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Procedure for the submission of future proposals for JTC1/SC2/WG2

The question how future proposals for the inclusion of new scripts into IS 10646–1 should be handled is one of considerable importance for the future of SC2/WG2. It has provoked substantial discussion between the member bodies of JTC1 and of SC2 in particular. The Japanese concerns that »it will be quite difficult, in terms of expertise and resources, for JTC 1 to develop and maintain all these standards« must be taken very seriously, especially since some of the proposals have in the past been shown to be of doubtful value.

While DIN supports the encoding of new scripts also for academic environments, it has repeatedly pointed out that it regards a high level of quality control as essential for any new proposal. This becomes all the more important as many of the scripts which will be dealt with in the future are no in active use and are only of potential interest to a very limited user group. The traditional procedure of evaluation through national bodies may become difficult for want of expertise in the scripts in question.

Therefore, DIN demands that any such proposal must either originate from or, at least, have the full backing of eminent authorities in the field before it will even be considered as a proposal. The procedure in WG2 should be amended as follows:

- All proposals must be accompanied by at least two independent reviews by eminent experts in the field;
- at least two independent projects must have already made use of information technology for the script in question and have found a need for interoperability. These projects must support the proposal;
- every proposal must explain its field of application (both geographical and in the academic world).