

Title: Several General Comments on WS2017 Submission and Review Process

Source: Japan

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Action: Consideration by IRG members

Japan review was focused mainly on the unification candidates and the evidence, but some Japanese experts raised a few general issues. Here are the issues and some proposal to resolve them.

1. Distribution of the Review Materials

In WS2015, the glyph images of proposed characters are uploaded, or linked from IRG website. But in WS2017, it seems that some submitters distribute the glyph images by themselves, and some of them are already unavailable. Japanese experts hope that IRG website (or linked GoogleDrive) collects all the glyph images and keep them available until the end of the first round of the review.

2. Handwritten Materials

In WS2017 submission, again many handwritten materials are associated as the evidences. Japanese experts understand that the requirement of printed matter evidence has two aspects; checking of the appropriate typeface in the code chart, and the evaluation how stable the interchanged glyph shapes are. In case that the evidence of the proposed character is provided in some sort of drawings instead of typeface, Japanese experts hope the submission of the additional documents to rationalize why they should be standardized, and how the glyphs are stably interchanged.

3. Relationship with Proposed Characters and Assumed Repertoire to Use Them

Many proposals to IRG have their clear purposes, such as the characters related with the regional standards (like HKSAR, Macao SAR, TCA), governmental name registry (like China, Japan), governmentally supported projects or their resulted databases (like China, ROK, Vietnam), or scholastic projects (like SAT). However, some proposals are difficult to identify their purposes. For example, UTC submission refers a Chinese standard SJ/T 11239-2001, and UK submission refers many Chinese dictionaries.

Taking a case of a proposal from UK, it is not sure whether their proposal of 2 characters from “廣州方言詞典” is a final nail to encode all characters of the dictionary, or it is just beginning of the continuous proposals to encode all the characters in “廣州方言詞典”.

It would be expected by the implementers of ISO/IEC 10646 to understand which characters serve for which purpose, to identify the subset of characters in ISO/IEC 10646 required to specific region or user community. Japanese experts suggest the submitters to consider the inclusion of the draft proposal to add appropriate repertoire to use the proposed characters into ISO/IEC 10646 Annex A.

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