## Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set UCS

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N4048

**IRG N1786** 

Date: 2011-5-13

Doc. Type: Member body contribution

Title: Request for comments on font-making of oracle-bone scripts

Source: TCA

Status: Input to WG2 and IRG

Action: For discussion at the meeting

Distribution: WG2 members and IRG members

No. of pages: 4

None

Appendixes

Medium:

Electronic

The Old Hanzi Expert Group had accomplished the collecting and reviewing work for the version 1 of the Oracle-bone script repertoire which contains about 7,000 Oracle-bone scripts. The reviewing work of the Oracle-bone script repertoire version 2 is in progress. According to the resolution IRG M36.7, the reviewing work for the Oracle-bone script repertoire version 2 will be finished at IRG#39, on Nov. 12-16, 2012. In order to support the code chart of Oracle-bone scripts, TCA will provide the TTF fonts for the 7,000 Oracle-bone scripts. Some samples of oracle-bone scripts and fonts are shown in Fig 1. The cells in the right-most column contain the ink rubbings from original oracle-bone materials. The cells in the middle column contain the hand drawings which are drawn by some Old Hanzi experts, according to each ink rubbing. And the cells in the left-most column contain the TTF fonts which are generated by the technicians of TCA, according to each hand drawing. Millions of TW dollars will be spent on generating TTF fonts of 7,000 Oracle-bone scripts. TCA needs to correctly and carefully produce those fonts of Oracle-bone scripts to avoid wasting time and money. Hence TCA requests comments in written from WG2 and IRG member bodies to help us successfully accomplish our job.

Fig 1 samples of oracle-bone scripts and fonts

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# ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2/IRG N1786\_ROKFeedback Doc. #: Korea JTC1/SC2 K2059\_1

### Korea JTC1/SC2, Committee on Character Codes

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Author: KIM, Kyongsok Date: 2011.06.14. Status: NB position

Subject: R.O. Korea's comments RE: IRGN 1786 Request for Comments on

Font-making of Oracle-Bone scripts (= WG2 N4048)

Relevant documents: IRG N1786 (= WG2 N4048), WG2 N4095

#### 1. Background

1.1 This is in response to TCA's document IRG N1786 (= WG2 N4048), "Request for comments on font-making of oracle-bone scripts"

... In order to support the code chart of Oracle-bone scripts, TCA will provide the TTF fonts for the 7,000 Oracle-bone scripts. Some samples of oracle-bone scripts and fonts are shown in Fig 1.

... the cells in the left-most column contain the TTF fonts which are generated by the technicians of TCA, according to each hand drawing. ...

TCA needs to correctly and carefully produce those fonts of Oracle-bone scripts to avoid wasting time and money. Hence TCA requests comments in written from WG2 and IRG member bodies to help us successfully accomplish our job.

#### 1.2 Request of feedback for Old Hanzi Encoding Architecture

Resolution IRG M36.9: Old Hanzi Encoding Architecture Unanimous Action: All Member Bodies

The IRG accepts the recommendation from the Old Hanzi Expert Group and requests its members to review IRGN1771 and provides feedback for discussion in IRG#37.

#### 2. R. O. Korea's feedback:

- R.O. Korea discussed this issue within domestic committee and concluded as follows:
- 2.1 It seems that OHEG (Old Hanzi Expert Group) members did not agree for TCA to make a font. (Please correct me if I am wrong).
- If that is the case, procedurally, it seems improper to make a font at this point.
- R.O. Korea suggests that, before making an Oracle Bone font, OHEG members agree to make an Oracle Bone font.
- 2.2 OHEG did not report to IRG (and get an approval from IRG) that TCA would make a font. (Please correct me if I am wrong).
- If that is the case, procedurally, it seems improper to make a font at this point.
- R.O. Korea suggests that, before making an Oracle Bone font, OHEG report to IRG and get an IRG approval for making an Oracle Bone font.
- 2.3 representative forms/glyphs for each Oracle Bone character
- In Table "Character Glyph mapping for sample code chart" on page 4 in IRG N1771, out of several glyphs, one character is selected as a representative form or glyph.
- Based on IRG N1771, it seems that no consensus has been made yet within OHEG regarding representative forms/glyphs out of several glyphs for each Oracle Bone character (Please correct me if I am wrong).
- I would like to know whether consensus is made within OHEG regarding representative forms/glyphs for each Oracle Bone character.
- If representative forms have not been decided yet within OHEG, it seems premature to make an Oracle Bone font at this point.

