

## Outline of the development of WG2/n3366 = L2/07-343

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7 August 2007

WG2/n3366 = L2/07-343 is a well-developed, well-circulated proposal with broad contribution, review, and consensus.

- May 2003 - May 2006 Scharf and Hyman review the history of the encoding of Sanskrit and prepare a 125-page document entitled, "Linguistic issues in encoding Sanskrit." The document addresses issues such as selection criteria for the units to be encoded, graphic versus phonetic bases of encoding, and ambiguity and redundancy. The paper considers encoding principles embodied in Devanagari script itself, its standard Romanizations, Devanagari typewriter keyboard layouts, ISCII, and Unicode.
- June 2006 Collaboration initiated with Deborah Anderson of the Script Encoding Initiative.
- July 2006 Scharf and Hyman invite Vedic experts worldwide, and Michael Everson, to a meeting at the World Sanskrit Conference in Edinburgh to draft a plan to formulate recommendations to accommodate Vedic in the Unicode Standard.
- summer and fall 2006 Scharf investigates the phonetics of Vedic accentuation and nasalization in ancient Indian linguistic treatises. Rosenfield collects evidence of characters used to represent distinctions discovered. A workshop is planned for January to prepare a draft of a Vedic Unicode proposal.
- 19 Nov. 2006 Raymond Doctor replies to invitation by Deborah Anderson to collaborate.
- 6 Dec. 2006 Invitation to Raymond Doctor to participate in Vedic Unicode workshop 14-18 January.
- 6 Dec. 2006 Invitation to Somdutt Dadheech ... [as well as BVK Sastry of Hindu U. of Am. who came]
- 8 December 2006 Deborah Anderson supplies me with contact information for Swaren Leta, Manoj Kumar Jain (Ministry of Information Technology)
- 12 Dec. 2006 Invitation to R. K. Joshi, S. D. Dadheech, Raymond Doctor, S. Lata, and M. K. Jain
- 12 Dec. 2006 Raymond Doctor replies indicating that my letter will be forwarded to the appropriate ministry.
- 13 Dec. 2006 Scharf replies to Doctor encouraging collaboration.
- 13-19 January Vedic experts from the U.S. (Witzel, Scharf, Rosenfield), France (Angot), India (BVK Sastry, Chandrashekar) meet with a Unicode representative (Everson) to review existing documents and develop a draft proposal. Documents

reviewed include the Vedic and Chandas fonts, Wikner's (1997) "Vedic Accents", Everson's (2000) "Encoding Vedic Accents", Anshuman Pandey's (2000) "Additional Characters for Devanagari", ISCII Annex G (1991), Omkarananda Ashram's "Vedic Accents", R. K. Joshi's (March 2006) "Vedic Sanskrit Coding Scheme", and most significantly the October 2006 version of the CDAC-Mumbai draft Unicode proposal.

- 23-27 April 2007 Scharf, Hyman, and Everson present n3235 (L2/07-095) to the WG2 meeting in Frankfurt, and incorporate immediate revisions in n3235r (L2/07-095r). Telephone contact made with Swaren Lata. She had received n3235 (L2/07-095), and promises to review it, doubts ability to do so by the WG2 meeting in May but indicates likelihood of the August UTC meeting.
- 19 May 2007 sent Somdutt Dadheech n3235r (L2/07-095r)
- 19 May 2007 sent Diwakar Acharya n3235r (L2/07-095r)
- late May 2007 Sent it also to 6,500 registrants at sanskritlibrary.org, the Indology discussion list, participants in the 20-21 May 2007 South Indian palaeography workshop in Leiden, and Everson's Vedic discussion list.
- 22 May 2007 Dadheech reports 2 day workshop in Mumbai "we had 2 days workshop at Mumbai, organized by Prof. Joshi, in which Vedic scholars from all over India participated. I shall also forward your mail to Prof. Joshi."
- 28 May 2007 invite Joshi, Swaren Leta, M. Jain, and Somdutt Dadheech to meet my assistant R. Chandrashekar during his trip to India.
- 31 May-3 June present n3235r (L2/07-095r) to S. Sudarsana Sarma of the Vedic University in Tirupati at the 4th Annual Vedic Workshop in Austin, TX. He promises collaboration.
- 17 June 2007 Reiterate invitation to S. Sudarsana Sarma and B.V.K. Sastry, R. K. Joshi, S. Dadheech, Swaren Leta, and M. Jain to meet with R. Chandrashekar.
- 30 July 2007 BVK Sastry sends message and n3290 (L2/07-230) to R. K. Joshi and many others urging collaboration.
- 2 Aug. 2007 S. Dadheech copies to me and others E. K. Bharat Bhushan's letter to Mark Davis indicating that the Department of IT, Govt. of India is considering n3235r (L2/07-095r) and its earlier proposal for the purpose of making a single proposal.
- 2 Aug. 2007 Mark Davis replies urging engagement with the South Asia subcommittee.
- 7 Aug. 2007 The UTC Scripts Subcommittee reviews the revised Vedic Proposal WG2/n3290 = L2/07-230 and makes several recommendations for modification. Recommendations

include the withdrawal of the  $\text{pr}\ddot{s}\text{tham}\ddot{a}\text{tr}\ddot{a}$  character because of name security concerns since the appearance of certain names could be imitated with an alternate sequence. Instead the UTC Scripts Subcommittee recommended an alternate implementation of the  $\text{pr}\ddot{s}\text{tham}\ddot{a}\text{tr}\ddot{a}$  system by font designers that would locate parts of a character on both sides of a previous character at once.

- 15 Aug. 2007 Scharf drafts L2/07-271, "Comparison of proposed characters in Lata 2006 (L2/06-185) with Scharf and Everson WG2/n3290 (L2/07-230)."
- 17 Aug. 2007 Scharf communicates to Swaran Lata a list of 8 desiderata for the revision of n3290 seeking collaboration and assistance in the form of evidence for several characters from the authors of the CDAC proposal.
- 17 Oct. 2007 Scharf and Everson complete revision of the Vedic Proposal in the document WG2/n3366 (L2/07-343) and submit it to the UTC. R. K. Joshi submits to the UTC L2/07-386, "Comments on Comparison of proposed characters in Lata 2006 (L2/06-185) with Scharf and Everson WG2/n3290 (L2/07-230)," and L2/07-388: observations concerning Scharf and Everson's n3235 (L2/07-095) dated: 2007-04-13". R. K. Joshi and Alka Irani submit L2/07-395 (cover page), L2/07-396, "Proposal for Encoding of Vaidika Character & Symbols in Unicode", accompanied by L2/07-397 containing detailed evidence and references.
- 18 Oct. 2007 Scharf drafts two documents: L2/07-400, "Comments on R. K. Joshi's documents L2/07-386 and L2/07-388," and L2/07-401, "Equivalences between L2/07-396 and L2/07-397 Draft Proposal for Encoding of Vaidika Character & Symbols in Unicode, dated 10 October 2007 by R. K. Joshi and Alka Irani, and L2/07-343 (N3366) dated 18 October 2007 edited by Michael Everson and Peter Scharf". The UTC accepts 19 Vedic characters common to the CDAC proposal and Scharf and Everson's proposal that meet with no objections from UTC members present.
- 23 Oct. 2007 Deborah Anderson communicates with Alka Irani the importance of collaboration to create a single Vedic Unicode Proposal. Alka Irani responds to Anderson and Scharf welcoming collaboration.
- 24 Oct. 2007 Scharf communicates recent documents to Swaran Lata, Alka Irani, and R. K. Joshi, reiterating the desire for collaboration on a united Vedic Unicode Proposal.
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