

Proposal on Changing Procedural Guidelines for Proposed New or Revised Romanization Tables

Goal of the Proposal

- This proposal is intended to explore establishing a review board in order to help facilitate the approval process of new or revised Romanization tables.

Current status

- The Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP, formerly Policy and Standards Division) at the Library of Congress, is one of the two sponsors for maintaining the [ALA-LC Romanization Tables](#) along with the American Library Association (ALA). The [reviewing and approving of proposals for new and revised Romanization tables](#) was put on hold as of December 2018.
- While Romanization guidelines have been established for major non-Latin languages, there continue to be needs for updates to major tables as well as developing guidelines for the lesser known languages in order to provide a standardized and consistent Romanization used in the metadata cataloging records for these materials.
- While users desire more original script because technology has made inputting and display of original script easier, feedback from the Library's reference and cataloging staff show there is still a need for Romanization in accessing and retrieval of the material.
- In order to facilitate the capability of current library systems (e.g., ILS), there is still a need for providing at least limited Romanization of non-Latin script.

Proposed changes

- The Library of Congress is proposing a new review process that involves working collaboratively with language and subject experts both within the Library and stakeholders in the communities, in order to
 - address the Romanization issues
 - manage the process of creating new Romanization tables and revising existing ones
 - further explore the need for less Romanization
- The Library will draw expertise among seven divisions and five overseas offices across two Directorates for the review process, with ABA director serving as a coordinator. The three curatorial divisions in the G&I Directorate will serve as consultants.
 - Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA)
 - Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP)
 - African, Latin American, and Western European Division (ALAW)
 - Asian and Middle Eastern Division (ASME)
 - Germanic and Slavic Division (GS)
 - Overseas offices in Cairo, Islamabad, Jakarta, Nairobi, and New Delhi
 - General and International Collections Directorate
 - Asian Division (AD)
 - African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED)

- European Division (EUR)
- The Library will also collaborate with stakeholders in the communities, relying on their input and feedback during the review. The committee chair of each of the following committees will serve as liaison and will be asked to work closely with the Library.
 - Africana Librarians Council (ALC)
 - Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL)
 - Committee on Technical Processing of Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL/CTP)
 - Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA)
 - Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation (CONSALD)
 - Middle East Librarians Association (MELA)
 - Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
- The Library of Congress will consider input and feedback from all stakeholders in its decision of moving forward with the Proposal
- The Library of Congress will work with the committees in ALA (CC:DA and CC:AAM) to reach consensus incorporating the comments before approving the Proposal jointly.

Share the proposed changes

- Share this Proposal with the divisions and overseas offices in ABA and GIC. Deadline for feedback: Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019
- Incorporate feedback in the Proposal. Deadline of completion: Friday, Dec. 13, 2019
- Return to the divisions and offices for final approval. Deadline for final approval: Friday, Dec. 20, 2019
- Share the Proposal with CC:AAM and CC:DA to prepare for discussion at Midwinter ALA. Deadline for sending out the Proposal: Jan. 6, 2020
- Share the Proposal with community stakeholders via CC:AAM committee members, solicit liaison from each stakeholder. Deadline for completing the tasks: Friday, Feb. 28, 2020

Final decision

- ABA director and ALA, based on the community feedback, will consider jointly appointing a review board to carry out recommendations for approving new or revised Romanization tables (March 2020)
- ABA will issue and share the announcement of the new procedure widely and start to accept proposals for new or revised Romanization tables (April 2020)