

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set

UCS

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The members of the Old Hanzi Expert Group has discussed the issues of Old Hanzi for preparing valid encoding model at the Oriental Hotel, in Jeju of Korea in Dec 1, 2004. In the meeting, the members reviewed the documents IRGN999 and IRGN1052 first, and then discussed the working procedure. The followings are the conclusion:

1. Old Hanzi should be considered and classified as different scripts from CJK Ideographs.

There is a very closed relationship between Old Hanzi and modern ideographs. Basically, Old Hanzi is the ancient type of modern ideographs. But there are some differences between them. The basic handing unit of Old Hanzi is line and that of modern ideographs is stroke. In addition, there is not one-to-one mapping between Old Hanzi and modern ideographs. Based on the reasons above, Old

Hanzi should be encoded separately from CJK Ideographs.

2. Each type of Old Hanzi, due to their unique characteristics, should be classified as separate script.

There is generally no one-to-one mapping between Old Hanzi and modern ideograph, or between the main types of Old Hanzi. The meanings and correspondences of many Old Hanzi are still unknown. Therefore, each type of Old Hanzi should be encoded in its own block (even when there is a clear one-to-one mapping with modern ideograph). This will enable the different types to be distinguished in plain text, and will facilitate research leading to mappings.

3. Types of Old Hanzi:

For the time being, Old Hanzi Expert Group has identified the following first three types of Old Hanzi as the work scope:

- (1) Oracle bone inscription (甲骨文)**
- (2) Bronze inscription(金文)**
- (3) Small Seal(小篆)**
- (4) Others**

Note: There is still no common understanding about scripts during Warring States (in the 4th type above). It will be studied later.

4. Principles and rules of character selection

(1) Principle of historical authenticity:

Only authentic Old Hanzi should be encoded in the Old Hanzi blocks. Sometimes new Imitation Old Hanzi, corresponding to modern ideographs, are created for decorative purposes. These Imitation Old Hanzi are unimportant for research of Old Hanzi, and in any case they can be represented accurately using special fonts with the same encodings as modern ideographs.

(2) Principle of holding significant nuance:

For deciding between unification and separation of similar forms that are believed to be variants of each other, the unification principles for Old Hanzi should be established. Comparing to the unification principles of CJK unified ideographs, the unification principles would slightly tend more towards separation, since some small differences could have significance in future scholarly research. It is important to point out that Old Hanzi are primarily of interest to scholars who often need to make fine distinctions.

(3) Principle of glyph integrity:

Only complete glyphs will be selected, excluding those broken with missing parts.

(4) Rules of character selection

An Old Hanzi may have different glyphs due to their differences in the time period of use, place of origin and aesthetic purposes. All such different glyphs of an Old Hanzi would be selected.

5. Rules of collation

Scholars commonly arrange Old Hanzi (not only Small Seal but also Oracle and Bronze inscription) according to the 540 radicals of Shuowen Jiezi(《說文解字》). It is therefore proposed to use the 540 radicals as collating scheme for all types of Old Hanzi. Detailed collating rules (in their order of precedence) are listed in the following:

- (1) Old Hanzi found in Shuowen Jiezi will be sorted as they were in Shuowen Jiezi (540 radicals).
- (2) Old Hanzi not found in Shuowen Jiezi will be assigned a radical for sorting in according to the Shuowen Jiezi (540 radicals).
- (3) For Old Hanzi which cannot be handled by the above 2 rules, they will be sorted according to their attributes (namely: the time period of use, place of origin and aesthetic purposes).

6. Format of submission

Serial No.	Rep. Script/ Glyph	Original Shape/ Glyph	Source	Period/ Epoch	Area/ Terrain	Material	Radical	Glyph Determ.	Corresp. Modern Char	Notes
1										
2										

For example:

7. The work plan

Member parties interested are requested to submit their Old Hanzi samples to the Old Hanzi Technical Secretary, in the format shown above, before 31 January 2005. The samples should include three types, namely Oracle bone inscription(甲骨文), Bronze inscription(金文) and Small Seal(小篆) of Old Hanzi, with ten sample glyphs for each type.

Members attended the meeting were Li Guoying, Wang Tieku, Yin Jianghong, Dai Hong, Wang Xiaoming, Shi Jianqiao, Zhang Liwei, Wu Jian, Bill Ling, Heo Chul, Julie S. C. Chuang, Judy Liu, Hsu Hsueh Jen, Selena Wei, WU Lieh-neng, Lee Jae Hoon, Lee Kyoo Kap, Lee Kyeong Won, Yasuhiro Anan, ATSUJI Tetsuji, Chan Kim Kun (Arnie), Ng Sio U, Richard S. Cook.