

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

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Preliminary proposal to encode the Osage script in the UCS
Source: Michael Everson, Herman Mongrain Lookout, Cameron Pratt
Status: Individual Contribution
Date: 2014-02-20

1. Introduction. This document requests the addition of the Osage script to the UCS.

1.1. Background. A variety of ad-hoc Latin orthographies and transcriptions have been used for the Osage language over the past 210 years, having been devised by people for reasons such as bible verse translation, language documentation, and study. Most of the writing systems were prepared by second-language Osage speakers. One of the earliest sources is dated circa 1851, attributed to Father Ponziglione, a Jesuit priest who ministered to the Osage.

2. The development of the Osage script. In 2004, the 31st Council of the Osage Nation passed a resolution initiating the Osage Language Program. Soon after, Herman Mongrain Lookout—known as “Mogri”—was hired as the director, and was afforded office space in downtown Pawhuska, Oklahoma. At that time no standard orthography existed for Osage, and students were exhorted to “spell it like you hear it”, which, naturally, led to conflicting conventions which differed from student to student and which lacked linguistic robustness. Mogri developed a Latin-based orthography which used all capitals: SHOⁿ-KE ‘dog’, TSI ‘house’, TA ‘deer’, KE ‘turtle’. It soon became felt that students’ knowledge of the English orthographic values of these letters interfered with good pronunciation of Osage, and by 2006, working with advanced learners, a practical orthography had been designed whose letters were ultimately based on Latin letters or fusions of Latin letters, but which were treated as a different script entirely. The words above were written ႰO[^].ႰႰ ‘dog’, ႰႰ ‘house’, ႰႰ ‘deer’, ႰႰ ‘turtle’.

The Osage script was take up with alacrity by students and teachers, and has been consistently and regularly used throughout the Osage Nation since 2006. In 2012 a number of linguists and language-speakers raised some issues about the repertoire of characters employed, on the basis of their experience using it. Cameron Pratt and Dylan Herrick produced some documents analysing the use of the script and outlining questions which they felt should be examined and addressed.

At the same time graphic artist Ryan RedCorn and more recently Jessica Harjo had explored Osage typography and noticed a number of features which they felt to be somewhat problematic. Issues of character encoding and of orthographic reform began to be discussed with Michael Everson late in 2012 and early in 2013, and finally a three-day working seminar was hosted by the Osage Language Department on 12–14 February 2014, at which questions of linguistic issues, graphic design and fonts, and character encoding were discussed at length. Participants in the seminars included Mogri Lookout (who devised the script), linguist Cameron Pratt, teachers and curriculum developers Janice

Carpenter and Stephanie Rapp, graphic designers Jessica Harjo and Ryan RedCorn, governmental representative Geoffrey StandingBear, and other members of the Osage community.

3. Structure of the Osage script. The Osage script is a casing alphabet which is written from left to right.

3.1. Osage consonants. The table below shows the relation between Osage consonantal phonology. The first column for each consonant is the transcription used in Quintero 2009, the second IPA transcription, and the third Osage orthography.

	Labial		Dental		Palatal-alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Glottalized stops	pʔ pʔ pʔ		cʔ tsʔ ʔʔ			kʔ kʔ kʔ	(ʔ)(ʔ)–
Lax voiceless stops	p p p		t t ɖ		č tʃ ɕ	k k k	
Affricates	c ts ʔ						
Preaspirated/tense voiceless stops	hp ʰp p̥		ht ʰt ɖ̥		hč ʰtʃ ɕ̥	hk ʰk k̥	
Voiced stops	br bɹ ɹ						
(Post)aspirated stops	pš pʃ pʂ		ch tsʰ ʔʂ			kš kʃ kʂ	
	px px pʰ		tx tx ɖʰ			kx kx kʰ	
Voiceless/tense fric.			s s ɕ		š ʃ ɕ	x x ʰ	h h ʂ
Voiced/lax fricatives			z z ʒ		ž ʒ ʒ	ɣ ɣ ʂ	
Palatalized						kʲ kʲ kʲ	hʲ hʲ ʂ
Nasals	m m ɱ		n n ɳ				
Approximants	w w ɹ		l l ɭ				
			ð ð ɳ				

