
**Information and documentation —
Transliteration of Devanagari and related
Indic scripts into Latin characters**

*Information et documentation — Translittération du Devanagari et des
écritures indiennes liées en caractères latins*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 15919 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Conversion of written languages*.

Annexes A, B and C form a normative part of this International Standard. Annexes D, E and F are for information only.

Introduction

Script conversion is often required for documents such as historical and literary texts, geographical texts (including maps and atlases), bibliographies, catalogues, lists and passports (and other identification documents).

Text in Devanagari script or other Indic scripts sometimes needs to be shown in Latin script, where users, or equipment that they are using, cannot read or write the text.

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Information and documentation — Transliteration of Devanagari and related Indic scripts into Latin characters

1 Scope

This International Standard provides tables which enable the transliteration into Latin characters from text in Indic scripts which are largely specified in rows 09 to 0D of UCS (ISO/IEC 10646-1 and Unicode).

The tables provide for the Devanagari, Bengali (including the characters used for writing Assamese), Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Sinhala, Tamil, and Telugu scripts which are used in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Devanagari, Bengali, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, and Oriya scripts are North Indian scripts, and the Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu scripts are South Indian scripts.

The Burmese, Khmer, Thai, Lao and Tibetan scripts which also share a common origin with the Indic scripts, and which are used predominantly in Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Bhutan and the Tibetan Autonomous Region within China, are not covered by this International Standard.

This International Standard applies to transliteration of Devanagari, and to Indic scripts related to Devanagari, independent of the period in which it is or was used (i.e. for Devanagari script it can be used for transliterating text in classical Sanskrit, Hindi, Marathi, and the Vedic language, for instance).

Other Indic scripts whose character repertoires are covered by the tables may also be transliterated using this International Standard.

Options in this International Standard are defined in clause 9.

2 Conformance

Text originally in non-Latin script which is converted to a Latin-script representation conforms to this International Standard with or without any of the specific recommendations, if it follows the rules defined in 8.1 and the conversion tables given in clause 7 and normative annexes A and B, with or without following any of the three recommendations given in 8.2 and clause 12, all in accordance with the options defined in clause 9.

A claim of conformance shall specify which options have been chosen, and which recommendations have been followed.

3 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO/IEC 10646-1, *Information technology — Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) — Part 1: Architecture and Basic Multilingual Plane*

ISO/IEC 646:1991, *Information technology — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*