Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: **Working Group Document**
Title: **Proposal for encoding the Woleai script in the SMP of the UCS**
Source: **UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)**
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Status: **Liaison Contribution**
Action: **For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**
Date: **2011-10-21**
Replaces: **N3977**

1. Introduction. The Woleai script has its origins in a diffusion of the Latin script to the Woleai Atoll. Alfred Snelling, a missionary in Chuuk (then called Truk) in 1888, had evidently helped to devise a Latin alphabet for the Chuukese language. In 1905 he became lost at sea and landed with his Chuukese crew on the island of Eauripik, a Woleaian-speaking atoll 100 km to the southwest of Woleai itself. There he taught the Latin orthography for Chuukese to the Woleaians, who re-interpreted the alphabet as a syllabary, where each letter-name stood for its syllable (consonant + -*i*). Later the writing spread to other islands in the Woleai Atoll, and additional characters were devised on the island of Faraulep (perhaps after "the big typhoon" in 1907), since a syllabary with endings in -*i* was not sufficient to be practical. An expedition from Hamburg arriving in Woleai in 1909 discovered the writing system and did ethnographic research on it, though this was not published until 1929. Riesenberg and Kaneshiro's work was collected in 1954–57 and published in 1960.

The Eauripik characters were described by Riesenberg and Kaneshiro as "Type 2 script", and the script identified by their informants as originating in Faraulep as "Type 1 script". Both Type 1 and Type 2 characters were used together; the classification is useful only in determining the development of the script. Although Type 2 characters have their origin in the Latin script, Type 1 characters are new additions to the script (some of which represent different fish, parts of the body, and parts of canoes), which spread to many of the islands in the Woleai group. Usage of the script appeared to be in decline in the 1950s. It could be found in a variety of contexts, including personal tattoos.

2. Processing. Woleai is written from left to right horizontally. Manuscript texts are often written without spaces between words, though U+0020 SPACE is found in transcriptions and is likely to be preferred for general use. No ligation or other shaping behaviour is found in Woleai.

3. Glyphs. A certain amount of variation in shape is found in the manuscripts; the font used in this proposal was developed by Michael Everson on the basis of the charts in Riesenberg and Kaneshiro 1960.

4. Sorting. There exist a number of Type 1 abecedaries, in which more variation is found after the first 50 characters than before, which may indicate the relative age of the development of the characters. It may be the case that modern users will prefer a Latin-based ordering, since Woleai has a Latin orthography now. More research is required.

5. Character names. The names used for the characters here are based on those given in Riesenberg and Kaneshiro 1960. The spelling of the names should perhaps be updated to reflect the modern Latin orthography. More research is required.

6. Numerals. No digits are found in the texts; it must be assumed that European digits would be used.

7. Unicode Character Properties

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16B80;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B81;WOLEAI SYLLABLE GO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B82;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B83;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B84;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B85;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B86;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B87;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B88;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B89;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PEO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8A;WOLEAI SYLLABLE ME;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8B;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGE-1;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8C;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8D;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8E;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8F;WOLEAI SYLLABLE IU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B90;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B91;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B92;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWEO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B93;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHEO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B94;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B95;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B96;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MAA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B97;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B98;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B99;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9A;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9B;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9C;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9D;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LEO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9E;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9F;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TEO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE GIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAE;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAF;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE GE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE GEO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHIU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBE;WOLEAI SYLLABLE POA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBF;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGE-2;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
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16BC4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TAA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE EO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE HA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE ROA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RYO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NMA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE I;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YEO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE GI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE LI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDE;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDF;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BE0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BE1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BE2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE U;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
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8. Punctuation. No punctuation marks have been observed in use with Woleai.

9. Bibliography

Riesenberg, Saul H. and Shigeru Kaneshiro. 1960. "A Caroline Islands Script", in *Anthropological Papers, No. 60*. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office.