3.2. Osage vowels. Oral and nasal vowels are distinguished by means of a diacritic dot:

Λ Λ A a, Ω Ω E e, Ω Ω I i, O o O o, U u U u; Λ κ A q, Ω π I j, O σ Q q

This diacritic is not a combining mark and cannot stand alone; three diphthongs use a similar dot inside the character (also not a combining character); there is also one oral diphthong:

Λ Δ aḡ aḡ, Ω Ω Eḡ eḡ, O o Oḡ oḡ; Λ Δ Ai ai

Long vowels are indicated by means of U+0304 COMBINING MACRON ABOVE:

Ā ā Ā ā, Ō ō Ō ō, Ū ū Ū ū; Ā ā Ā ā, Ō ō Ō ō, Ū ū Ū ū

Where pitch accent needs to be indicated U+0301 COMBINING ACUTE ACCENT is used:

Á á Á á, Ó ó Ó ó, Ú ú Ú ú; Á á Á á, Ó ó Ó ó, Ú ú Ú ú
 Á á Á á, Ó ó Ó ó, Ú ú Ú ú; Á á Á á

Where pitch accent needs to be indicated in conjunction with vowel length, U+030B COMBINING DOUBLE ACUTE ACCENT is used:

Ǻ Ǻ Ǻ Ǻ, Ǫ Ǫ Ǫ Ǫ, Ǭ Ǭ Ǭ Ǭ; Ǻ Ǻ Ǻ Ǻ, Ǫ Ǫ Ǫ Ǫ, Ǭ Ǭ Ǭ Ǭ

4. Reforms of previous orthography. Five reforms were agreed at the February 2014 meeting, which have been implemented in the present proposal. The first of these was the introduction of case pairs. The examples of the introduction of case into Old Hungarian by young learners, and of the ramifications of the re-introduction of case into the existing Cherokee encoding were discussed at considerable length, and during the February meetings everyone including Mogri Lookout and the two graphic designers was quite certain that the script was “mature” enough to acquire and

7. Digits and punctuation. Osage makes use of standard European digits and punctuation.

8. Unicode Character Properties.

TO BE SUPPLIED

9. References.

Quintero, Carolyn. 2009. *Osage dictionary*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. ISBN 978-0-8061-3844-2

Osage Nation Language Department. ᎠᎩᎠᎩᎠ ᎠᎩ [wa.ža.že i.e]: *Osage Language Beginner Lessons*.

10. Acknowledgements. This project was made possible in part by support from the organization Friends of Osage Language, Inc., and in part by support from the Language Department of the Osage Nation.

