

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

The Working Group was constituted in its present form during the nineteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts in 1998. The Working Group endeavors to promote and further the aims of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names that relate to the collection and dissemination of geographic names information as stated in the first report of the Group of Experts in 1960:

"It is recommended that names authorities publish standardized names in gazetteer form as well as on maps since much information necessary for the proper understanding and interpretation of names cannot be included readily on maps."

Text encoding

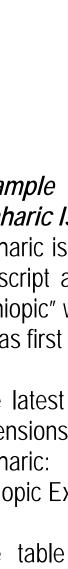
At the 18th session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Geneva in 1996 a Working Group on "Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards" was formed to investigate requirements for the encoding, processing, international exchange and promotion of nationally standardized geographical names for international use in a digital environment.

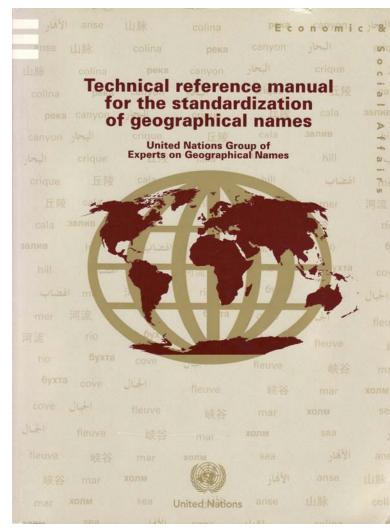
As part of its work, the Working Group completed a survey of requirements for the text encoding of Roman-script geographical names and a review of the suitability of existing standards. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in conjunction with the Unicode Consortium had developed the 16-bit International Standard ISO/IEC 10646 for the encoding of text in a multilingual information processing environment. The Working Group concluded that almost all Roman characters found in geographical names could be encoded using this standard.

Although the Working Group did not extend its assessment to cover non-Roman scripts, ISO 10646/Unicode includes these as a major component of its code tables.

Charts of the characters and their codes are presented in the ISO/IEC 10646 and the Unicode publications. The correct display of ISO 10646-encoded characters can be ensured with the installation of Unicode-compliant fonts.

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∵ 1288		꺄 128A	ኋ 128B	ኌ 128C	ኍ 128D		
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ፕ 1298	ኙ 1299	ኚ 129A	ኛ 129B	ጜ 129C	⅓ 129D	ኛ 129E	ጟ 129F
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ኮ 12B0		ኩ 12B2	ኳ 12B3	ኴ 12B4	ነተ 12B5		
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The Working Group's findings and related code tables are included in the *Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names*, published by the United Nations, New York, 2007.

Example Amharic ISO 10616 text encoding

Amharic is a Semitic language and is the principal language of Ethiopia. Its script appears in ISO 10646:2003 in tables 38-40 under the term "Ethiopic" where it has been allocated the codespace range 1200—137F. It was first included in the Unicode Standard version 3.0 in January 2000.

The latest version of Unicode (5.1.0) now also includes two blocks of extensions, covering other languages that use characters not found in Amharic: Ethiopic Supplement in the range U+1380—U+139F and Ethiopic Extended found under U+2D80—U+2DDF.

The table shown here is limited to those characters which could potentially be used in Amharic geographical names.

www.iso.org www.unicode.org

ぶ 135A

71 1359

z 1358

ኧ 12A7