Date: December 11, 2007
To:

> **From:** Steering Committee to oversee the Implementation of the Non English Access Recommendations
> **Subject:** Working Group for Defining Specific Scripts and Language Support in Library Computer Applications

Goal:
To create standards that facilitate a common understanding between librarians and vendors and serve as a prioritization tool to be used by system vendors, an evaluation tool against which functionalities of library systems can be measured, and a standardization tool to facilitate exchange between library and other systems.

Charge:

To define requirements for the support of each script and language in library computer applications, including not only in the various modules of integrated library systems, but also in other library-related programs, such as Interlibrary Loan systems, Next-generation OPACs or Course Management software. These requirements will facilitate library system development and evaluation and provide guidance to system implementers.

The issues to be addressed by the Group include the following:
·   Create a checklist that supports all scripts and languages, and that can be the basis for requirements for specific scripts or languages.
·   Determine the scripts to be documented, including Latin. Establish procedures for adding more languages and scripts in the future and for providing additional support for already included scripts.
·   For each script and/or language:
    o   Investigate the needs of both end-users and library employees for adequate support.
    o   Obtain the assistance of appropriate language experts and organizations (including those outside of the United States) when defining the requirements for a specific script.
    o   Identify standards for indexing and searching for a specific language or script. (Note: This is expected to be a major issue, e.g. including searching Latin languages where some diacriticized characters are to be treated as separate letters; searching across traditional and various simplified variant CJK characters; searching in languages without spaces as word boundaries.)
·   Analyze the need for rules for the sorting of bibliographic entries in the Unicode environment, taking into account current cataloging rules, in particular the rules for heading creation and the capabilities of online library catalogs. If it is determined that there is a need for such rules, the Unicode Collation Algorithm (http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr10/) should be considered during development. (Note: As a preliminary to

considering the need for library-specific rules, information could be gathered on searching and sorting in current integrated library systems and database services used by libraries.)