

**TO:** UTC  
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**TITLE:** SEI Liaison Report  
**DATE:** July 28, 2026

This document provides a summary of the UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative's recent activities.

### *Proposals/documents*

The following SEI-funded proposals were recently submitted to Unicode:

- Proposal to Encode the **Ndiko Jonam** Script in the UCS (revised), Oreen Yousuf [[L2/26-055r](#)]
- Proposal for Encoding the **N'ti** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Ibrahima Ceesay [[L2/26-087](#)]
- Proposal to Encode **Codical Maya** Hieroglyphs in Unicode, Carlos Pallán, Andrew Glass, and Céline Tamignaux [[L2/26-145](#)]
- Proposal to Encode **Maya Hieroglyphs Extended-A**, Gabrielle Vail, Andrew Glass, and Alexandre Bassi [[N5367](#)]\*
- Proposal to Encode the **Lampungic** Script in Unicode, Febri Muhammad Nasrullah [previous: [L2/26-194](#)]
- Proposal to encode **Vatteluttu** in Unicode, Anshuman Pandey [to be posted]\*

\*not yet discussed by the Script Encoding Working Group

### *Ongoing Script Work*

In addition to those listed above, the following script proposals are in active development, and are expected to be submitted to SEW for review in the next six months:

- Kulitan (Revised)
- Linear Elamite (Revised)
- Masaba (Revised)
- Persian Siyaq (Revised)
- Proto-Sinaitic (Preliminary)
- Zou (Zolai) (Revised)

Other ongoing projects include: Book Pahlavi, Box-Headed, Byblos, Kerinci, Kurukh Banna, Proto-Elamite, Ranjana, and a review of the Rejang code block. We have also been assisting on a Gurung Khema font and other support, in conjunction with JamraPatel and Translation Commons.

The full list of SEI-funded projects, including those currently inactive or awaiting more information, is available on the SEI website ([sei.berkeley.edu/scripts-to-encode](http://sei.berkeley.edu/scripts-to-encode)).

## *Research Activities*

### *Ongoing Projects*

This spring, we hosted Bríd-Áine Parnell, doctoral researcher at the University of Edinburgh, as a visiting scholar in the UC Berkeley Department of Linguistics. Bríd-Áine is investigating the gap between design and implementation of the Unicode Standard in government databases. You can read her reflections about her visit with SEI in [this blog post](#).

This year's research fellows, working on Buginese-derived scripts (Febri Muhammad Nasrullah), Nsibidi (Jordan Williams), and Kulitan (Julie Sayo), are continuing to collect data from the field in support of their projects and will be writing blog posts and research reports as their fellowship terms come to a close.

We are continuing our efforts to scan and study the Unicode archival collections held at Stanford University. Our scans are available for access by researchers on a requested basis. Last summer's SEI intern Bryce Hoenigman has returned this summer to improve our cataloging and qualitative coding of these materials.



*Helena Kansa and Bryce Hoenigman in the archives last summer*

We are beginning to organize our research around three research streams: neographies, post-encoding realities, and Unicode histories, seeking funding and establishing student research opportunities for each. We will have a postdoctoral scholar, [Katherine Russell](#), join us under the neographies stream beginning this September.

Our work with the [Missing Scripts](#) project continues, now in its tenth year. We have been working on a revision to the [World's Writing Systems](#) posters and anticipate a new release this fall.

### *Upcoming Presentations*

[UTW 2026: Unicode in the World](#) (Nancy, Oct 20-23, 2026): Kyra Ann Dawkins and Helena Kansa will present a talk on accessibility scripts; Anushah Hossain will participate in a plenary on "Telling the Story of Unicode"