11. Figures.

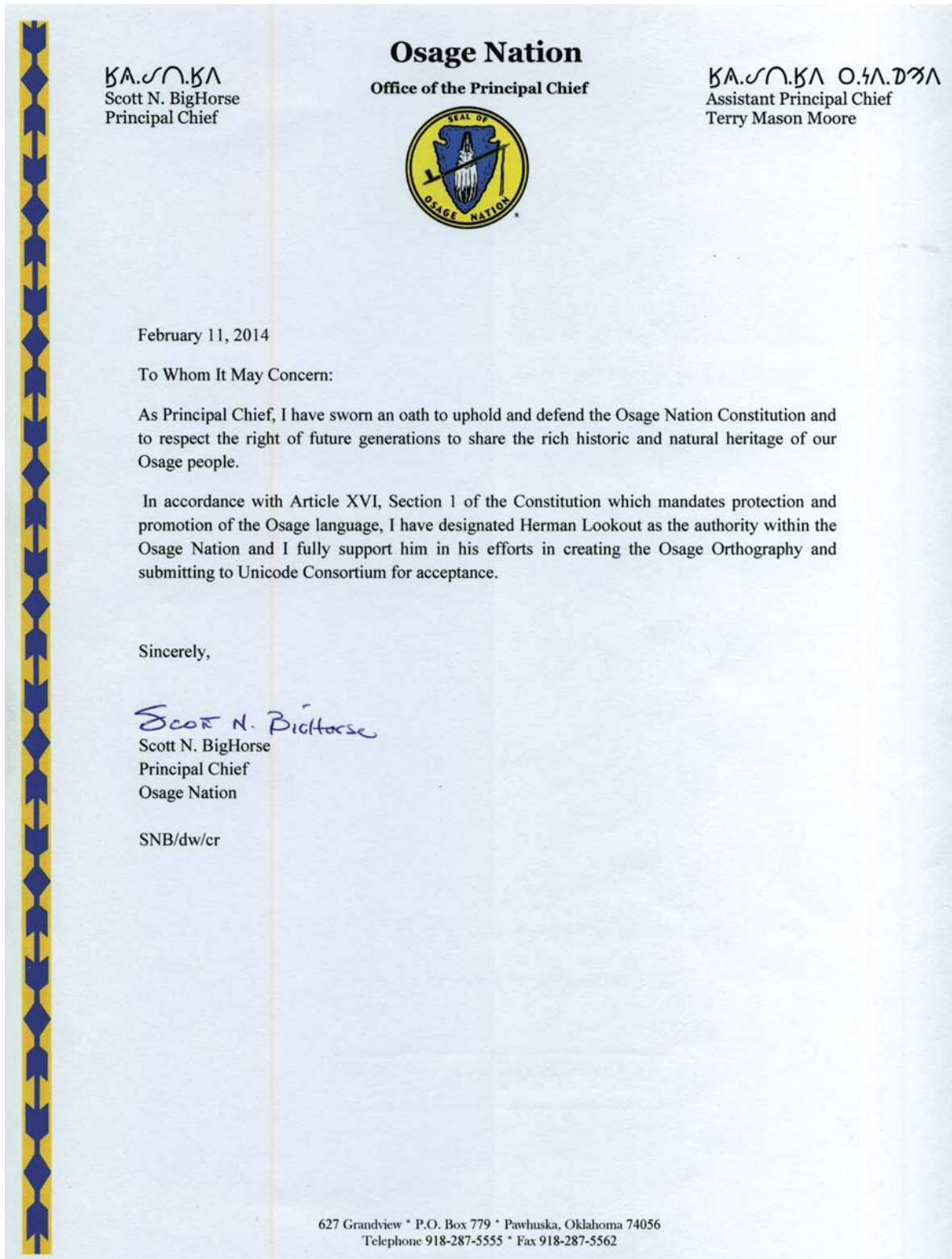


Figure 1. Letter from the Principal Chief of the Osage Nation detailing Herman Mongrain Lookout’s authority in the matter of Osage orthography and the UCS encoding.

Osage Orthography

Primaries

- Λ 'awe' sound as in the word, **aw**esome.
- ∩ long e sound as in the word, sl**ee**p.
- α short e sound as in the word, **egg**.
- λ short u sound as in word, **buh!**
- long o sound as in the word, **oh**.
- U 'oo' sound as in the word, **boot**.
- ^ nasal sound
- Δ blend of Λ and ∩^
- ⊙ blend of ○ and ∩^
- ⊘ blend of α and ∩^
- Λ∩ blend of Λ and ∩

Modifiers

- Ƴ similar to the 'X' sound, but guttural.
- Ꞛ english S
- ꞛ english H
- Ꞝ english W
- ꞝ english L
- Ꞟ english M
- ꞟ english N
- Ꞡ english Z
- ꞡ between the 'P' and 'B'
- Ꞣ between the 'K' and 'G'
- ꞣ between the 'T' and 'D'
- Ꞥ blend of T and H as in the word, **the**se.
- ꞥ blend of S and H as in the word, **sh**ip.
- Ꞧ blend of C and H as in the word, **ch**ip.
- ꞧ blend of Z and H as in the word, **treasur**e.
- Ꞩ blend of T and S together.
- ꞩ blend of ꞡ medial and R.
- Ɦ blend of S and K.
- Ɜ blend of K and Y.
- Ɡ blend of H and Y.
- Ɬ blend of S and D



Figure 2. Description of the earlier Osage orthography.



Figure 5. Exterior of the Osage Language Department showing the script in use. The text in red says *Ważaże ie* ‘Osage language’.



Figure 6. The Osage Language Department in Pawhuska, Oklahoma.



Figure 7. One of many drawings by children displayed in the Osage Language Department. Text reads: ᑕᐱ ᓴᓕᓂ ᑭᓕᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᑭᓴ ᑭᓂ; in another font style ᑕᐱ ᓴᓕᓂ ᑭᓕᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᑭᓴ ᑭᓂ.



Figure 8. More drawings by children displayed in the Osage Language Department.

