

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

Doc Type: Working Group Document

Title: Cumulative chart of the Loma script

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: 2017-07-22

Replaces: N3756 (L2/10-005), N4735 (L2/16-201), N4779R (L2/17-003R), N4786 (L2/17-059)

1. Update. This document augments N4786. It contains a comparative chart with Dalbys 1967 synthesis of Joffre and Monod's data (including glyph variants), along with four modern Loma syllabaries (Péma Toupou et al. s.d., Justin Koïvogui 1993, Balla Traore 2009, and Foromo Guilavogui n.d.). A font for Balla Traore's chart is not available, but it is clearly based on Justin Koïvogui's chart, adding two characters (DJE and GO).

This chart helps to rationalize the practical transcriptions into Latin letters made in the four modern sources. There are still many gaps and inconsistencies between the different repertoires. Foromo Guilavogui's chart appears to have many innovations in it. Patterns of interest are: consonants followed by a short vowel, consonants followed by a long vowel, consonants followed by various diphthongs, and all of these with and without nasalization.

Essentially the two issues previously identified are still valid: one, the glyph shapes, which show variation in 1943–1967, but which differ in many particulars in images available today. The other issue is the repertoire, both in terms of identification of the vocalic and consonantal readings of the characters, and in terms of the completeness of the syllabic matrix.

2. Acknowledgements. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, which funded the Universal Scripts Project (part of the Script Encoding Initiative at UC Berkeley) in respect of the Loma encoding. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment of the Humanities.