Response to UNICODE

Publications & continuous modern content

Highlight Markus:

"...we would be looking for the body text of publications written and commonly read in the Balinese script, rather than merely the use of alternate versions of Latin-script names and titles."

Response:

The Balinese script continues to be used for extended body text in both printed and digital publications, demonstrating its role as a living and functional writing system rather than a decorative or symbolic one. It is actively employed in books, magazines, community newsletters, and online platforms, where the body text is written entirely in Balinese script and read by native users. These publications encompass religious, literary, and educational genres, showing that Balinese-script literacy is maintained in diverse communicative domains.

Contemporary printed works produced by PT Percetakan Bali—including titles such as Dharma Kusuma, Candra Bhanu, Puja Pangastawa, and Udyoga Parwa—are fully typeset in Balinese script and remain available through commercial distribution. Similarly, online media such as Dina Nemangkin and Wiki Lontar (Balinese Wikisource) publish full articles and manuscripts using Balinese script, which are regularly accessed and contributed to by readers and writers within the Balinese community.

This continued publication activity indicates that the Balinese script remains an active medium of literacy, enabling extended textual communication in both traditional and digital environments.

Evidence:

- Printed books by PT Percetakan Bali written entirely in Balinese script (Figure 3 8).
- Online content written fully in Balinese script (Figure 1).
- Active community contributions to Balinese-script manuscripts on Wikisource (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Example of an online article written entirely in Balinese script on Dina Nemangkin (https://dinanemangkin.id/@assan.html), illustrating contemporary use of the script for full body text in digital publications, not limited to titles or decorative elements.

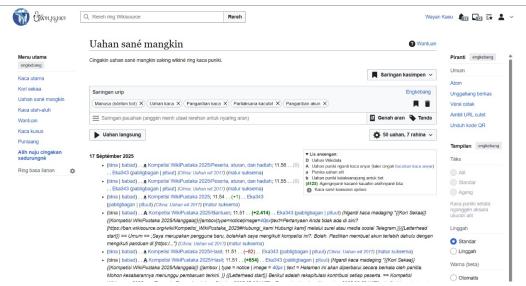


Figure 2. The Wiki Lontar page on Balinese Wikisource

(https://ban.wikisource.org/wiki/Pupulan Lontar WikiLontar2021), showing digitized Balinese literary manuscripts written entirely in Balinese script. This demonstrates active community engagement in preserving, reading, and authoring Balinese-script content within an open digital platform.



Figure 3. Price list of Balinese-script books currently published and commercially distributed by PT Percetakan Bali (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jhp2 mX8X8K5757UtIDCLPTIBBL0b8 y?usp=sharing)



Figure 4. Dharma Kusuma — A book containing teachings on moral and ethical values expressed in Old Javanese and Sanskrit.



Figure 5. Candra Bhanu — A literary work written entirely in Balinese script, illustrating the sustained tradition of Balinese literary publication.



Figure 6. Puja Pangastawa — Contains a collection of mantras used by pemangku (priests) for offering rituals in religious ceremonies.

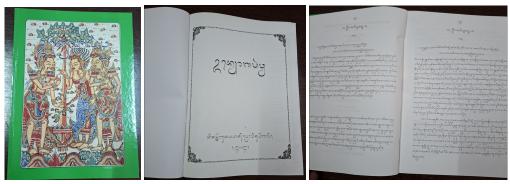


Figure 7. Udyoga Parwa — A kakawin (epic poem) from the Mahabharata, the fifth part of the Asta Dasa Parwa, narrating the Pandawa brothers' disguise and the beginning of the Bharatayuddha war.

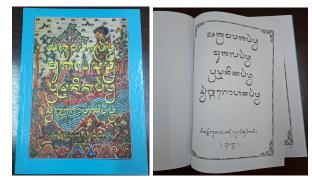


Figure 8. Ashramawasha Parwa — Comprises sections from the Mahabharata, including Ashramawasha Parwa, Mushala Parwa, Prastanika Parwa, and Swargarohana Parwa, recounting the final journeys of the Pandawa brothers and Krishna.

Active online community (Wikipedia, etc.)

Highlight Markus:

"...we would be looking for evidence of an active community of users authoring and reading online forum content, such as a Wikipedia in Balinese script."

Response:

We recognize the importance of digital communities. There is an initiative for a Balinese-script Wikipedia and other online forums that serve as platforms for users to write and read in the Balinese script. These communities are sustained with consistent contributions.