ᑭᐱ.ᐱᑎ ᑭᐱ.ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ
I want to address everyone as friends and relatives

ᑎ.ᐱ ᑎᑎ.ᐱ ᐱ.ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ
I want to say a few words

ᑭᐱ ᑭᐱ.ᐱᑎ ᑭᑎ.ᐱ ᑭᑎ.ᐱ
I am addressing you all.

ᑭᐱ.ᐱᑎ ᑭᐱ.ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ
I want to address everyone as friends and relatives

ᑎ.ᐱ ᑎᑎ.ᐱ ᐱ.ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎ.ᑭᑎ
I want to say a few words

ᑭᐱ ᑭᐱ.ᐱᑎ ᑭᑎ.ᐱ ᑭᑎ.ᐱ
I am addressing you all.

Figure 9. Above, text in the original standard “Official Osage font”; below, examples of Jessica Harjo’s experiments in quite graceful Osage typography, using the original orthography. The text reads: ᑭᐱᐱᑎ ᑭᐱᑭᑎᑎᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎᑭᑎ, ᑎᐱ ᑎᑎᐱ ᐱ.ᑭᑎᑎᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎᑭᑎ, ᑭᐱ ᑭᐱᐱᑎ ᑭᑎᐱ ᑭᑎᑎᐱ; in another font style: ᑭᐱᐱᑎ ᑭᐱᑭᑎᑎᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎᑭᑎ, ᑎᐱ ᑎᑎᐱ ᐱ.ᑭᑎᑎᑎ ᑭᑎ ᑭᑎᑭᑎ.



Figure 10. Typographic explorations in a heavy display face by Ryan RedCorn.

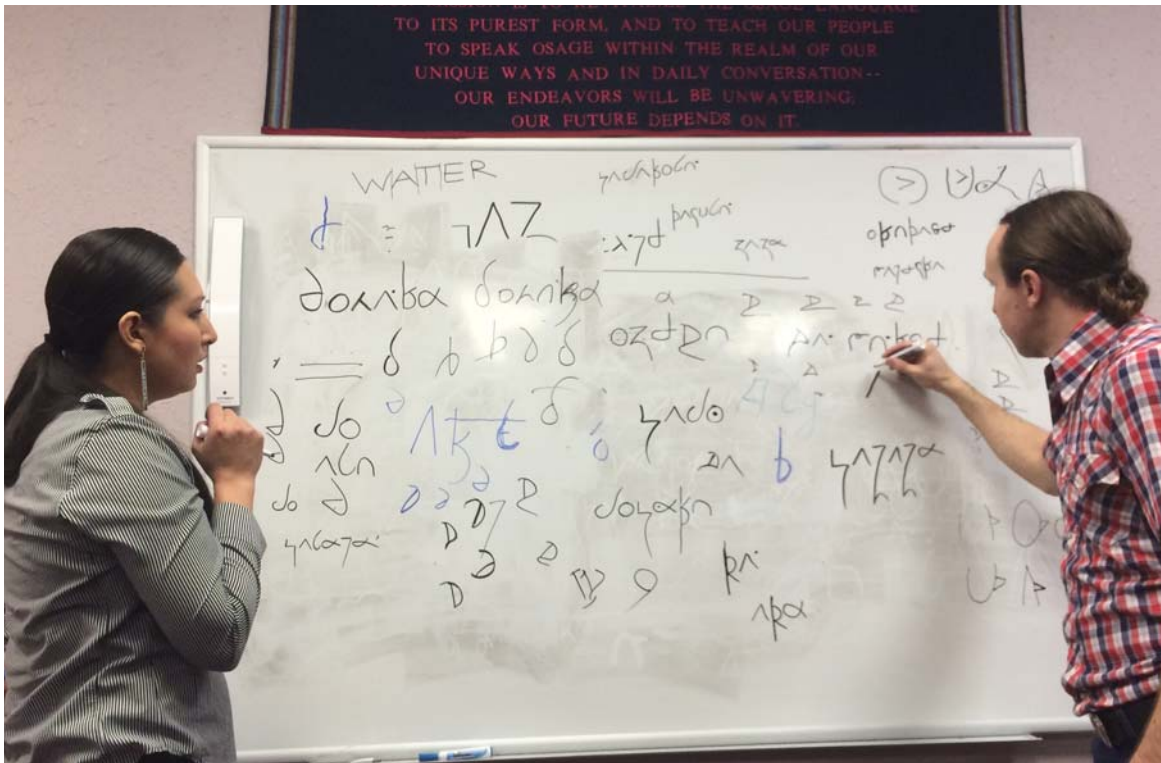


Figure 11. Jessica Harjo and Ryan RedCorn on the third day of the seminars in February 2014. Text here is casing, and the lower-case letters have ascenders and descenders.



