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WRITING SYSTEMS AND GUIDES TO PRONUNCIATION

Writing systems and guides to pronunciation

Paper submitted by Sweden

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WRITING SYSTEMS AND GUIDES TO PRONUNCIATION.
Paper presented by Sweden.

A Swedish guide to pronunciation

The first Swedish pronunciation guide was published by the Swedish Language Committee in 1955; a second edition was published in 1968. About 1 200 place names are listed in the guide. According to the preface, the pronunciation adopted is the standard Swedish pronunciation and is based on written Swedish. The guide is now out of date and is far from complete which makes it of limited value.

A new guide is, at present, being written by the National Land Survey of Sweden and the Swedish Language Committee. It is being written primarily for use by journalists from the Nordic press, radio and television, and is planned to be published early in 1988. The guide will contain between 3 000 and 4 000 place names with map references, administrative data and pronunciation. The recommended pronunciation is based on standard Swedish pronunciation, but a local pronunciation is also given where this differs from the standard pronunciation. The phonetic notation is in principle based on IPA, but includes a number of modifications which call for knowledge of Swedish phonetics.

A version, based on IPA for international use, is being discussed but there is uncertainty concerning the demand for such a publication. The Swedish version could possibly be internationalized by also using the IPA alphabet without modifications, for names which can be of interest for the foreign media, tourists and map users.