### *Recent Gatherings & Presentations*

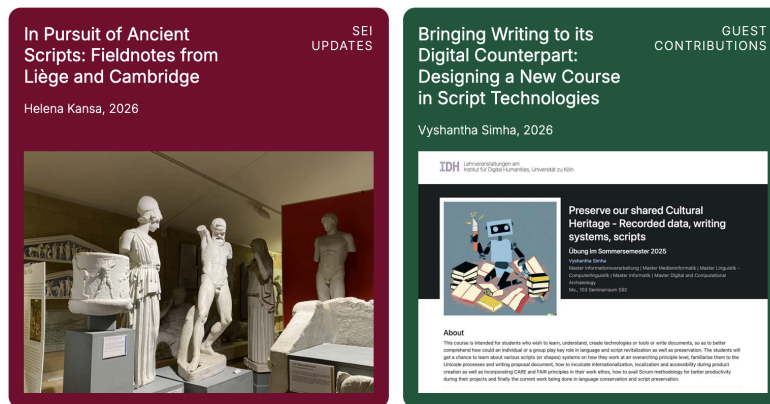
- **Poggio Civitate Archaeological Excavation** (Murlo, Italy July 14, 2026): Helena Kansa presented, “Working with Old Italic: Understanding Unicode to Document Etruscan Writing.”
- [/gʌfematik/ - Grapholinguistics in the 21st Century](#) (Reading, UK June 24-26, 2026): Anushah Hossain presented a paper with Missing Scripts collaborators Johannes Bergerhausen and Thomas Huot-Marchand on “A Text Processing Theory of Script.” [[Recording](#)]
- **ISO/IEC 10646 JTC1/SC2/WG2** (Paris, France June 22-26, 2026): Debbie Anderson and Anushah Hossain participated in annual meetings about the Universal Coded Character Set.
- [Special Interest Group in Computing, Information, and Society](#) (Berkeley, USA June 17-18, 2026): Anushah Hossain presented about early Unicode history.
- [Association Typographique Internationale](#) (Stanford, USA May 27-30, 2026): Alexandre Bassi presented about the Maya encoding project; Anushah Hossain presented about thinking in terms of a “text stack.” [Recordings: [Bassi](#), [Hossain](#)]



## Public Communications

SEI has continued sharing its work via a [monthly newsletter](#) and its [blog](#). Recent blog posts include:

- [Encoded Erasure: Online Name Misrepresentation through the History of Unicode](#) by Bríd-Áine Parnell
- [In Pursuit of Ancient Scripts: Fieldnotes from Liège and Cambridge](#) by Helena Kansa
- [Bringing Writing to its Digital Counterpart: Designing a New Course in Script Technologies](#) by Vyshantha Simha
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We have also been working with designers Juliette Flécheux and Noémie Garnier to add a translation option to select blog posts and a search bar to the SEI website, which are now available.

Latest translations:

- [De la piedra a la pantalla: Diseñando una tipografía de Jeroglíficos Mayas del periodo clásico](#) - Alexandre Bassi (translated by Franco Jonas)
- [De la pierre à l'écran: Conception d'une police de caractères pour les Hiéroglyphes Mayas de la période classique](#) - Alexandre Bassi (translated by Alexandre Bassi)
- [Aksara Lampung dan Masyarakatnya: Refleksi Diri dari Penelitian Lapang SEI di Sumatra](#) - Ariq Syauqi (translated by Ariq Syauqi)
- [Préserver le patrimoine à l'ère du numérique: Le projet d'inclusion numérique de l'écriture Bété](#) - Adam Yeo (translated by Adam Yeo)
- [Mitbringen: Schriften nach dessen Digital-Gegner, ein Entwurf für den neuen Kurs in Schrift-Technologien](#) - Vyshantha Simha (translated by Vyshantha Simha)

## *Administrative Updates & Funding*

SEI has been partnering with Unicode to host UTW 2026 this October in Nancy, France. This event will include opportunities to expand international engagement with type designers, policy makers, and software internationalization experts and will feature curated multidisciplinary panels. **Information about the event is available at:** <https://www.unicode.org/events/utw/2026/>



*ENSAD campus and site of UTW 2026*

We look forward to hosting the Unicode Technical Committee meeting in spring 2027, on the occasion of SEI's 25th year.

SEI is currently pursuing membership in INCITS Character Sets and Internationalization

SEI is formally housed in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, but is entirely sustained by external grants and donations.

This year we raised \$3500 from UC Berkeley's annual fundraiser, the Big Give, and other private donations. Ongoing funding for basic operations and script research currently comes from the Mellon Foundation's Public Knowledge program, and will provide support from Sept 2024 - Aug 2028. Additional funding for public communications projects from Sept 2024 - Aug 2026 comes from the Internet Society Foundation. Funding for our neographies research and postdoctoral scholar from Sept 2026 - Aug 2028 comes from the U.S. National Science Foundation, under the Science and Technology Studies program. Proposal work by Anshuman Pandey and Carlos Pallán is also being supported through the Unicode Adopt-a-Character (AAC) program.

SEI accepts donations from private donors via our website (<https://sei.berkeley.edu/donate/>). We are continually seeking funding to be able to expand our team and the projects we support.