

## ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2 **N3433**

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TITLE: Comments on N3426: Revised Proposal for encoding Nushu in the SMP of the UCS

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The US welcomes the revised proposal on Nüshu by China, N3426, which addressed many of the concerns and comments contained in document N3322.

Importantly, the proposal now includes mapping data between the proposed UCS codepoints and page/line reference numbers from the principal lexical source (the book *Nushu Yongzi Bijiao* [Comparative Nushu Character Dictionary]). We see such mappings as key to the encoding and future implementations of such large historical scripts. The set of mappings to hanzi may also be useful for implementers, though the relation of a given Nüshu character to a given hanzi is not always entirely clear, and is primarily of interest to scholars interested in the development of Nüshu writing.

The variation among forms mapped to a single UCS code point is sometimes very great, and for this reason we suggest that a multi-column chart be prepared, after the pattern of the table in *Nushu Yongzi Bijiao*. Additionally, a set of mappings to other lexical sources (e.g., Chen Qiguang, William Chiang) would help to demonstrate that the proposed character set is not based entirely on the opinions expressed in a single lexical source, but has more universal applicability. Also, if there are lexical entries in other sources that have been intentionally excluded from or unified in the present proposal, the mapping data in the present proposal could make this more clear. For example, it has come to our attention that there may be characters in Chen Qiguang's dictionary that are not included in the present proposal.

The USNB welcomes additional review by China and other national bodies, in order to ensure that the proposal has been very carefully vetted as with any other script proposal.