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Information and documentation — Codes for the representation of names of scripts

Information et documentation — Codes pour la représentation des noms d'écritures

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation.*

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15924:2004), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— the normative references clause has been updated;

— references to the holder of the Registration Authority in the text have been removed, examples and references throughout the document have been updated.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Information and documentation — Codes for the representation of names of scripts

1 Scope

This document provides a code for the presentation of names of scripts. The codes were devised for use in terminology, lexicography, bibliography, and linguistics, but they can be used for any application requiring the expression of scripts in coded form. This document also includes guidance on the use of script codes in some of these applications.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
alias
script code (3.8) which encompasses two or more script codes

3.2
code
data representation in different forms according to a pre-established set of rules

[SOURCE: ISO 639-2:1998, 3.1]

3.3
country code
combination of characters used to designate the name of a country

3.4
font
collection of *glyph* (3.5) images having the same basic design

EXAMPLE *Courier Bold Oblique*.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 9541-1:2012, 3.6]

3.5
glyph
recognizable abstract graphic symbol which is independent of any specific design

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 9541-1:2012, 3.12]

3.6
language code
combination of characters used to represent [the name of] a language or languages

[SOURCE: ISO 639-2:1998, 3.2]

3.7
script
set of graphic characters used for the written form of one or more languages

Note 1 to entry: A script, as opposed to an arbitrary subset of characters, is defined in distinction to other scripts; in general, readers of one script may be unable to read another script easily, even where there is a historic relation between them (see 3.9).

Note 2 to entry: In certain cases, ISO 15924 provides codes which are not subsumed under this definition. Examples: the codes for aliases and the variant codes.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 10646:2020, 3.48]

3.8
script code
combination of characters used to represent the name of a *script* (3.7)

3.9
script variant
particular form of one *script* (3.7) which is so distinctive a rendering as to almost be considered a unique script in itself

4 Script codes

4.1 Structure of the alphabetic script codes

The alphabetic script codes are created from the original script name in the language commonly used for it, transliterated or transcribed into Latin letters. If a country, where the script concerned has the status of a national script, requests a certain script code, preference is given to this code whenever possible. The four-letter codes shall be written with an initial capital Latin letter and final small Latin letters (taken from the range Aaaa to Zzzz). This serves to help differentiate script codes from language codes and country codes: so, for example, **Mong mon MON** or **Mong mn MN** would refer to a book in the Mongolian script, in the Mongolian language, originating in Mongolia.

NOTE See 4.7 regarding changes to the codes.

4.2 Structure of the numeric script codes

The numeric script codes have been assigned to provide some measure of mnemonicity to the codes used. The following ranges have been used:

000–099 Hieroglyphic and cuneiform scripts

100–199 Right-to-left alphabetic scripts

200–299 Left-to-right alphabetic scripts

300–399 Alphasyllabic scripts

400–499 Syllabic scripts

500–599 Ideographic scripts

600–699 Undeciphered scripts

700–799 (unassigned)

800–899 (unassigned)

900–999 Private use, aliases, special codes

NOTE 1 ISO/IEC 10646 uses the character-glyph model (defined in ISO/IEC TR 15285) to classify the characters used to write different languages. ISO 15924 does not attempt to apply the character-glyph model, because it is sometimes important to identify certain script variants regardless of the encoding a given text may employ. For example, a Syriac book can be written in one of the three variants of the Syriac script (Estrangelo, Eastern, Western). Identification of such script variants, while outside the scope of ISO/IEC 10646, is relevant to the content of script codes. For example, a user ordering a book through interlibrary loan might prefer, or might wish to exclude, the Gaelic variant of the Latin script for reasons of ease of legibility or familiarity with one of the variants.

NOTE 2 The classifications here reflect the chief attribute of the scripts so classified, and are not necessarily comprehensive of the ways in which the scripts are used. For example, while Ogham can be written from left to right, it is also written vertically from bottom to top. Similarly, the Hangul (*Hangŭl, Hangeul*) alphabet is sometimes written in vertical columns, and the letters of its alphabet are arranged in syllabic clusters.

NOTE 3 Within each category numeric identifiers assigned to scripts have followed a principle of chronology, and genetic relationship, though this principle cannot be established by any hard and fast rule, since scripts may have many different characteristics. Codes have been assigned by spacing them out so that scripts encoded in future may be assigned to appropriate places in the range.

4.3 Relation of the script codes to other ISO standards

The four-letter codes are derived from ISO 639-2 where the name of a script and the name of a language using the script are identical (example: *Gujarātī* ISO 639-1 **guj**, ISO 15924 **Gujr**). In cases where there is no identity, the script name may have a unique form.

EXAMPLES Korean **kor**, Hangul (Hangŭl, Hangeul) **Hang**; Punjabi **pan**, Gurmukhī **Guru**; Dhivehi **div**, Thaana **Thaa**

Where possible, the first three letters of the four-letter code correspond to the three-letter code. Preference is given to the Bibliographical codes given in ISO 639-2 in deriving the codes specified in this document.

4.4 Adaptation of the script codes

When adapting this International Standard to other scripts (for example, Cyrillic or Greek), codes shall be formed according to the principles of this document.

4.5 Addition of new script codes

For the purpose of allocating additional script codes, ISO has designated a Registration Authority for ISO 15924. The responsibilities of the Registration Authority shall be as given in Annex A.

The name and contact information of the Registration Authority for this document can be found at http://www.iso.org/mara.

4.6 Application of script codes

Script codes can be used in the following particular instances.

4.6.1 To indicate generally the scripts in which documents are or have been written or recorded.

EXAMPLE

```
<META NAME="Content-Script" CONTENT="Latg, Cyrl">
```

4.6.2 To indicate the script specified in document holding records (order records, bibliographic records, etc.).

EXAMPLE 1 In bibliographies:

— *Röyte pomerantsen: Jewish folk humor.* New York: Schocken Books, 1965. xxvi, 203 p.; 20 cm. In Yiddish (Latn) and English.

