Title: IR Report from SC2 #28, June 2023
Author: Debbie Anderson, IR
Date: June 28, 2023
Action: For consideration by UTC

SC2 #28 and WG2 #70 meetings took place at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada, from June 19 to 23, 2023. The meetings were held in-person and virtually, with 24 experts participating in WG2, and nine NBs plus other liaisons represented in SC2. This was the first face-to-face meeting of SC2 and WG2 since 2019.

This brief report summarizes topics covered in WG2. (The WG2 recommendations in N5234 were summarized and captured in the SC2 resolutions.)

Most of the WG2 agenda covered scripts and characters that the UTC had already discussed and either approved or had assigned preliminary code points to. Those topics not yet discussed by the UTC appear in the Consent Docket, will be covered by the Unicode Liaison Report, will be discussed in the future Script Ad Hoc Recommendations, or are mentioned in this brief report.

Dates for Amendment 2
Amendment 2, which is to be synchronized with Unicode 16.0, will be balloted as CDAM 2.3, with target dates 2023-08-01 (for CDAM 2.3), 2024 -06-01 (for DAM), 2025-02-01 (for FDAM2), 2025-05-01 (for AMD2), based on SC2 Resolutions. It is possible the dates may be moved up, with the DAM release in early 2024, and Disposition of Comments by end of June 2024. The added repertoire for CDAM 2.3 is reflect in N5235. (A chart with post-CDAM2/Unicode 16.0 repertoire is found in N5236.)

Proposals discussed
The following summarizes topics covered during the WG2 meeting:
- WG2 agreed in principle to accept Egyptian Hieroglyphs into Amendment 2 (N5215 = L2/23-109). The arrow characters will need to be discussed at the July 2023 Script Ad Hoc.
- Somali digraphs (WG2 N 5220) were discussed. After WG2 discussion, the proposal author was not continuing to push for digraphs to be encoded. Debbie Anderson will follow up with the author on how to handle digraphs in fonts and keyboards.
- A Seal Script discussion took place with experts from China, TCA, Japan and the US and progress was made. (For the long list of Seal-related documents, see section 10.2.1. in WG2 agenda N5210R4.)
  - The group was advised to prepare a document outlining the unification principles for Seal.
  - Meeting participants were encouraged to consider holding a meeting, perhaps in-person, in the future.
  - Suzuki has already prepared a multicolumn chart for the subset of rows flagged by Cook (L2/22-279), and it has been proposed that he submit that document to WG2.
- Andrew West introduced his Jurchen proposal (L2/23-068=N5207) and is seeking feedback from experts.

- Andrew West also submitted a few documents on Tangut additions and correction not yet seen by the UTC (L2/23-149=N5217, L2/23-150=N5218, L2/23-148=N5237). The Script Ad Hoc will need to review and discuss the Tangut proposals, and make a recommendation on the code points for the characters proposed in N5217 and N5218.

- Several documents from Michael Everson were discussed, all of which will be discussed by Script Ad Hoc. These include:
    - a preliminary proposal for Aiha (L2/23-136=N5226), based on the script created by Ursula Le Guin.
    - a proposal for Bliss (L2/23-138=N5228). A meeting with SAH members and Michael Everson to discuss specific Bliss topics will be set up later in July.
    - a proposal for LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W (L2/23-134=N5224).
    - a proposal for dashed-box symbols (L2/23-090=N5212R3).
    - a revised proposal for COMBINNG OVERCURL proposal (L2/23-137=N5227).

      Note: As a by-product of the case pair discussion on L2/23-135=N5225, which proposed two Latin capital letters, Michael Everson agreed to write up a document on case pairs, as was recommended by the SAH on page 14 of L2/21-016R. (The two uppercase Latin characters proposed in L2/23-135 are covered by the Consent Docket.)

- IRG will be preparing another large set of characters (ca. 5000 characters) for Extension J. The repertoire should be ready by March 2024.
  (Note: Extension I will be covered by others during the UTC.)

Additional items of note
- SC2 approved Michel Suignard as WG2 Convenor for another 3-year term.
- Jan Kučera, Liang Hai, and Ken Lunde were added as Contributing Editors of ISO/IEC 10646.
- The future of ISO/IEC 14651 will be discussed in the Unicode Liaison report.
- Saudi Arabia is now an O member of SC2. They corresponded with Michel Suignard outside of WG2 discussion about a currency sign for the Riyal.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards sent correspondence about Bengali Letter Alternate BA to the SC2 Secretariat, who forwarded the message to Michel Suignard. The correspondence, reportedly, raised a concern about such a proposal coming from a source other than the Indian National Standards Body. Information about proposal submissions to WG2 and Unicode and the encoding process was relayed to the BIS representative by Michel Suignard. This topic was handled outside of WG2 discussion.

Future meetings
The next WG2 (and SC2) meetings will take place in Prague, Czech Republic from 17-21 June 2024. No host has come forward yet for the 2025 meeting.