To:　Unicode Technical Committee
From:　Deborah Anderson
Date:　April 19 2017
Subject: Feedback and Response on L2/17-041: Request to change glyphs of Kannada letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL and their vowel signs

Background:

I asked a Kannada font provider to comment on the proposed glyph changes for Kannada vocalic L and LL as shown in L2/17-041. The following was his response:

> I have some experience with Kannada, but am no expert. I consulted Reinhold Grünendahl's South Indian Scripts in Sanskrit Manuscripts and Prints and the forms he gives are more similar to what is already existing in the charts for U+0C8C & U+0CEI but the same as the charts for U+0CE2 & U+0CE3. I also consulted with [another colleague] (who consulted Grünendahl) and he remarks that the references for L2/17-041 seem to be inscriptional or from printed grammars, whereas Grünendahl's references are specifically manuscripts & prints. It might make a stronger case for the change if the authors were able to show their preferred forms were also to be found in Sanskrit manuscripts. This is the best, limited information that I have at this time.

I forwarded the feedback to the proposal authors and asked if additional manuscript evidence could be provided. Below is the response from the proposal author Srinidhi.

Response from Srinidhi:

As said in the references, the glyphs of these 2 characters in Reinhold Grünendahl's South Indian Scripts in Sanskrit Manuscripts and Prints is based on Ferdinard Kittel's Grammar of Kannada(1903). These books contain wrong glyphs as they are inverted O and OO due to lack of font support at that time. Kittel uses correct glyph in his edition of Shabdamanidarpana .

ಅ ಆ, ಇ ಈ, ಉ ಊ, ಋ ಋೂ, ಌ ಌೄ, ಏ ಐ, ಓ ಔ; ಕ್ ಖ್, ಗ್ ಘ್,
ಙ್; ಚ್ ಛ್, ಜ್ ಝ್, ಇಞ್; ಟ್ ಠ್, ಡ್ ಢ್, ಣ್; ತ್ ಥ್, ದ್ ಧ್, ನ್;
ಪ್ ಫ್, ಬ್ ಭ್, ಮ್; ಯ್, ರ್, ಲ್, ವ್, ಶ್, ಷ್, ಸ್, ಹ್, ಳ.

M'Kerrell and Harkness books (which I have cited) are based on original manuscripts and also Kittel's Shabdamanidarpana edition is also based on manuscripts. It is difficult to access and permission to get copies of manuscripts unless one is a scholar. Based on existing resources like inscriptions,manuscripts and books, proposed glyphs are most accurate and recommendable.The original inscriptions show evident usage of proposed glyphs. But the current glyphs are unatttested in any other sources.