

To: UTC

From: Denis Jacquerye

Subject: Feedback on African Reference Alphabet (L2/21-231)

Date: 19 Nov 2021

Capital Eth:

This variant has only been used in the African Reference Alphabet document as far as I can tell. I'm not aware of an African language orthography using Eth (Ð, ð) or D with stroke (Đ, đ).

I don't think Unicode needs to make an anecdotal note for this character.

F with longer stroke and f with hook:

This F with longer stroke variant has only been used in the African Reference Alphabet document as far as I can tell.

A798 Ꝥ, A799 ꝥ are archaic versions of f with hook in Ewe, they also have some variations (capital F with a raised stroke for example).

This F with longer stroke is just another iteration of the capital form of the f with hook, somewhat in between.

I don't think Unicode needs to make an anecdotal note for this character.

Latin Gamma:

This triangular capital gamma is just a variant form of the Latin capital letter gamma.

It is less common than looped one but is not rare in 1950-1960s documents.

A note for the character may be useful, such as "glyph may also have a triangular lower part" instead of the one suggested by Eduardo.

Capital Esh:

As far as I know the large-lowercase shape is used in the 1989 Gabon Languages Scientific Alphabet chart and the 2015 version of the 1989 National Guinean Alphabet, besides the African Reference Alphabet. In practice these alphabets have seen little use as far as I am aware. But it's not clear if either, or in particular the Guinean Alphabet, will have a better success in the future or which shape will be used for the capital. If there is a proven more definitive usage then the Unicode chart should probably adjust the reference glyph.

The Sigma shape was used in Ghana languages before the letter was replaced with the digraph sh in the mid-1970s. I don't know what capital form was used in the 1982 National Mali Alphabet before the letter was replaced by the digraph sh in 1991.

A note for the character may be useful, such as "glyph may also have appearance of large form of the small letter" which is used for 014A Ŋ.

Z and z with upper-right hook:

This has only been used in the African Reference Alphabet document as far as I can tell.

It seems the examples in Figure a and Figure b are variations with different hooks and should be different characters if used.

Ezh:

This variant shape has been used in Ghana and in the 1927 African International Alphabet. A note for the character may be useful, similar to the one suggested by Eduardo.

Linearized tilde:

Regarding the linearized tilde and the revised African Reference Alphabet of 1982, this version of the ARA was proposed and used by Mann and Dalby. I've only seen it used in their book as far as I know. However it has either had influence or shared influence with orthographies.

Because I only know Mann and Dalby's use of the linearized tilde, I wouldn't recommend encoding it.

I guess a note for the 0274 character is fine, but it's not clear either if that is the right character for that use.