Figure 12. Participants in the third day of seminars in February 2014. From left to right are Stephanie Rapp, Janis Carpenter, Michael Everson, Mogri Lookout, Jessica Harjo, Cameron Pratt, and Ryan RedCorn.

	104B	104C	104D	104E	104F
0	Λ 104B0	Ɔ 104C0	Ʒ 104D0	α 104E0	Ɔ 104F0
1	Λ̇ 104B1	Ɔ̇ 104C1	Ʒ̇ 104D1	α̇ 104E1	Ɔ̇ 104F1
2	Λ̂ 104B2	Ɔ̂ 104C2	Ʒ̂ 104D2	α̂ 104E2	Ɔ̂ 104F2
3	Λ̣ 104B3	Ɔ̣ 104C3	Ʒ̣ 104D3	α̣ 104E3	Ɔ̣ 104F3
4	ƚ 104B4	Ɔ̇̂ 104C4	Ʒ̇̂ 104D4	α̇̂ 104E4	Ɔ̇̂ 104F4
5	ƚ̇ 104B5	Ɔ̇̂̇ 104C5		ƚ̇̂ 104E5	Ɔ̇̂̇ 104F5
6	ƚ̂ 104B6	Ɔ̂̇ 104C6		ƚ̂̇ 104E6	Ɔ̂̇ 104F6
7	ƚ̣ 104B7	Ɔ̣̇ 104C7		ƚ̣̇ 104E7	Ɔ̣̇ 104F7
8	α̇̂ 104B8	Ɔ̇̂ 104C8	Λ̇̂ 104D8	Ɔ̇̂ 104E8	Ʒ̇̂ 104F8
9	α̇̂̇ 104B9	Ɔ̇̂̇ 104C9	Λ̇̂̇ 104D9	Ɔ̇̂̇ 104E9	Ʒ̇̂̇ 104F9
A	α̂̇ 104BA	Ɔ̂̇ 104CA	Λ̂̇ 104DA	Ɔ̂̇ 104EA	Ʒ̂̇ 104FA
B	α̣̇ 104BB	Ɔ̣̇ 104CB	Λ̣̇ 104DB	Ɔ̣̇ 104EB	Ʒ̣̇ 104FB
C	α̇̂̇̂ 104BC	Ɔ̇̂̇̂ 104CC	ƚ̇̂̇̂ 104DC	Ɔ̇̂̇̂ 104EC	Ʒ̇̂̇̂ 104FC
D	ƚ̇̂̇̂̇ 104BD	Ɔ̇̂̇̂̇ 104CD	ƚ̇̂̇̂̇ 104DD	Ɔ̇̂̇̂̇ 104ED	
E	ƚ̇̂̇̂̇̂ 104BE	Ɔ̇̂̇̂̇̂ 104CE	ƚ̇̂̇̂̇̂ 104DE	Ɔ̇̂̇̂̇̂ 104EE	
F	ƚ̇̂̇̂̇̂̇ 104BF	Ɔ̇̂̇̂̇̂̇ 104CF	α̇̂̇̂̇̂̇ 104DF	Ɔ̇̂̇̂̇̂̇ 104EF	

