Naturhistoriska
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The VIP Study of the Latin Script

Cary Karp

ck@nrm.museum

The Latin alphabet is used in the writing systems of more languages than is any other single script.

a b c d e f g
h i j k l m n o p
q r s t u v w
x y z

Only a small number of languages are written exclusively with these twenty-six letters.

The total requirement for additional forms is extensive.

näiveté

decorative

résumé

contrastive

O Ò Ó Ô Õ Ö Ø Ō

Ŏ Ő Ơ Ǒ Ǫ Ǭ Ǿ Ồ

Ô Ȫ Ȭ Ȯ Ȱ Ố Ỗ Ờ

Ố Ọ Ỏ Ố Ồ Ổ Ỗ Ộ

Ớ Ờ Ở Ỡ Ợ Ɵ ⊖ ơ

h ḧ ȟ ĥ

ħ ḣ ḩ ḫ

ẖ ḥ ẖ ɦ

ŋ կ Կ Ա

Distinctions between these forms are of fundamental significance to the language communities that use them.

BUT

Communities that use the same characters often treat them in different ways.

In some cases "decomposing" a marked letter is permissible and in others it is not.

nörden

noerden

norden

A single writing system can have multiple rules for the alternate representation the same character depending on context, for example, in the representation of proper names.

goethe

göthe

The community to community variation in the use of the Latin script is too extensive for a central listing of variant relationships or alternate representations to be meaningful.

A locally compiled script table can easily reflect such considerations for its target community.

The Latin VIP study identified only one situation where the root zone of the DNS might not be able to embrace all the local variation that is expected to appear in lower level zones.

If the same glyph is commonly used to represent different characters at different code points, care needs to be taken before permitting both to appear in the same TLD label.

In the entire available repertoire of Latin characters there are only two code points where this is of concern.

LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED E

ə

ə

LATIN SMALL LETTER SCHWA

There are similar cases across the boundaries with other scripts but the Latin group deferred their consideration to the VIP integration phase.

To see more exciting code points and comment on the Latin study please visit:

http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/ announcement-2-07oct11-en.htm