

To: UTC and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 WG2
From: Debbie Anderson, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley
Subject: Brief Report from London meeting of Egyptologists, June 2018
Date: 16 June 2018

Participants

Deborah Anderson (UC Berkeley), Beryl Büma (Bonn), Christian Casey (Brown University), Michael Everson, Pierre Fournier (Montpellier), Jorke Grotenhuis (Thot Sign-List, University of Liège), Svenja A. Gülden (Altägyptische Kursivschriften project, Mainz), Ingelore Hafemann (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften), Richard Ishida (W3C), Magali Massiera (Montpellier), Mark-Jan Nederhof (University of St. Andrews), Robert Richmond, Frédéric Rouffet (Montpellier), David Sabel (Bonn), Michel Suignard, and Andrew West.

The meeting to discuss updates on Unicode developments took place from June 14-15, 2018 at University College London.

The following points were agreed to by participants:

- It is advantageous to the field of Egyptology to include a large set of additional characters, including those in Hieroglyphica and other sources, with the responsibility on the user to select the correct character. Additional information, such as that being researched by the Thot Sign-List, will aid in helping users select the appropriate character.
- A Unicode proposal (and accompanying spreadsheet) for characters in Gardiner groups A, B, and C will be made available to the meeting participants for review and to the UTC and Working Group 2 (of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2). Reviewers are encouraged to send any comments to Michel Suignard (michel@suignard.com) by September 2018. Of particular interest are characters with 0 or 1 source.
- Identification of mistakes or “ghost” characters and other information about the new additions should be made readily available to Egyptologists. This information can be contained in a Unicode Technical Note, in the database that accompanies the Unicode character information, or by other means.
- The proposal for Möller’s Egyptian Hieroglyphs by Michael Everson will be reviewed by Svenja A. Gülden and the AKU-Team, with comments sent back to Michael Everson and the meeting participants. The proposal is located at: <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2016/16250-n4741-moller-egyptian.pdf>
- Jorke Grotenhuis will provide a list of any identified glyph errors in the currently encoded Gardiner characters (with brief rationale) to participants and to Debbie Anderson for forwarding to the Unicode Technical Committee. The glyph errors should not involve any change in semantics to the characters. (Comments on any glyph errors in the proposed set of characters should be sent to Michel Suignard.) Jorke Grotenhuis will provide the list as time permits.

- To provide a means to identify unknown Egyptian Hieroglyph characters, Andrew West will work with Christian Casey to write a proposal for a handful of characters.

Links

- Egyptian Hieroglyph character picker: <https://r12a.github.io/pickers/egyptian/>
Uniview: <https://r12a.github.io/uniview/>
- Michael Everson's Unicode proposal for Möller's Egyptian Hieroglyphs: <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2016/16250-n4741-moller-egyptian.pdf>
- Egyptology discussion email list: egyptian@evertype.com (To subscribe, contact Michael Everson at everson@evertype.com)
- Implementation demoed by Mark-Jan Nederhof (and examples of use in web pages and a graphical editor): <https://mjn.host.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/egyptian/res/js/>

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to the UCL Centre for Digital Humanities and to Simon Mahony, Lucy Stagg, Sarah Davenport, and Ian Evans for arranging the room and providing assistance.