Evidence:

Links to Balinese-script Wikipedia or similar platforms, along with user contributions and readership data. https://ban.wikisource.org/wiki/Pupulan Lontar WikiLontar2021



Figure 9. Example of Balinese-script interface on the Balinese Wikisource (Wiki Lontar) platform, showing community-contributed manuscripts written entirely in Balinese script. This illustrates the existence of an active user community engaged in reading, editing, and preserving digital Balinese-script texts.

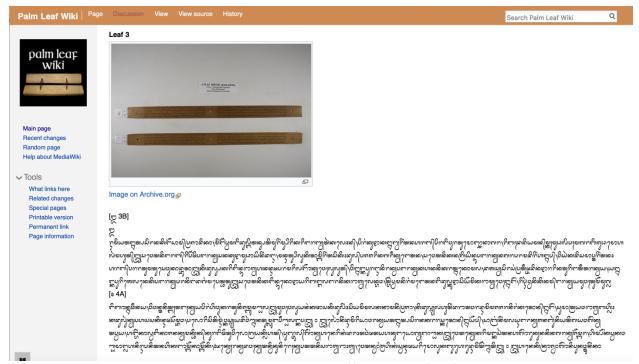


Figure 10. Balinese section of the Palm Leaf Wiki (https://palmleaf.org/wiki/Bali), an online repository documenting traditional manuscripts and inscriptions in Balinese script. This demonstrates the script's integration into open-access digital archives and ongoing community participation in knowledge preservation.

Social media usage

Highlight Markus:

"...we would be looking for evidence of widespread usage in social media, such as Facebook posts, and YouTube descriptions, captions, and comments."

• Response:

The Balinese script has become an increasingly visible and functional medium of online communication across social media platforms. Users actively write and interact using the script in Facebook groups, Instagram comment sections, and YouTube descriptions, demonstrating that Balinese-script literacy is not confined to ceremonial, educational, or institutional domains. Instead, it forms part of everyday digital expression and identity among Balinese users.

This phenomenon reflects a growing trend of digital literacy and cultural pride, where community members consciously choose to type, caption, and comment in Balinese script to preserve and normalize its presence in online spaces. The use of Unicode-based Balinese input tools—such as the Tamiang Keyboard—has further facilitated this practice by making it easier to write the script natively on smartphones and computers. Consequently, Balinese is now actively used to express greetings, prayers, humor, and cultural reflections in online interactions, reinforcing its vitality as a living script in the digital era.

Evidence:

- Screenshots and references to authentic examples of Balinese-script social media activity:
- Facebook: Active use of Balinese script in captions, posts, and comments within public community groups (e.g., Aksara Bali Facebook Group, Bali Sanskrta Community), where users engage in discussions, share materials, and promote script learning.
- Instagram: Posts and comment threads from institutions such as Magister Informatika Universitas Udayana showcase natural use of Balinese script in public engagement (see Figure 14), evidencing literacy in non-formal contexts.
- YouTube: Educational and cultural channels—such as Parwata TOP Channel and tutorial playlists dedicated to writing Balinese script (see Figure 13) highlight active digital learning and content creation.
- Search discoverability: Unicode-based Balinese content is indexed and searchable on platforms like Google (see Figure 15), indicating broad integration into the modern digital ecosystem.

These examples collectively demonstrate that Balinese-script usage on social media is both widespread and meaningful, signifying not only digital adaptation but also community-driven cultural continuity in the 21st century.

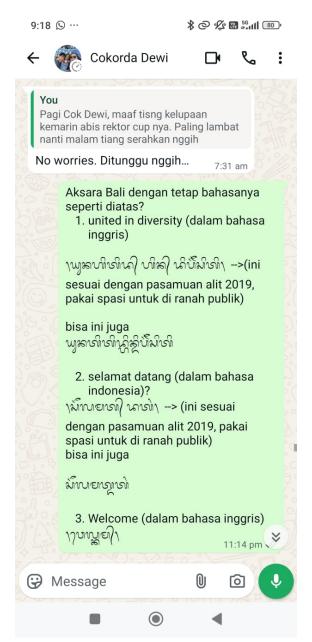


Figure 11. Example of Balinese script used in WhatsApp messenger conversations, showing everyday digital communication between users in native script. This illustrates informal, spontaneous literacy practices beyond formal or ceremonial contexts.

