

On the name of the newly proposed arrows for Egyptology
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Recently I gave some feedback on the name of two arrow character for use in Egyptology. Here it is in full with the typos corrected:

"These characters are provisionally assigned: LEFTWARDS ARROW FROM DOWNWARDS ARROW & RIGHTWARDS ARROW FROM DOWNWARDS ARROW. I would agree with this naming if the downwards arrow portion was smaller than the leftward/rightwards portion but the opposite is true. Consider 21A6 \rightarrow LEFTWARDS ARROW FROM BAR, where the "bar" part is smaller; these names make me think of that character but the bar has a down arrow head. I think more intuitive names would be DOWNWARDS ARROW WITH BRANCHING LEFTWARDS/RIGHTWARDS ARROW." [reference](#)

The Ad Hoc committee responded with:



"On the arrows for Egyptology: Changing the current descriptive names of the arrow characters does not add any value. No change is needed." [reference](#): page 16

I appreciate the work the committee does very much, however, I found this response very unsatisfactory, since they didn't address my rationale that the names I proposed are MORE descriptive; but giving the committee the benefit of the doubt to the committee, perhaps they didn't understand my point because some visual aid was needed (which is completely understandable).

So I present this document with some crudely drawn symbols to make my point. The exact directionality in this explanation is not relevant, so all symbols will be "rightwards".

Consider this symbol: \rightarrow ; in Unicode this is called 21A6 RIGHTWARDS ARROW FROM BAR, this makes intuitive sense, because clearly the fact that the symbol is an arrow should be the first thing mentioned, given its use. This is reflected on the fact that the arrow portion is larger than the "bar" portion, so this can be interpreted as an arrow with a modification with no issue i.e. the stem of the character is the rightwards arrow.

Now let's imagine somebody creates a new punctuation mark, taking the function of a divider of the VERTICAL LINE (| 007C) and adding a right arrow, to have a divider with directionality. Since the intended use of this new character is not an arrow (in the usual sense), it makes sense for the arrow part to be small, like this: \rightarrow ; this character could have the name VERTICAL BAR WITH RIGHT ARROW, because naming it something like RIGHTWARDS ARROW FROM LARGE VERTICAL BAR, or SMALL RIGHTWARDS ARROW FROM VERTICAL BAR, places the emphasis on the arrow part, negating the fact that the stem of the character is the vertical bar, but with a modification to have directionality.

Now consider this symbol: ; this is one of the symbols being proposed. The name proposed right now is RIGHTWARDS ARROW FROM DOWNWARDS ARROW, but the fact the “downwards arrow” portion of this character is larger, makes me think that this character should be named DOWNWARDS ARROW WITH BRANCHING RIGHTWARDS ARROW. If the stem of the character was meant to be the “rightwards arrow” portion (as the name implies), then I would expect for that part to be bigger, like this:  , which would make it consistent with the already existing character (\mapsto).

In conclusion, I reassert my argument, that it is best for the names of the proposed characters to be changed, based on the precedent of previous names and pure intuition.