

PINYIN CONVERSION SPECIFICATIONS

CONVERSION SEQUENCE G1: Single syllable generic terms for jurisdictions used in proper names: change first letter from lower to upper case

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AY -- ayn, alif or apostrophe in Wade-Giles; apostrophe in pinyin

U - the letter u with umlaut

1 Background

- 1.1 Pinyin romanization guidelines call for generic terms for jurisdictions to be capitalized. It is difficult to identify these terms because they are commonly used. These terms can be hyphenated to single-syllable place names: in this form, they can be confused with syllables that are parts of personal names. These single-syllable generic terms stand alone following a hyphenated place name; but instructing a computer program to capitalize all such free-standing terms on a bibliographic record would lead to errors: for example, when the syllables are used to represent different Chinese characters, or when they have different meanings. Although these terms can usually be identified by context in strings of romanized descriptive text, it is unlikely that a conversion rule could be written to convert all possible occurrences correctly.

Therefore, the procedures for capitalization of generic terms for jurisdictions will be applied in access points for corporate bodies, but not in strings of uncontrolled text (such as titles and notes).

2 Instructions:

- 2.1 Identify a syllable as being a generic term for a jurisdiction using the list of WG syllables in item 2. In a string of text, with few exceptions, the preceding word would be hyphenated (G2 would cover instances when the generic term is itself hyphenated). It is safe to assume that the first word of a field or a qualifier is a jurisdiction if the second is from the list in item 2 (since the first word is always capitalized).
 - 2.2 Convert that WG syllable to PY using the STD dictionary;
 - 2.3 Capitalize the resulting PY syllable
- 3 Consider these WG syllables as potential generic terms:
hsien

sheng
shih

4 Examples

Feng-hsin hsien converts to Fengxin Xian
Ho-nan sheng she hui k'o hsüeh yüan converts to Henan Sheng she hui ke xui
yuan

EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION OF CONVERSION SEQUENCES G1, G2 AND G3

The examples above were selected because they contained the conditions appropriate for the activation of each particular conversion sequence. They show, not the result of one particular conversion sequence, but the result of the entire conversion process. What follows are examples of each of the steps being applied to a Chinese place name:

EXAMPLE 1:

Kuo-lo Tsang tsu tzu chih chou (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) Kuo-lo Zangzu Zizhizhou (China)

G2 (do not use)

G1 (capitalization) (no change)

STD Guoluo Zangzu Zizhizhou (China)

EXAMPLE 2:

Wan-hsien chuan ch*AY**U* (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) Wan-hsien Zhuanqu (China)

G2 (do not use)

G1 (capitalization) (no change)

STD Wanxian Zhuanqu (China)

EXAMPLE 3:

Lu-ch*AY**U*an I tsu Miao tsu tzu chih hsien

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) Lu-ch*AY**U*an Yizu Miaozu Zizhixian (China)

G2 (do not use)

G1 (capitalization) (no change)
STD Luquan Yizu Miaozu Zizhixian (China)

EXAMPLE 4:

Ling-hsien (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) (do not use)

G2 Ling Xian (China)

G1 (no change)

STD (no change)

EXAMPLE 5:

Fang-shan hsien (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) (do not use)

G2 (do not use)

G1 Fangshan Xian (China)

STD (no change)