Capital letters

104B0	Λ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER A
104B1	Λ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER AN
104B2	Λ̃	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER AI
104B3	Λ̄	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER AIN
104B4	ᚱ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER BRA
104B5	ᚦ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER CHA
104B6	ᚦ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER EHCHA
104B7	ᚺ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER E
104B8	ᚺ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER EIN
104B9	ᚾ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER HA
104BA	ᚾ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER HYA
104BB	ᚲ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER I
104BC	ᚲ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER IN
104BD	ᚴ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER KA
104BE	ᚴ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER KYA
104BF	ᚴ̃	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER EHKA
104C0	ᚸ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER LA
104C1	ᚸ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER MA
104C2	ᚸ̃	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER NA
104C3	ᚺ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER O
104C4	ᚺ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER ON
104C5	ᚺ̃	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER OIN
104C6	ᚾ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER PA
104C7	ᚾ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER EHPA
104C8	ᚸ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER SA
104C9	ᚸ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER SHA
104CA	ᚾ	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER TA
104CB	ᚾ̂	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER EHTA
104CC	ᚾ̃	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER TSA
104CD	ᚾ̄	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER EHTSA
104CE	ᚾ̅	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER DHA
104CF	ᚾ̆	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER U
104D0	ᚾ̇	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER WA
104D1	ᚾ̈	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER KHA
104D2	ᚾ̉	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER GHA
104D3	ᚾ̊	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER ZA
104D4	ᚾ̋	OSAGE CAPITAL LETTER ZHA

Small letters

104D8	λ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER A
104D9	λ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER AN
104DA	λ̃	OSAGE SMALL LETTER AI
104DB	λ̄	OSAGE SMALL LETTER AIN
104DC	ᚱ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER BRA
104DD	ᚦ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER CHA
104DE	ᚦ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER EHCHA
104DF	ᚺ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER E
104E0	ᚺ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER EIN
104E1	ᚾ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER HA
104E2	ᚾ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER HYA
104E3	ᚲ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER I
104E4	ᚲ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER IN
104E5	ᚴ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER KA
104E6	ᚴ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER KYA
104E7	ᚴ̃	OSAGE SMALL LETTER EHKA
104E8	ᚸ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER LA
104E9	ᚸ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER MA
104EA	ᚸ̃	OSAGE SMALL LETTER NA
104EB	ᚺ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER O
104EC	ᚺ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER ON
104ED	ᚺ̃	OSAGE SMALL LETTER OIN
104EE	ᚾ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER PA
104EF	ᚾ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER EHPA
104F0	ᚸ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER SA
104F1	ᚸ̂	OSAGE SMALL LETTER SHA
104F2	ᚾ	OSAGE SMALL LETTER TA

104F3	ᚾ̃	OSAGE SMALL LETTER EHTA
104F4	ᚾ̄	OSAGE SMALL LETTER TSA
104F5	ᚾ̅	OSAGE SMALL LETTER EHTSA
104F6	ᚾ̆	OSAGE SMALL LETTER DHA
104F7	ᚾ̇	OSAGE SMALL LETTER U
104F8	ᚾ̈	OSAGE SMALL LETTER WA
104F9	ᚾ̉	OSAGE SMALL LETTER KHA
104FA	ᚾ̊	OSAGE SMALL LETTER GHA
104FB	ᚾ̋	OSAGE SMALL LETTER ZA
104FC	ᚾ̌	OSAGE SMALL LETTER ZHA

A. Administrative

1. Title

Preliminary proposal to encode the Osage script in the UCS

2. Requester's name

Michael Everson, Herman Mongrain Lookout, Cameron Pratt

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Individual contribution.

4. Submission date

2014-02-20

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

No.

6b. More information will be provided later

Yes.

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

Yes.

1b. Proposed name of script

Osage.

1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

No.

1d. Name of the existing block

2. Number of characters in proposal

74.

3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)

Category A.

4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?

Yes.

4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Michael Everson.

5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, Fontographer.

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes.

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

Yes.

8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

See above.

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

No.

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

Yes.

2b. If YES, with whom?

Members of Osage governmental and educational authorities, and others: Debra Atterberry, Janis Carpenter, Jessica Harjo, Mary Linn, Herman Lookout, Ted Moore, Terry Mason Moore, Veronica Pipestem, Cameron Pratt, Billy Proctor, Stephanie Rapp, Ryan RedCorn, Ed Shaw, Geoffrey StandingBear, Joe Tillman.

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

Osage speakers and writers.

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

In modern use.

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

Various publications, many educational.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

No.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Yes.

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No. The script derives from Latin, but is not unifiable with Latin.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

No.

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

Yes.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

No.

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

Yes.

11e. If YES, reference

Existing combining characters are used with Osage vowels to indicate length and pitch accent.

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?