Doc Type: **Working Group Document**
Title: **Preliminary proposal for encoding the Woleai script in the SMP of the UCS**
Source: **UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)**
Author: **Michael Everson**
Status: **Liaison Contribution**
Action: **For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**
Date: **2011-01-27**

1. Introduction. The Woleai script has its origins in a diffusion of the Latin script to the Woleai Atoll. Alfred Snelling, a missionary in Chuuk (then called Truk) in 1888, had evidently helped to devise a Latin alphabet for the Chuukese language. In 1905 he became lost at sea and landed with his Chuukese crew on the island of Eauripik, a Woleaian-speaking atoll 100 km to the southwest of Woleai itself. There he taught the Latin orthography for Chuukese to the Woleaians, who re-interpreted the alphabet as a syllabary, where each letter-name stood for its syllable (consonant + -*i*). Later the writing spread to other islands in the Woleai Atoll, and additional characters were devised on the island of Faraulep (perhaps after "the big typhoon" in 1907), since a syllabary with endings in -*i* was not sufficient to be practical. An expedition from Hamburg arriving in Woleai in 1909 discovered the writing system and did ethnographic research on it, though this was not published until 1929. Riesenberg and Kaneshiro's work was collected in 1954–57 and published in 1960.

The Eauripik characters were described by Riesenberg and Kaneshiro as "Type 2 script", and the script identified by their informants as originating in Faraulep as "Type 1 script". Both Type 1 and Type 2 characters were used together; the classification is useful only in determining the development of the script. Although Type 2 characters have their origin in the Latin script, Type 1 characters are new additions to the script (some of which represent different fish, parts of the body, and parts of canoes), which spread to many of the islands in the Woleai group. Usage of the script appeared to be in decline in the 1950s. It could be found in a variety of contexts, including personal tattoos.

2. Processing. Woleai is written from left to right horizontally. Manuscript texts are often written without spaces between words, though U+0020 SPACE is found in transcriptions and is likely to be preferred for general use. No ligation or other shaping behaviour is found in Woleai.

3. Glyphs. A certain amount of variation in shape is found in the manuscripts; the font used in this proposal was developed by Michael Everson on the basis of the charts in Riesenberg and Kaneshiro 1960.

4. Sorting. There exist a number of Type 1 abecedaries, in which more variation is found after the first 50 characters than before, which may indicate the relative age of the development of the characters. It may be the case that modern users will prefer a Latin-based ordering, since Woleai has a Latin orthography now. More research is required.

5. Character names. The names used for the characters here are based on those given in Riesenberg and Kaneshiro 1960. The spelling of the names should perhaps be updated to reflect the modern Latin orthography. More research is required.

6. Numerals. No digits are found in the texts; it must be assumed that European digits would be used.

7. Unicode Character Properties

```
16B80;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B81;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B82;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B83;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B84;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B85;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B86;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B87;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B88;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B89;WOLEAI SYLLABLE POE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8A;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8B;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8C;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8D;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8E;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B8F;WOLEAI SYLLABLE UU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B90;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B91;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B92;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWOE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B93;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B94;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B95;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B96;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MAA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B97;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B98;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B99;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9A;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9B;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9C;WOLEAI SYLLABLE BU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9D;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NOE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9E;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16B9F;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TOE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BA9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAE;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BAF;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KOE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BB9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHUU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBE;WOLEAI SYLLABLE POA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BBF;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
```

```
16BC4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TAA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE OE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BC9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE HA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE ROA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RYO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BCD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NMA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YOA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YAE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD3;WOLEAI SYLLABLE I;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD4;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD5;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YOE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD6;WOLEAI SYLLABLE FI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD7;WOLEAI SYLLABLE KI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD8;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BD9;WOLEAI SYLLABLE NI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDA;WOLEAI SYLLABLE MI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDB;WOLEAI SYLLABLE WI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDC;WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDD;WOLEAI SYLLABLE PI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDE;WOLEAI SYLLABLE SI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BDF;WOLEAI SYLLABLE YO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BE0;WOLEAI SYLLABLE TI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BE1;WOLEAI SYLLABLE RI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
16BE2;WOLEAI SYLLABLE U;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
```

8. Punctuation. No punctuation marks have been observed in use with Woleai.

9. Bibliography

Riesenberg, Saul H. and Shigeru Kaneshiro. 1960. "A Caroline Islands Script", in *Anthropological Papers, No. 60*. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office.