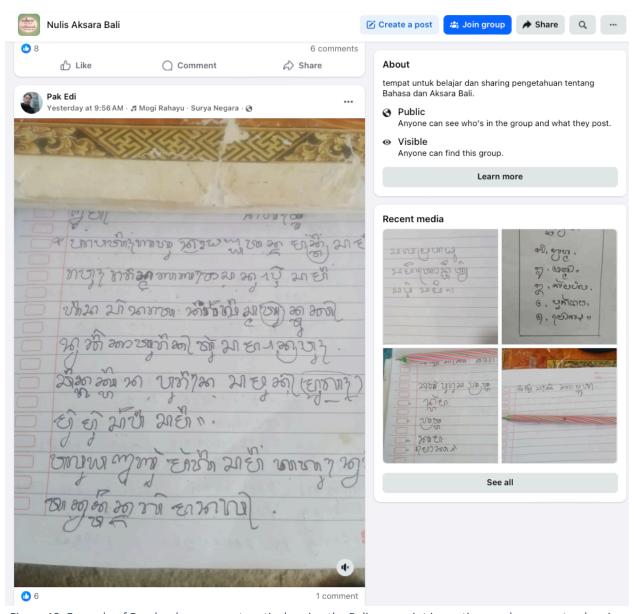


Figure 12. Example of Facebook group posts actively using the Balinese script in captions and comments, showing community engagement and literacy in social media contexts.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/244754527362890/



Figure 13. Facebook community page actively promoting the use of the Balinese script through member posts, discussions, and shared materials, illustrating living literacy practices in digital spaces.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/379404296197528/

In addition to social media platforms, the Balinese script is actively taught and promoted through YouTube content. Several creators have developed video tutorials dedicated to writing and reading the Balinese script, reaching a broad audience across Bali and beyond. These videos include step-by-step lessons and demonstrations of digital and handwritten Balinese script, reflecting ongoing community efforts to strengthen literacy and digital engagement. Channels

such as Parwata TOP Channel and tutorial playlists like this series feature practical guidance for learners, further illustrating the script's sustained relevance in modern digital learning environments.

- 1. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhLCNWvHloKsf5XQxx9DTeohfhUT1-14F
- 2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHIVAcijgNA
- 3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k uX-00dJ08
- 4. https://www.youtube.com/@ParwataTOPChannel



Figure 14. Instagram post by Magister Informatika, Universitas Udayana. Comments show active use of Balinese script in everyday social-media interaction, illustrating living digital literacy beyond formal contexts.

https://www.instagram.com/p/DJrH9YiyCn8/?img_index=1

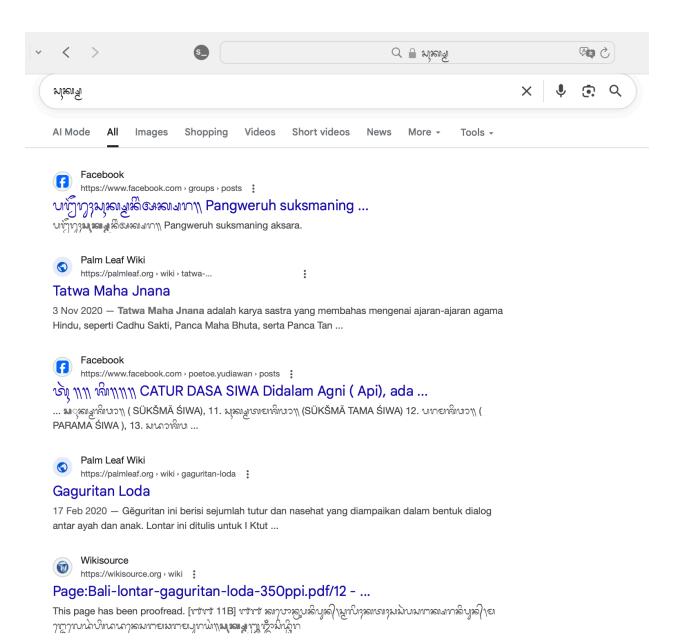


Figure 15. Google search results for the Balinese-script keyword "22222222" (suksma), showing active indexing and retrieval of Balinese-script content across multiple platforms, including Facebook, Palm Leaf Wiki, and Wikisource. This demonstrates that Unicode-encoded Balinese text is recognized, searchable, and utilized in modern digital environments.

Educational materials beyond language teaching

Highlight Markus:

"...we would welcome evidence of commonly used school materials in Balinese script for topics other than teaching the script."

• Response:

The Balinese script functions as a living medium for cultural, religious, and educational expression, extending well beyond its role in language instruction. While it is primarily used for writing in the Balinese language, its communicative scope encompasses moral education, cultural heritage, folklore, and social values that form an essential part of local education and daily life in Bali.

In formal education, the script remains integral to the local curriculum through courses such as *Muatan Lokal Bahasa dan Aksara Bali, Agama Hindu* (Religious Studies), and *Seni Budaya* (Arts and Culture). Within these subjects, students engage with classical and contemporary Balinese texts—*kakawin, slokantara, tattwa*, and moral stories—that foster reading comprehension, ethical reflection, and cultural identity. These materials demonstrate that the Balinese script continues to be a functional medium for transmitting local wisdom and values rather than being restricted to script-learning exercises alone.

