ISO/IEC JTC/1 SC/2 WG/2 IRG

Ideographs Rapporteur Group

Secretariat: China

Title: Comment on WG2 M41.9
       (Single column for Unified CJK ideographs of ISO/IEC 10646-1)
Doc. Type: National body Contribution
Source: NB of Japan   -tks
Status: to be reviewed at #19 IRG
Date: 2002-04-20
Distribution: JTC1 SC2 WG2 and JTC1 SC2 IRG
References: WG2 resolution M41.9
Number of pages: 2

The WG2 resolution M41.9 requests a feedback from the IRG about the possibility of changing a layout of CJK ideographs portion of ISO/IEC 10646-1 from multiple column to single column.

The National body of Japan requests #19 IRG to confirm the conclusion that was made after the discussion at #18 IRG on this subject.

The conclusion was that the IRG likes to keep current multiple column layout, and do not want to shift to single column layout.

The rationales on this conclusion were that:

1. The selection and verification process of glyphs to be printed in the single column is very time consuming and complex process. IRG might not afford the resources to do it. (Please recall of the time the IRG spent after glyph character selection for extension-B has made.)

2. The conversion may loose the information about "actual unification range" on each code points. The amount of information with in the ISO/IEC 10646 will be reduced. On the

other hand, no new value will be added to the standard after conversion to the single column.

In addition, the NB of Japan wants to point out one more thing, which was not discussed at the last IRG meeting.   When it first appeared, one of the reasons for single column proposal was a publication cost.   Because 10646 is now published as an electronic form in CD-ROM, and the 10646 CD-ROM has a lot of extra space (only 1/8 of the media are currently used), changing to the single column layout doesn't reduce any publication costs.   Thus, changing to the single column layout is just a waist of resources of IRG (and loss of information.)

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