	16B8	16B9	16BA	16BB	16BC	16BD	16BE
0	16B80	16B90	16BA0	16BB0	16BC0	16BD0	16BE0
1	16B81	16B91	16BA1	16BB1	16BC1	16BD1	16BE1
2	16B82	16B92	16BA2	16BB2	16BC2	16BD2	16BE2
3	16B83	16B93	16BA3	16BB3	16BC3	16BD3	
4	16B84	16B94	16BA4	16BB4	16BC4	16BD4	
5	16B85	16B95	16BA5	16BB5	16BC5	16BD5	
6	16B86	16B96	16BA6	16BB6	16BC6	16BD6	
7	16B87	16B97	16BA7	16BB7	16BC7	16BD7	
8	16B88	16B98	16BA8	16BB8	16BC8	16BD8	
9	16B89	16B99	16BA9	16BB9	16BC9	16BD9	
A	16B8A	16B9A	16BAA	16BBA	16BCA	16BDA	
B	16B8B	16B9B	16BAB	16BBB	16BCB	16BDB	
C	16B8C	16B9C	16BAC	16BBC	16BCC	16BDC	
D	16B8D	16B9D	16BAD	16BBD	16BCD	16BDD	
E	16B8E	16B9E	16BAE	16BBE		16BDE	
F	16B8F	16B9F	16BAF	16BBF		16BDF	

Syllables

16B80	𖮀	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NA
16B81	𖮁	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KO
16B82	𖮂	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TA
16B83	𖮃	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BAE
16B84	𖮄	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHO
16B85	𖮅	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NO
16B86	𖮆	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BI
16B87	𖮇	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RU
16B88	𖮈	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MA
16B89	𖮉	WOLEAI SYLLABLE POE
16B8A	𖮊	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MAE
16B8B	𖮋	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGAE
16B8C	𖮌	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BO
16B8D	𖮍	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WA
16B8E	𖮎	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RA
16B8F	𖮏	WOLEAI SYLLABLE UU
16B90	𖮐	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TO
16B91	𖮑	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHA
16B92	𖮒	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWOE
16B93	𖮓	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOE
16B94	𖮔	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWA
16B95	𖮕	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RO
16B96	𖮖	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MAA
16B97	𖮗	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BA
16B98	𖮘	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TAE
16B99	𖮙	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PAE
16B9A	𖮚	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FO
16B9B	𖮛	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHUU
16B9C	𖮜	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BU
16B9D	𖮝	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NOE
16B9E	𖮞	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TUU
16B9F	𖮟	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FA
16BA0	𖮠	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NAE
16BA1	𖮡	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWOA
16BA2	𖮢	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RAE
16BA3	𖮣	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NUU
16BA4	𖮤	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SA
16BA5	𖮥	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TOE
16BA6	𖮦	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WAE
16BA7	𖮧	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SAE
16BA8	𖮨	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KUU
16BA9	𖮩	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHO
16BAA	𖮪	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PA
16BAB	𖮫	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KU
16BAC	𖮬	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOO
16BAD	𖮭	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KA
16BAE	𖮮	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RUU
16BAF	𖮯	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGA
16BB0	𖮰	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWO
16BB1	𖮱	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KAE
16BB2	𖮲	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TU
16BB3	𖮳	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGO
16BB4	𖮴	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGOA
16BB5	𖮵	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOA
16BB6	𖮶	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHU
16BB7	𖮷	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KOE
16BB8	𖮸	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHOA
16BB9	𖮹	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGUU
16BBA	𖮺	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PUU
16BBB	𖮻	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TOA
16BBC	𖮼	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHUU
16BBD	𖮽	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SU
16BBE	𖮾	WOLEAI SYLLABLE POA
16BBF	𖮿	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGE
16BC0	𖯀	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NU
16BC1	𖯁	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FAE
16BC2	𖯂	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWI
16BC3	𖯃	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SO
16BC4	𖯄	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TAA
16BC5	𖯅	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MU
16BC6	𖯆	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHU
16BC7	𖯇	WOLEAI SYLLABLE OE
16BC8	𖯈	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RE
16BC9	𖯉	WOLEAI SYLLABLE HA
16BCA	𖯊	WOLEAI SYLLABLE ROA
16BCB	𖯋	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RYO
16BCC	𖯌	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NOA
16BCD	𖯍	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NMA
16BCE	🖮	\<reserved\>
16BCF	🖮	\<reserved\>
16BD0	𖯐	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YA
16BD1	𖯑	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YOA
16BD2	𖯒	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YAE
16BD3	𖯓	WOLEAI SYLLABLE I
16BD4	𖯔	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WO
16BD5	𖯕	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YOE
16BD6	𖯖	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FI
16BD7	𖯗	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KI
16BD8	𖯘	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGI
16BD9	𖯙	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NI
16BDA	𖯚	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MI
16BDB	𖯛	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WI
16BDC	𖯜	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHI
16BDD	𖯝	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PI
16BDE	𖯞	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SI
16BDF	𖯟	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YO
16BE0	𖯠	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TI
16BE1	𖯡	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RI
16BE2	𖯢	WOLEAI SYLLABLE U