

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set  
International Organization for Standardization  
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation  
Международная организация по стандартизации

**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. Riesenbergs and Kaneshiro’s work was collected in 1954–57 and published in 1960.

The Eauripik characters were described by Riesenbergs 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 Riesenbergs 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 Riesenber 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.

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	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	𐀀	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NA	16BC2	𐀒	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWI
16B81	𐀁	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KO	16BC3	𐀓	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SO
16B82	𐀂	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TA	16BC4	𐀔	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TAA
16B83	𐀃	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BAE	16BC5	𐀕	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MU
16B84	𐀄	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHO	16BC6	𐀖	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHU
16B85	𐀅	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NO	16BC7	𐀗	WOLEAI SYLLABLE OE
16B86	𐀆	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BI	16BC8	𐀘	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RE
16B87	𐀇	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RU	16BC9	𐀙	WOLEAI SYLLABLE HA
16B88	𐀈	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MA	16BCA	𐀚	WOLEAI SYLLABLE ROA
16B89	𐀉	WOLEAI SYLLABLE POE	16BCB	𐀛	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RYO
16B8A	𐀊	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MAE	16BCC	𐀜	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NOA
16B8B	𐀋	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGAE	16BCD	𐀝	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NMA
16B8C	𐀌	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BO	16BCE	𐀞	<reserved>
16B8D	𐀍	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WA	16BCF	𐀟	<reserved>
16B8E	𐀎	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RA	16BD0	𐀠	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YA
16B8F	𐀏	WOLEAI SYLLABLE UU	16BD1	𐀡	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YOA
16B90	𐀐	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TO	16BD2	𐀢	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YAE
16B91	𐀑	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHA	16BD3	𐀣	WOLEAI SYLLABLE I
16B92	𐀒	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWOE	16BD4	𐀤	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WO
16B93	𐀓	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOE	16BD5	𐀥	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YOE
16B94	𐀔	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWA	16BD6	𐀦	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FI
16B95	𐀕	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RO	16BD7	𐀧	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KI
16B96	𐀖	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MAA	16BD8	𐀨	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGI
16B97	𐀗	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BA	16BD9	𐀩	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NI
16B98	𐀘	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TAE	16BDA	𐀪	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MI
16B99	𐀙	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PAE	16BDB	𐀫	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WI
16B9A	𐀚	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FO	16BDC	𐀬	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHI
16B9B	𐀛	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHUU	16BDD	𐀭	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PI
16B9C	𐀜	WOLEAI SYLLABLE BU	16BDE	𐀮	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SI
16B9D	𐀝	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NOE	16BDF	𐀯	WOLEAI SYLLABLE YO
16B9E	𐀞	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TUU	16BE0	𐀰	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TI
16B9F	𐀟	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FA	16BE1	𐀱	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RI
16BA0	𐀠	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NAE	16BE2	𐀲	WOLEAI SYLLABLE U
16BA1	𐀡	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWOA			
16BA2	𐀢	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RAE			
16BA3	𐀣	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NUU			
16BA4	𐀤	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SA			
16BA5	𐀥	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TOE			
16BA6	𐀦	WOLEAI SYLLABLE WAE			
16BA7	𐀧	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SAE			
16BA8	𐀨	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KUU			
16BA9	𐀩	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHO			
16BAA	𐀪	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PA			
16BAB	𐀫	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KU			
16BAC	𐀬	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOO			
16BAD	𐀭	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KA			
16BAE	𐀮	WOLEAI SYLLABLE RUU			
16BAF	𐀯	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGA			
16BB0	𐀰	WOLEAI SYLLABLE MWO			
16BB1	𐀱	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KAE			
16BB2	𐀲	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TU			
16BB3	𐀳	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGO			
16BB4	𐀴	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGOA			
16BB5	𐀵	WOLEAI SYLLABLE CHOA			
16BB6	𐀶	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHU			
16BB7	𐀷	WOLEAI SYLLABLE KOE			
16BB8	𐀸	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHOA			
16BB9	𐀹	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGUU			
16BBA	𐀺	WOLEAI SYLLABLE PUU			
16BBB	𐀻	WOLEAI SYLLABLE TOA			
16BBC	𐀼	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SHUU			
16BBD	𐀽	WOLEAI SYLLABLE SU			
16BBE	𐀾	WOLEAI SYLLABLE POA			
16BBF	𐀿	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NGE			
16BC0	𐁀	WOLEAI SYLLABLE NU			
16BC1	𐁁	WOLEAI SYLLABLE FAE			