Editorial WG Report to UTC #189

Liang Hai, UTC Editorial Working Group
October 24, 2026

Meetings since the last report: August 13, August 20, August 27, September 3, September 10, September 24, October 8.

Participants of meetings listed above:

- Asmus Freytag
- Debbie Anderson
- Jim DeLaHunt (developer)
- Ken Whistler (vice-chair, senior editor)
- Liang Hai 梁海 (acting chair, developer)
- Lorna Evans (senior editor)
- Maria Glenda Bellarosa (new participant)
- Ned Holbrook
- Peter Constable
- Richard Ishida (senior editor)
- Robin Leroy
- Roozbeh Pournader روزبه پورنادر

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Recommendations:

> **Action Item** for Jim DeLaHunt, EDC: Prepare a proposal about how to improve citation instructions, for Unicode Version 19.0. [Ref: 2.3 in L2/26-236]

1. Version 18.0 recap

Instead of the traditional format of mentioning blocks and their ranges in subheadings (eg, *Section 7.1.1, Letters of Basic Latin: U+0041–U+007A* in 17.0), now we use a standard format, **block tables**, to list all the blocks that a section involves under the section's heading (eg, *Section 7.1, Latin*):

- This new format, combined with the new practice of archiving block-by-block code charts per version, finally allows us to reliably link to each block's corresponding code chart from the core spec.
- This format will also allow us to link back into the core spec from code charts.
- A few new blocks were initially missed. We've added validation to make sure all blocks are listed in the future.

We had difficulty finishing up the **Egyptian Hieroglyphs** section in time. We plan to identify such difficulties earlier in the future, and will try scheduling ad hoc meetings to communicate more efficiently with authors. In general, changes related to Egyptian Hieroglyphs always seem to be difficult, and we are aware of the challenge of Mayan Hieroglyphs that may come in the near future.

We received a large wave of AI-assisted **feedback** via GitHub issues and pull requests, during the last several weeks before the release. We appreciate the feedback and we recognize it's valuable to review the core spec with AI tooling, but such reviews should happen earlier in the release cycle. This year we plan to launch such reviews during the beta review.

Starting from this release, the core spec participated in the **staging** process. All files were copied along with other release components, from the staging server to the production server on the release day.

2. Version 19.0 plan

2.1 Core spec release schedule

By January 20-22 (third last UTC), propose major refactoring plans in the UTC report:

- (See the next section.)

By April 13-15 (second last UTC, repertoire frozen):

- Freeze changes to the web framework that affect editors, so we have confidence in the planned release.

By May ?? (start of the beta review):

- Placeholders for all significant missing content, for external reviews.
- Provide PDF version for beta review for the first time.
- Ask the public to do content review in the HTML version, while in the PDF version only look for production issues (eg, font and table layout).

During the the beta review (which closes around early July):

- Do a sanity pass over the entire content of the core spec. Check for correctness of both new and old content.
- General QA.

By mid-June (-3 months), due to the upcoming SC2/WG2 responsibilities of participants:

- New sections or significant content for review.

By July 27-29 (last UTC):

- Other new content for review, including any text reorganization.
- Respond to beta review in the UTC report.

By mid-August (shortly after the last UTC):

- Showstoppers only (either content or framework code) after this point.
- Stabilize section/figure numbers for certain UCD files to refer to.

2.2 Notable improvement plans

We plan to implement a **search** function that allows users to search the full text (across HTML files) of the core spec's current version. Pagefind is a candidate solution.

In the three aspects below, we would like to make major changes, and as mentioned in the last section, we plan to bring proposals to the January UTC.

We would like to merge **script chapters** into a single directory of script sections, in order to provide a more intuitive and flexible navigation experience, instead of the current, often arbitrary division of scripts into chapters. This will probably look similar to the code chart index page.

Regarding **UAXes and the synced UTSes**, we currently recognize multiple separate issues:

1. How to make changes in source files.
2. How to review proposed changes.
3. How to make cross-referencing work across them and the core spec.
4. How to converge their visual format with the core spec.

We'll continue to investigate how to design an infrastructure that enables us to make incremental improvements for all of these issues.

Regarding **accessibility**, we plan to investigate and make necessary improvements in both the core spec's HTML version and the PDF archive. We will look into whether we should align the allowed feature set of our PDF with the PDF/A profile without actually using the profile (in order to avoid unwanted side effects in user experience).

2.3 Improve citation instructions

We publish instructions on how to cite The Unicode Standard and the core spec in multiple places. Those fragmented instructions have some internal inconsistencies, and some outdated assumptions about the core spec being a printed book instead of HTML pages. An active and knowledgeable IETF contributor pointed out that this makes it harder for other specifications to cite the Standard correctly.

We intend to review the various citation instructions, write a proposal to improve them, and submit this to a future UTC meeting for internal and external review.

Our current list of places to review:

- *Section 3.1.4, References to the Unicode Standard*
- https://unicode.org/versions/
- https://unicode.org/versions/bookmarks.html
- https://unicode.org/versions/latest/
- https://unicode.org/faq/

Let us know if you know of other places with citation instructions across the unicode.org website and documents.

> **Action Item** for Jim DeLaHunt, EDC: Prepare a proposal about how to improve citation instructions, for Unicode Version 19.0. [Ref: 2.3 in L2/26-236]

3. Technical reports

See section 2.2 about our plan to make various improvements in the 19.0 release cycle. Nothing to report otherwise.

4. Public feedback

4.1 PRI #556: Other Feedback for UTC #189

Date/Time: Wed Sep 09 03:08:27 PT 2026
ReportID: ID20260909030827
Name: Christoph Feck
Report Type: Report Error in Publication/Data
Opt Subject: Block name for "Small Seal" script

```
There is an inconsistency for the block name for the new "Small Seal" script.

In https://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/Unicode-18.0/ the block is called "Small
Seal", while in https://www.unicode.org/Public/18.0.0/ the block is called "Seal"
in file Blocks.txt

There might be other places where the names differ.
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> ***Comments:*** This is intentional. See FAQ: Why do block ranges and names appear differently in different places in the Unicode Standard? Are these errors I should report? See also related earlier feedback in the last report (ID20260526172722 under section 3.1).

Date/Time: Wed Sep 16 14:10:36 PT 2026
ReportID: ID20260916141036
Name: Simon Patrick
Report Type: Report Error in Publication/Data
Opt Subject: Amendment not made to Core Specification 18.0 §22

In the Editorial WG Report to UTC #188 (L2/26-155), section 3.1, you accepted my proposed alterations to the Core Specification, section 22.3.1 (apart from the reference to Chisoi). These were ratified by UTC #188 (Minutes, section C.1.1: 188-A121) However, in the latest version of the Core Specification (dated 16 September 2026) although you have inserted the references to Ol Onal and Tolong Siki in Table 22.3, you have not made my suggested amendment to paragraph #G42826 relating to the decimal number sets in Myanmar script.

Comments: This oversight has now been fixed for 19.0.