2025 Report of the ISO 15924 Registration Authority

Markus Scherer, Jan Kučera, 2025-05-22

The Unicode Consortium has continued to function as the Registration Authority for ISO 15924 "Codes for the representation of names of scripts". In 2019, Markus Scherer was appointed Registrar by the Registration Authority.

The ISO 15924 Web site https://www.unicode.org/iso15924/ has been updated regularly. The tables of code elements remain freely available from that site.

Since 2024, three script codes have been registered and published: Beria Erfe, (Small) Seal, and Han (Traditional variant) with Latin (alias for Hant + Latn). A dated list of changes is available at https://www.unicode.org/iso15924/codechanges.html.

The addition of the alias code required an unusual amount of investigation and discussion with experts in order to ensure that this code is justified.

As before, the RA has rejected some script code requests; for example for stylistic variants, for notations that are not writing systems, and when there is no expert consensus that a script is a candidate for encoding in the UCS.

All voting members of the Joint Advisory Committee (https://www.unicode.org/iso15924/iso15924jac.html) have been active within the last year.

ISO 639 has recently been restructured. ISO 639-2/RA, represented by Randall K. Barry, has been replaced by ISO 639/MA, represented by Lorna Evans from SIL Global.

For the Unicode Consortium, Ken Whistler has been replaced by Jan Kučera as the ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 representative.

The RA does not charge fees for adding codes. We have had no complaints since the last report.

ISO 15924 script codes continue to be widely used in the industry as part of language tagging systems. Notably, it is a core element of the IETF BCP 47 language tagging protocol that integrates ISO 15924 with ISO 639 language identifiers and ISO 3166 region identifiers, and BCP 47 is the system for language and locale coding used in all Internet specifications as well as may other repositories and libraries that provide locale data.