INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 15924

Second edition
2022-03

Information and documentation — Codes for the representation of names of scripts

Information et documentation — Codes pour la représentation des noms d'écritures

Reference number
ISO 15924:2022(E)

© ISO 2022



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2022

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

© ISO 2022 – All rights reserved

Contents

Page

Foreword ... **iv**

1 Scope ... **1**

2 Normative references ... **1**

3 Terms and definitions ... **1**

4 Script codes ... **2**

4.1 Structure of the alphabetic script codes ... 2
4.2 Structure of the numeric script codes ... 2
4.3 Relation of the script codes to other ISO standards ... 3
4.4 Adaptation of the script codes ... 3
4.5 Addition of new script codes ... 3
4.6 Application of script codes ... 4
4.7 Changes of script codes ... 4

Annex A (normative) **Procedures for the Registration Authority and the Registration Authority's joint advisory committee** ... **5**

Bibliography ... **8**

© ISO 2022 – All rights reserved

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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation.*

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15924:2004), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— the normative references clause has been updated;

— references to the holder of the Registration Authority in the text have been removed, examples and references throughout the document have been updated.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

© ISO 2022 – All rights reserved

Information and documentation — Codes for the representation of names of scripts

1 Scope

This document provides a code for the presentation of names of scripts. The codes were devised for use in terminology, lexicography, bibliography, and linguistics, but they can be used for any application requiring the expression of scripts in coded form. This document also includes guidance on the use of script codes in some of these applications.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
alias
script code (3.8) which encompasses two or more script codes

3.2
code
data representation in different forms according to a pre-established set of rules

[SOURCE: ISO 639-2:1998, 3.1]

3.3
country code
combination of characters used to designate the name of a country

3.4
font
collection of *glyph* (3.5) images having the same basic design

EXAMPLE *Courier*, *Bold*, *Oblique*.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 9541-1:2012, 3.6]

3.5
glyph
recognizable abstract graphic symbol which is independent of any specific design

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 9541-1:2012, 3.12]

© ISO 2022 – All rights reserved

3.6
language code
combination of characters used to represent [the name of] a language or languages

[SOURCE: ISO 639-2:1998, 3.2, modified — The phrase "the name of" has been added.]

3.7
script
set of graphic characters used for the written form of one or more languages

Note 1 to entry: A script, as opposed to an arbitrary subset of characters, is defined in distinction to other scripts; in general, readers of one script may be unable to read another script easily, even where there is a historic relation between them (see 3.9).

Note 2 to entry: In certain cases, ISO 15924 provides codes which are not subsumed under this definition. Examples: the codes for aliases and the variant codes.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 10646:2020, 3.48]

3.8
script code
combination of characters used to represent the name of a *script* (3.7)

3.9
script variant
particular form of one *script* (3.7) which is so distinctive a rendering as to almost be considered a unique script in itself

4 Script codes

4.1 Structure of the alphabetic script codes

The alphabetic script codes are created from the original script name in the language commonly used for it, transliterated or transcribed into Latin letters. If a country, where the script concerned has the status of a national script, requests a certain script code, preference is given to this code whenever possible. The four-letter codes shall be written with an initial capital Latin letter and final small Latin letters (taken from the range Aaaa to Zzzz). This serves to help differentiate script codes from language codes and country codes: so, for example, **Mong mon MON** or **Mong mn MN** would refer to a book in the Mongolian script, in the Mongolian language, originating in Mongolia.

NOTE See 4.7 regarding changes to the codes.

4.2 Structure of the numeric script codes

The numeric script codes have been assigned to provide some measure of mnemonicity to the codes used. The following ranges have been used:

000–099 Hieroglyphic and cuneiform scripts

100–199 Right-to-left alphabetic scripts

200–299 Left-to-right alphabetic scripts

300–399 Alphasyllabic scripts

400–499 Syllabic scripts

500–599 Ideographic scripts

© ISO 2022 – All rights reserved