

A proposal for encoding italics in plain text using Variation Selector 14

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Tuesday 5 February 2019

In a thread in the Unicode public mailing list in January 2019 the present author suggested the encoding of italics in plain text by adding a “combining italicizer” character after each character of which an italic glyph version is being recorded as being requested. The “combining italicizer” would be a new character. The proposed encoding format would thus not be stateful.

The present author made a maquette font as a proof of concept. It worked well.

Mr James Kass suggested a modification of that suggestion in that instead of a new character needing to become encoded, an existing Variation Selector character could be used. Mr Kass suggested Variation Selector 14.

The present author made a maquette font as a proof of concept. It worked well. For convenience it is published in the same forum thread as the other maquette font.

Recognising that discussions in the Unicode public mailing list do not automatically become discussed by the Unicode Technical Committee, this document is submitted for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee.

Could the Unicode Technical Committee please consider designating Variation Selector 14 for the use in plain text of placing after a character of which an italic glyph version is being recorded as being requested?

References:

Overington, W. J. G., Re: A last missing link for interoperable representation

<https://www.unicode.org/mail-arch/unicode-ml/y2019-m01/0018.html>

Kass J., Re: A last missing link for interoperable representation

<https://www.unicode.org/mail-arch/unicode-ml/y2019-m01/0032.html>

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<https://www.unicode.org/mail-arch/unicode-ml/y2019-m01/0038.html>

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<https://www.unicode.org/mail-arch/unicode-ml/y2019-m01/0053.html>

Overington, W. J. G., Italicizer Maquette font

<https://forum.high-logic.com/viewtopic.php?f=10&t=7831>