ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 N5108

Title:	**report of Seal Script discussion in WG2 #68**
Date:	**2019/June/19**
Place:	Microsoft Building 40 (Redmond, US)
Participants:	Selena Wei, Chen Zhuang, Zhou Xiaowen, suzuki toshiya, Andrew West, Michael Everson, Michel Suignard, V.S. Umamaheswaran, Deborah Anderson, Lisa Moore, Liang Hai, Peter Constable, Ken Whistler, Ken Lunde, Lee Collins.
Source:	suzuki toshiya

Selena and suzuki presented the report of informal Seal meeting at Beijing 2019-Jun-1, WG2 N5089, and reported the consensus in the meeting about follow-up dicussions for the last WG2 meeting at London. The remarks are following:

- Zhuanwen (篆文), Guwen (古文) and Zhouwen (籀文) should be disunified as a basic policy.
    - For the cases those the distinctive design of the glyphs are too hard, the distinctively designed glyphs are picked from other versions. In Beijing discussion, 2 cases are found: 馬 and 稾.
    - This policy is only for the Guwen and Zhouwen in Shuowen Jiezi. The glyphs from other "Chuanchao Guwen" (傳抄古文) materials, like Hanjian (汗簡) are out of this scope.
- Very similarly designed glyphs with same semantics should be unified, even if they are placed under different radicals. The characters to be kept and removed are summarized in the meeting report.
- The fonts in the previous submission was found to be based on the lithograph reprints of 藤花榭本, by 中國書店. It it found that some modifications are given to this version. The experts decided to update the font by using original 藤花榭本, preserved in 東京專門學校 (which is now renamed as 早稻田大學).
- It is found that some glyphs are inconsistently designed in comparison with other glyphs sharing same component. The inconsistently designed glyphs are corrected to match with other glyphs. The corrections by this policy was summarized in the meeting report.
- It is found that some glyphs are wrongly designed from the viewpoint of etymological analysis (e.g. some components mentioned in the description are missing). For such cases, if other versions of Shuowen Jiezi have the correctly designed glyphs, the font design is corrected to match with the etymological analysis. The corrections by this policy were summarized in the meeting report.

China and TCA experts think the quality of the revised Small Seal character set is ready for the official submission, and WG2 N5105 has been submitted.

For the proposed Seal chart in WG2 N5105, Andrew West asked why some Seal characters do not have the corresponding modern characters (CJK Unified Ideographs), even for the cases where the corresponding modern characters are suspected of being available. Selena replied that the current Seal chart omits the corresponding modern characters for Newly Added Characters (新附字), however, the corresponding characters for Newly Added Characters are already searched, so it would be possible to fill in the missing part. Andrew asked to have the missing cells filled in.

Michel Suignard asked about the future extensions of other versions of Shuowen Jiezi, to evaluated for the size of the required codespace. Because the discussions of other versions have been postponed, no clear estimation was given at this point. However, China expert commented the extra codepoints needed by other versions would be a few hundred, based on the experience of the Zhonghua Ziku project.

Also, Michel asked about the taxonomy: how will the characters be ordered in the code chart in the specification? For example, CJK Unified Ideographs are ordered by Kangxi radical, number of strokes, and first stroke types. Selena and suzuki replied: the order of the heading characters in DaXu version of Shuowen Jiezi is always the same, although there are many diversions of DaXu version, so using the appearance order in DaXu version is stable, although it is unclear how the characters under the same radical are ordered. Michel was unsure whether such ordering is useful, so further discussion is expected on the taxonomy issues.

Lisa Moore commented that of the UTC experts, Richard Cook has a strong interest about the taxonomy and ordering with the consideration of multiple versions of Shuowen Jiezi. So it is expected that the discussion with the consideration of other versions of Shuowen is expected to affect the first batch of the Shuowen Seal character set. Taking up her comment, Michel Suignard also commented that CJK Unified Ideograph is currently maintained in the multicolumn chart, thus, even if the first version of Seal code chart is designed as the single column chart, the possibility of future extension for the multicolumn format should be discussed.

Deborah Anderson commented that there was a problem in email exchanging among China, TCA. Japan and UTC experts, and there was a failure in the setting of the meeting schedule before WG2 (Richard Cook could not participate). Lisa and Ken Whistler commented it is acceptable for them to support document exchanging to prevent such communication problem. The experts agreed to the requirement of the coordination, and ask for UTC experts help for the email exchanging problem.

In summary, the majority of the participants agreed that further discussion is needed for Seal script standardization, especially regarding the consideration of other versions, and some metadata for the taxonomy. As a result, Michel regarded Seal script status to be too early to be incorporated in CD/CDAM text. The experts are encouraged to continue their work, and the feedback from WG2 experts is also encouraged.

To resolve the raised issue, Selena expresses TCA can host the next Seal adhoc meeting in October 2019, and requested an endorsement for the adhoc meeting be included in the recommendations by WG2. Because the participation of Richard Cook is regarded to be important, the meeting schedule is not fixed in this meeting, but the recommendations for the adhoc meeting is agreed.

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