— *Kroatisch-Deutsch und Deutsch-Kroatisch: mit einem Anhang der wichtigeren Neubildungen des Kroatischen und Deutschen.* – Berlin: Axel Juncker, 1941. vi, 302, 314, 32 p.; 15 cm. In Croatian (Latn) and German (Latf).

EXAMPLE 2 In catalogue records:

Uniform title: Tipiṭaka. Suttapiṭaka. Majjhimanikāya. Hindi & Pali.

Title: Suttapiṭake Majjhimanikāyapāli = Majjhima nikāya : Mūlapariyāyavaggo, Sīhanādavaggo ca, Hindī-anuvādasahito / padhānasampādako Svāmī Dvārikādāsaśāstrī.

Edition: 1. saṃskaraṇa.

Published: Vārāṇasī : Bauddhabhāratī, 1989-<1993>

Description: 23 cm.

Series: Bauddhabhāratīgranthamālā ; 22-<23-25>

LC Call No.: BQ1313.H5D93 1989

Notes: In Pali (Deva); introd. in English and Hindi; translation in Hindi. Theravada Buddhist canon. 1. Mūlapaṇṇasakam. (3 v.) -- 4. Majjhimapaṇṇāsakam. -- 5. Uparipaṇṇāsakam..

Language(s): hi, en, pi

Other authors: Dwarikadas Shastri, Swami.

Other titles: Majjhima nikāya.

4.6.3 To indicate the script used by an application.

EXAMPLE Laser Syriac: The fonts supplied in this package are coded according to collection 85 of ISO/IEC 10646:2020, Annex A and provide a complete set of glyphs in all three of the styles used to write Syriac (Syre, Syrn, Syrj).

4.7 Changes of script codes

In order to preserve the integrity of data coded using the codes set forth in this document, it is intended that the four-letter and numeric codes specified herein shall not be changed unless there be extraordinarily compelling reasons to do so.

Annex A
(normative)

Procedures for the Registration Authority and the Registration Authority's joint advisory committee

A.1 Registration Authority

ISO has designated a Registration Authority for this document (ISO 15924/RA). It is responsible for the addition of script codes according to these procedures, as stated in 4.5.

The name and contact information of the Registration Authority for this document can be found at http://www.iso.org/mara.

A.2 Responsibilities of the Registration Authority

A.2.1 Application for the addition of new and for the change of existing script codes

The ISO 15924/RA shall receive and review applications for the addition of new script codes and for the change of existing script codes. It shall suggest an assignment of a code when the relevant criteria are met according to the rules given in A.3.3 and A.3.4, and inform the applicant of the result of ISO 15924/RA actions.

A.2.2 Maintenance of list

The ISO 15924/RA shall maintain an accurate list of information associated with assigned script codes. If necessary, it shall safeguard any confidential information. It shall process updates of added script codes and distribute them on a regular basis to subscribers and other parties.

A.2.3 Other general responsibilities

The ISO 15924/RA shall do the following:

— handle all aspects of the registration process in accordance with good business practice;

— indicate in operations that it has been designated as ISO 15924/RA by ISO;

— provide an annual summary report on activity to the ISO TC46 Secretariat;

— provide advice on implementation and use of ISO 15924, as needed.

A.3 Joint advisory committee ISO 15924/RA-JAC

A.3.1 General

A joint advisory committee ISO 15924/RA-JAC is established to advise the ISO 15924/RA. It shall guide the application of the coding rules as laid down in this document.

A.3.2 Composition

A.3.2.1 General

The ISO 15924/RA-JAC is composed of:

— one (1) representative of the Registration Authority (see 4.5);

— one (1) representative of the ISO 639-2/RA;

— one (1) representative of ISO TC46 (nominated by ISO TC46);

— one (1) representative of ISO TC37 (nominated by ISO TC37);

— tow (2) representatives of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 (nominated by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2).

The ISO technical committees may nominate substitute representatives.

A.3.2.2 Membership

The three technical committees may nominate substitute representatives. The representative of the Registration Authority will hold the chair. Technical experts may be asked to participate as non-voting observers. The observers are entitled to receive documents sent to the ISO 15924/RA-JAC membership and are expected to provide comments in return.

A.3.3 Working procedures within ISO 15924/RA-JAC

ISO 15924/RA-JAC works primarily by electronic correspondence and exceptionally by meeting. If a meeting is necessary, it shall preferably be held in conjunction with plenary meetings of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 or ISO TC46 and ISO TC46/WG3.

A.3.4 Additions and deletions to the list of entities, changes of codes

Requests for additions, deletions, and changes of codes shall be supported by a justification. When ISO 15924/RA consults ISO 15924/RA-JAC about the proposed inclusion, deletion or change, and suggests a code, ISO 15924/RA-JAC is obliged to respond within one month.

In general, script codes shall be added to ISO 15924

— when the script has been coded in ISO/IEC 10646, and

— when the script is agreed, by experts in ISO 15924/RA-JAC, to be unique and a candidate for encoding in the UCS.

This does not mean that the script will be encoded in the UCS. Undeciphered scripts, such as Rongorongo, is considered a candidate but may not be encoded because of its controversial nature Rongorongo is so complex that without a decipherment it may not be technically feasible to encode it in the near future.

A.3.5 Reservation of codes

When a request for inclusion of a new entity has been rejected, ISO 15924/RA may reserve the requested code for the use of the applicant and other possible users. ISO 15924/RA will keep a record of such reservations.

A.3.6 Creation of script codes

The creation of script codes is subject to the rules described in 4.1.