As shown in Figure 3, the catalogue of books produced and distributed by PT Percetakan Bali further illustrates this diversity of content. Many of these Balinese-script books are not only designed for educational purposes but also address everyday life, folklore, ritual practices, and moral guidance in Balinese society. Titles such as Dharma Kusuma, Candra Bhanu, Puja Pangastawa, and Udyoga Parwa reflect a wide range of topics—from ethical teachings and literary works to traditional narratives and epic poetry—demonstrating the ongoing cultural literacy of Balinese readers across generations.

Beyond printed materials, teachers' associations (MGMP Bahasa Bali) and the Provincial Education Department of Bali are developing contextual learning modules that apply Balinese script in broader subject areas. These include story-based problems in elementary mathematics, environmental awareness lessons grounded in local wisdom, and creative assignments integrating Balinese script into art, storytelling, and digital media projects. Such initiatives encourage students to apply the script in multidisciplinary contexts, ensuring its continued relevance in both formal education and everyday learning environments.

Overall, the enduring presence of Balinese-script materials across educational and cultural domains demonstrates that the script remains an active instrument of

knowledge transmission, moral development, and community identity—well beyond its use in teaching orthography alone.

Statistics & technical aspects

Highlight Markus:

"Document L2/24-019 provides details for what evidence we expect to see for this kind of classification."

• Response:

In terms of digital statistics, Balinese-script content currently appears limited. However, in practice, there are **two-character representations** in use:

- 1. ANSI
- 2. Unicode

The Balinese community has long been introduced to ANSI-based Balinese script, as older input devices (keyboards) relied on the QWERTY layout. As a result, much online content—including *BASA Bali Wiki*—was written in ANSI and rendered as Balinese script.

Only in early 2023 did the **Tamiang Keyboard** become publicly available, adopting Unicode for Balinese script input. With the reclassification of Balinese to **recommended**, existing ANSI-based content is expected to migrate to Unicode, which would significantly improve both the **quantity** and **quality** of Balinese script use in digital spaces.

Evidence:

- Examples of BASABali Wiki content rendered via ANSI.
- Quantitative data of online Balinese-script content (Unicode and ANSI).
- Information on the Tamiang Keyboard release (2023).
 Tamiang release the Governour of Bali https://bmc.baliprov.go.id/news/title/gubernur-bali-luncurkan-keyboard-aksara-bali



Figure 16. Launch of the Tamiang Keyboard by the Governor of Bali in 2023, marking the first publicly available Unicode-based Balinese script input system. This innovation enables standardized digital writing and supports the transition from legacy ANSI encoding to full Unicode adoption in Balinese-script usage.

An illustrative example (see Figure 17) can be seen on the BASABali Dictionary page for the entry "Abah" (https://dictionary.basabali.org/Abah). In earlier versions, the word was displayed using ANSI encoding as "hb;", which visually rendered as Balinese script through a non-Unicode font. In contrast, the current Unicode-based representation appears correctly as [2][2], ensuring standardized encoding and cross-platform readability. This comparison highlights the ongoing migration from legacy ANSI systems to full Unicode implementation within Balinese digital resources, improving linguistic accuracy, accessibility, and interoperability across platforms.

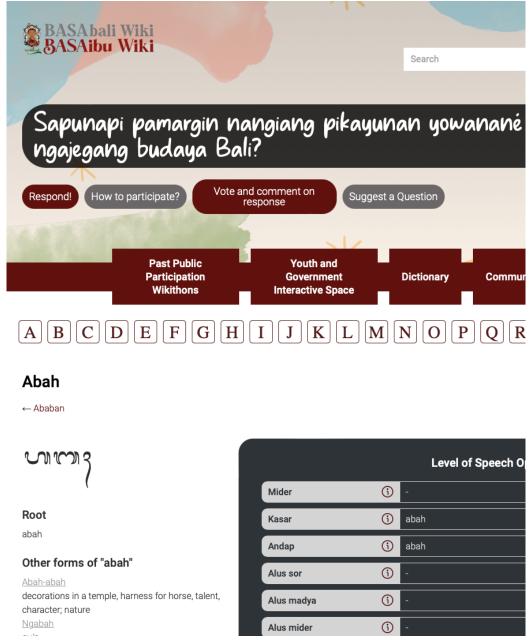


Figure 17. Example of BASABali Wiki Dictionary entries showing the transition from ANSI-based to Unicode-based Balinese script rendering. This illustrates the ongoing migration toward standardized digital representation and interoperability across online Balinese-language resources.