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XX001	ORACLE BONE AFFAIR	**	女	W 14	4	X A					- 10-2-01/

- R. O. Korea suggests that, before making an Oracle Bone font, OHEG decide on representative forms of Oracle Bone characters for which to make a font.

#### 2.4 Reviewing 7,000 Oracle Bone characters

- Based on IRG N1771, it seems that Japan proposed encoding for about 2,000 'stable' Oracle Bone characters. Feedbacks from member bodies are requested for this proposal.
- Therefore, it seems that 7,000 Oracle Bone characters have NOT been reviewed carefully enough yet to make an Oracle Bone font for 7,000 characters (Please correct me if I am wrong).
- If that is the case, it seems premature to make an Oracle Bone font at this point.
- R.O. Korea suggests that, before making an Oracle Bone font, OHEG review carefully Oracle Bone characters for which to make a font.

#### 2.5 Terms: font, script

- I am somewhat confused about the usage of terms font and script.

#### 1) font

- One font can contains many glyphs.
- One glyph corresponds to one character (roughly).
- It is highly probable that TCA will make one font (containing 7,000 glyphs) OR a few fonts (each of which contains hundreds of or thousands of glyphs), NOT 7,000 fonts.

#### 2) script

- I wonder if, within OHEG, an expression such as "7,000 Oracle-Bone scripts" is used instead of, for example, "7,000 Oracle-Bone characters".
- R.O. Korea suggests that OHEG define relevant terms (e.g., font, script, Oracle Bone character) and use them consistently.

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## ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 N4095

Title: Japanese Comments on TCA submission N4048

Date: 2011-6-3 Source: Japan

References: N4048, N2684, IRG N1460, IRG N1770, IRG N1771

Status: National Body Contribution

Expected Action: For discussion by WG 2

Regarding with N4048, the submission by TCA to request the comment for the Oracle Bone font production, Japan national body has a concern that the activity of Old Hanzi group is becoming something different from what reported to WG2 in 2003. In N2684 (IRG N1014, draft agreement on Old Hanzi encoding, 2003-11-19), the steps toward to standardization had ever been described as:

- a) attempt to establish a consensus on the principles listed above;
- b) prepare draft code charts for the three main types<sup>1</sup> of Old Hanzi, along with detailed sources and references for each character;
- c) make the draft code charts available for evaluation by the international community;
- d) revise the draft code charts on the basis of this evaluation;
- e) submit the revised code charts to IRG for approval.

Also in IRG N1460 (meeting report of IRG#28, 2007-06-12), the Old Hanzi group resolved that consolidated information and findings will be released so that other experts may provide their comments.

The items b) & c) for Oracle Bone should be executed for first. In addition, N4048 has some problems listed in below, and difficult to review as a separated document.

#### 1. The proposal should follow past discussion at IRG and Old Hanzi meetings.

N4048 does not refer any IRG documents; it is difficult for the readers to figure out what is being processed. To request the comment for Oracle Bone activity, the current status and the brief summary (not the expected size of the repertoire) should be reported, with referential materials.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Now Old Hanzi group is working for the standard character encodings for Oracle Bone, and will work for Bronze Inscription and Small Seal in future.

#### The purpose of the font production is unclear.

N4048 requests for the comments for the font production, but the purpose of the font is not clarified in the document. If TCA is going to produce a font to replace the manually traced pictures the database, it should be clarified. Following comment assumes that TCA requests the comments for the font production to print the code chart in ISO/IEC 10646.

#### 3. The left work items of Old Hanzi project are unclear.

The assumed relationship between Oracle Bone script repertoire and the character sets in ISO/IEC 10646 is still unclear. Japan national body had ever expressed a concern about the lack of fundamental definitions, and submitted a proposal of a possible character - glyph model for Oracle Bone script (IRG N1771) by using ISO/IEC TR 15285. IRG Rapporteur and Old Hanzi chair encouraged the feedback (Resolution M36.9, IRG N1770). The feedback on the code architecture proposal should be given before working for the code chart, if TCA thinks the font for the code chart must be produced urgently.

#### Conclusion

If there is no cancellation of the previous agreements in Old Hanzi group, the public release of the draft, the review and the comment disposition is the most important task as the first agreement (N2684) noted. Also the output from Old Hanzi group to WG2 should be reviewed and approved by IRG. But if Old Hanzi group thinks that the instruction of working items and reviewing process at IRG are not needed and direct discussion in WG2 is better, Japan proposes to separate Old Hanzi group from IRG.

(end of document)