

TO: Unicode Technical Committee

FROM: Deborah Anderson

DATE: 24. August 2003

RE: Liaison report, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley Dept. of Linguistics

Ongoing work:

N'Ko: Seven letters in support of encoding N'Ko, a native script used in West Africa and elsewhere, is included in L2/03-265. One of the key backers of the effort to encode N'Ko, Mamady Doumbouya, made a trip to Africa in June 2003 and spoke with various N'Ko groups on behalf of the effort to get N'Ko into Unicode. The organizations promised support for this effort. Sharon Correll from SIL has developed a preliminary Graphite implementation for N'Ko.

Balinese: The Balinese community held a presentation on Balinese and Unicode before a panel of professors of literature in July, which was the first face-to-face meeting with users on this subject. This seminar was meant to inform and publicize the Unicode encoding effort amongst the user population. A second meeting will be held in October 2003 specifically on Balinese script computerization, with the goal of being able to identify the character repertoire by the end of the meeting.

Avestan and Mandaic: Michael Everson has received travel/lodging funds from the Iranian Academy of Sciences so that he can travel to Iran and work on Avestan and Mandaic. A final proposal will, hopefully, be readied soon.

Medieval (European) manuscripts: There was a meeting in June at Oxford between Michael Everson some medievalists (including Odd Einar Haugen, Norway and António Emiliano, Lisbon). Michael will be working on a proposal for those characters which he feels eligible.

Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform: Members of the UCLA Cuneiform Digital Library have recently reported that work continues apace on the Sumero-Akkadian proposal, with a draft probably to be ready by next month. A full proposal is anticipated at the November UTC meeting held at Johns Hopkins.

Indic Scripts: In September, we will meet with Dr. Richard Salomon, University of Washington, who is an authority on Indic scripts. I will also follow up on the contacts for various Indic scripts as provided by Prof. Peri Bhaskararao, of ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Tibetan Extensions: Ongoing discussion on Tibetan extensions is underway on the Tibex list (as well as one run by the University of Virginia, TibetScript@virginia.edu [formerly "THDL"]).