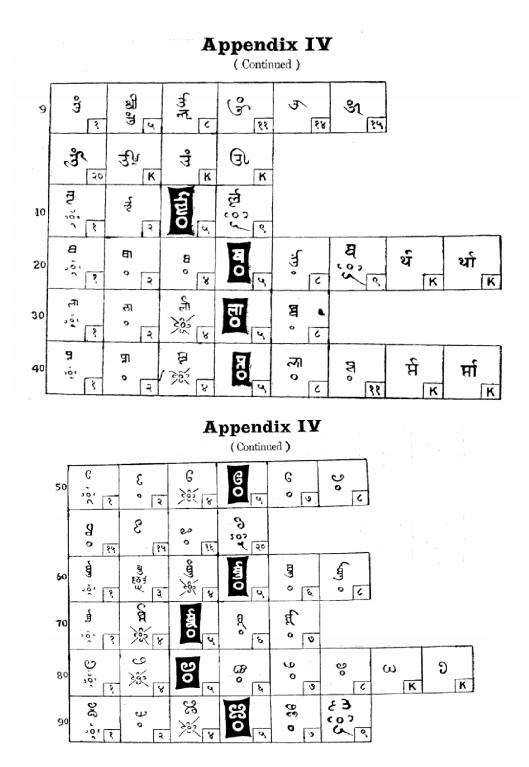


Figure 18. Variants of letter numerals found in Devanagari manuscripts (from Kapadia 1936:19-20).

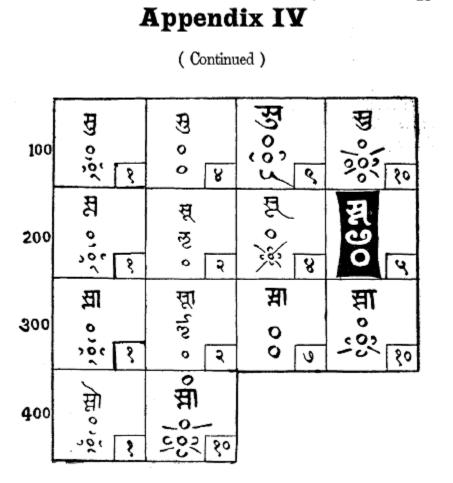


Figure 19. Variants of letter numerals found in Devanagari manuscripts (from Kapadia 1936:21).

21

ભારતીય જૈન શ્રમણસંસ્કૃતિ અને લેખનકળા <u>એકમ અંકો</u> १ = १, ⁴, स, स्, झी, थी ೮= ಶ, ತೆ, ತೆ. દશક અંકો <u>शतड अंडो</u> १ = ख, र्स्ट १ = ल, ली.

 x = g, g_1 .
 x = g, g_2 .

 x = g, g_1 .
 x = g, g_1 .

 x = g, g_1 .
 x = g, g_1 .

 y = g, g_1 .
 $y = g_1$, g_1 .

 $y = g_1$, g_1 .
 $y = g_1$, g_2 .

 $y = g_1$, g_1 .
 $y = g_1$, g_2 .

 $y = g_1$, g_1 .
 $y = g_1$, g_2 .

 $y = g_1$, g_2 .
 g_2 .

 $y = g_1$, g_2 .
 g_2 .

 $y = g_1$, g_2 .
 g_3 .

 $y = g_3$. २ = घ, घा. ୯= ୫,୫,୫,୫,ୢଽ

÷з

Figure 20. Numerals listed by Muni Punjavijayaji as found in Jain manuscripts (from Muni Punyavijaya:63).

Hindu- Arabic	Devanagari	Brahmi	Khotanese	Tocharian	Bhaikṣukī	Newa	Sharada
1	~	_	•	•	3	•	~
2	ર	=	÷	٤	3	7	٩
3	ą	≡	÷.	"	3	A	93
4	સ	¥	*	お	A	ଞ୍ଚ	4 2N
5	ভ	h	K	Ø	*	Ę	5
6	ক্ষ	6	8 1	£	Â	4	s Viş
7	য়	2	ๆ	ĩ	,গ	E	her the set
8	द्ध	と	킨	ъŢ	,sr	&	<i>Ssn</i>
9	ভ	7	7	Ţ	Q	ઝ	4
10	ऌ	¢	30	ų,	Ì	ગ્ર	*
20	হ	θ	A	θ	\$*	स	भ
30	ल	ഹ	থ	Ń	ళ	ल	्रम स
40	ਸ਼	х	મુ	g	¥	ধ	V S t

Comparison of letter numerals among various Indic scripts

50	G	G	C	B	5	G	K
60	W y	A	9	Ŧ	R	ş	-
70	म्	z	G	ち	8	গ্ৰ	-
80	ಲ	Φ	€	θ	Sty.	Ø	-
90	к К	\oplus	8	Ð	85	\$	要
100	सु	Я	প	ಸ್ತ್ರ	왕	গ	ন্দ