
**Information and documentation —
Transliteration of Thai characters into
Latin characters**

**Part 2:
Simplified transcription of Thai language**

Information et documentation — Translittération des caractères thaï en caractères latins

Partie 2: Transcription simplifiée de la langue thaï



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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 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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 document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 11940-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*.

ISO 11940 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai characters into Latin characters*:

— *Part 2: Simplified transcription of Thai language*

ISO 11940:1998, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai*, is to be renumbered ISO 11940-1.

Introduction

This part of ISO 11940 provides a specification for the conversion of Thai characters (or the transliteration of Thai obtained from ISO 11940:1998, written here <between angle brackets>) into a broad phonetic transcription. The results of the application of the rules of this part of ISO 11940 are written here [*in italics between square brackets*]. Since some vowels in Thai are written before the consonant which they follow in speech, text needs to be processed before the conversion takes place. The preposed vowels ɛ- <e>, æ- <æ>, ɪ- <i>, ʲ- <j>, and ʊ- <u> are to be placed after an initial or an initial cluster so that the phonotactics of the transposition will behave the same way in the languages that make use of the Latin script. The transcription obtained using this part of ISO 11940 cannot be converted back to the transliteration which usually can be retransliterated to the Thai characters. Certain Thai words can have more than one reading depending on its meaning in a certain context. It is best for a transcriber to have a knowledge of the Thai language. The simplified phonetic transcription system devised here aims to be done automatically by machine with minor assistance of human beings to select the correct transcription in relation to its meaning provided that pronunciation rules can be written in computer algorithm. A human decision is needed in instances where a word has more than one choice of phonetic transcription.

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Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai characters into Latin characters —

Part 2:

Simplified transcription of Thai language

1 Scope

This part of ISO 11940 includes pronunciation rules and conversion tables of Thai consonants and vowels. These rules are applied, in order, to each word which can be looked up or compared in the Dictionary of the Thai Royal Institute or a dictionary of Thai pronunciation. A short-long vowel is not distinguished in the simplified transcription system. The vowels เ-าะ <e-āa>, -อ <x>, โ-ะ <o-a>, and ใ- <o> are represented by a single transcription /o/. The simplified transcription system does not include the pronunciation of the tones on each word. Whenever the full pronunciation of each word is necessary or needed, conversion of long vowels can be devised and tone rules can be added to the system to achieve the full pronunciation of each word.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 11940:1998, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

nonseries consonants

liquids, fricatives, and semivowels

3.2

phonotactics

possible sequences of sounds that are acceptable in a particular language

3.3

series consonant

stops, affricates, and nasals which are classified according to their points of articulation, such as series 1 for velars, series 2 for alveopalatals or palatals, series 3 and 4 for dentals or alveolars, series 5 for bilabials