

Minutes of MUFI meeting, 7–8 April 2011, University of Bergen | Part One

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1. Future MUFI font implementation strategy: Private encoding or smart font solutions?

A great many new precomposed characters have been proposed since the MUFI recommendation v. 3.0 was published 5 June 2009. MUFI will continue cataloguing new characters, even precomposed ones.

Can we possibly continue to add (many) more precomposed characters for encoding?

New precomposed characters will still have to be drawn for the fonts. But they may be left without codepoints in the future.

1.a Addressing combined characters and various kinds of ligatures via OT feature code, possibilities and issues

Implementation of precomposed character sequences is possible via OT feature code.

Tests with Palemonas MUFI and Andron Scriptor Web have revealed encouraging results.

The same feature code has been applied to both fonts.

Substitution rules may be defined for existing precomposed PUA characters.

Applications perform differently in handling flying accents. For the user this is still an issue.

Precomposed glyphs will still be included in the font, although without codepoints; defining the necessary OT substitution rules is extra work.

1.b Strategies of further development and testing

No decommissioning of existing MUFI PUA characters in v. 3.0.

Retaining of MUFI PUA precomposed characters for backwards compatibility.

Base characters may be decommissioned if they migrate to the official standard.

Exchange of feature code from one font to another raises the issue of consistent glyph naming between fonts.

A kind of MUFI **standard for naming glyphs** is desirable. A glyph names list (as in the latest versions of Andron Scriptor Web and in Palemonas MUFI) can be provided by Vladas Tumasonis. This can serve as a starting point for later expansion.

Addition to the minutes, 10 April 2011: Andreas Stötzner proposes to share work on names and substitution rules with Vladas Tumasonis. Andreas Stötzner will work on the names and Vladas Tumasonis on the substitution part.

A range of newly accepted characters (see 2.b) are proposed for implementation as glyphs *without* codepoints, but to be addressed by substitution rules.

Andron Scriptor Web OT shall be made available in the near future for testing this. Users are encouraged to report their experience with this kind of implementation.

1.c Dealing with ligatures

Any ligature in the graphical sense has to be drawn individually by the font designer. Newly adopted ligatures will receive new private codepoints. When combining with any diacritics a ligature is handled like any other base letter. Therefore no new ligature/diacritic combinations should receive private codepoints anymore.

Classification of various types of ligatures ought to be revised. This consideration is in principle independent from the technical OT ligature specification. Apart from the 7 ligatures in the Alphabetic Presentation Forms block FBoo–FBo6 it is recommended that **all** ligatures **x_y** in a font should be addressed in the feature code by the sub **x** [U+200D] **y** by **x_y** syntax,

in order to enable **selected use** by the typesetter. We should aim at a maximum decomposition compatibility in the substitution rules. Independently of that, a ligature may be assigned to one of the various OT sorts of ligatures, as “liga”, “dlig” and “hlig”.

2. The MUFi pipeline

2.a Selection of proposals due for consideration

The MUFi pipeline was updated on 8 April 2011, and includes 15 proposals:
<http://www.mufi.info/pipeline>

Admitted for discussion: 3., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 12., 14., 15.

- 1. and 2. – postponed.
- 4. is postponed because the subject of abbreviations is a very complex field of its own which would need further research to be undertaken before making encoding proposals.
- 10. is considered to deal only with scribal glyph variants of common letters.
- 11. – postponed, apart from the first two characters. This very large proposal exceeds the meeting’s capacity. More information and images will be needed for further consideration.
- 13. seems to be withdrawn by notification from Janusz S. Bien, 16 February 2011.

2.b Discussion of proposals considered

21 characters have been accepted for encoding, and 38 characters for substitution treatment. •→ **See minutes part two** for a detailed account, and the web page at:
<http://www.mufi.info/pipeline/for-v4.html>

No statement can be made at the moment about the future realisation of these additions in MUFi fonts, due to current lack of funding. The inclusion of the new characters to the database may be a problem as long as there are no glyphs available.

2.c Standards for proposing characters to MUFI

For ease of handling, future proposals for adding to the MUFI pipeline ought to conform to a specific MUFI proposal scheme.

Andreas Stötzner will provide a draft of the new MUFI proposal scheme.

3. The MUFI recommendation: Printed version or development of the database?

The present PDF version of the MUFI recommendation is actually too large for getting thoroughly maintained the same way in the future. Therefore, a database solution has been discussed for a while already.

Tarin Wills has recently set up an online database (based on the MUFI recommendation v. 3.0 InDesign files) which is seen as a very promising starting point.

The decision whether a database solution can possibly replace the PDF edition in the long run can not yet be made. Pros and Cons have been discussed. Many questions still need consideration.

- e.g.
- long term stability issues
 - secure long term maintenance?
 - PDF output function feasible?
 - dynamic editing functionality vs. static document reliability

4. Other business

None.

Final remark: The participants wish to thank Odd Einar Haugen and the University of Bergen for hosting the meeting and for their hospitality.

Involved parties are welcome to share their thoughts on the results of this meeting on the MUFI-fonts discussion list.

Bergen, 10 April 2011

Minute taker: Andreas Stötzner

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