

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO KHMER ROMANIZATION TABLE

The following is a summary of proposed revisions to the ALA–LC Khmer romanization table:

GENERAL

1. It is decided that the romanization of Khmer words would be based on its written form (orthography).
2. It is recommended that the Khmer Unicode font Khmer OS be used because:
 - The Unicode fonts are official fonts recognized by the Cambodian government;
 - Most new publications in the Khmer language use these fonts;
 - Khmer Unicode fonts look clearer and are easier to read.

CONSONANTS TABLE

1. The consonants table should include the other common script form called “round script” or “Aksar Mul.” This style is used for titles and headings in Cambodian documents, books, currency, shop signs, and banners. It is also sometimes used to write royal names. *Solution:* Consonants in round script have been added to the consonants table.
2. Suggested to romanized ឆ as *ng* instead of *ri* since its equivalent consonant in Thai is romanized as “ng”. *Solution:* Revision done.
3. The diacritic ˆ (ayn) should be added prior to letters instead of the letter “q” in the consonant table. It will not be confused with “ayn” in the diacritic table since it occurs before, not after letters.
4. It is suggested that the consonants ឆ (ś) and ឝ (ṣ) be excluded from the table, or included but separated with an explanatory note about why they are there. *Solution:* Add an asterisk (*) after ឆ (ś) and ឝ (ṣ) that refers to a note below the consonants table that explains them.

INDEPENDENT VOWELS TABLE

1. It is suggested that the independent vowels table be rearranged in accordance to their respective positions. *Solution:* Rearrangement complete.
2. ឝ should be romanized as (ýu), rather than (ū). *Solution:* Revision complete.
3. It is suggested that ឝ be moved from its current position in the independent table and added the independent table with the romanized form (ū) according to

the *Khmer dictionary* by Chuon Nat, published in 1967 (p. 1853). *Solution*: A separate entry for ធា has been added to the independent table.

4. ឺ should be romanized as (ae) rather than (e). *Solution*: Revision complete.
5. It is suggested that ឺ be moved from independent table and be replaced by ឺ្រ and ឺ្រ in one of the notes. According to the *Khmer dictionary* by Chuon Nat, published in 1967 (p. 1874), when added as a subscript to ឺ, ឺ្រ looks appears as: ឺ្រ, is pronounced as [oi], and means “give.” The dictionary also adds another form of ឺ្រ. When used, it is often written as ឺ្រ, rather than ឺ្រ. ឺ never appears by itself. *Solution*: ឺ has been removed from independent table and a new note #9 has been added to cover the use of ឺ. (See Notes 7.)
6. The last independent vowel should be (ឺ), rather than (ឺ or ឺ). *Solution*: Revision complete, ឺ removed.

DEPENDENT VOWELS TABLE

1. ' ឺ has been removed from dependent vowel table since it looks the same as ឺ.
2. Two vowels from Note 5 have been added to the dependent vowels table because note #5 is no longer needed. (See Notes 3.)
 - a. ឺ្រ Romanized as “um”
 - b. ឺ្រ Romanized as “eh”
3. Three missing vowels have been added to the dependent vowels table.
 - a. ឺ្រ Romanized as “am”
 - b. ឺ្រ Romanized as “uh”
 - c. ឺ្រ Romanized as “oah”
4. A note needs to be added to the dependent vowels table for ឺ្រ, ឺ្រ, ឺ្រ, and ឺ្រ: to explain why they are included in the table. If the reason is user convenience, an explanation should be provided. *Solution*: Note 10 has been added to explain ឺ្រ, ឺ្រ, ឺ្រ, and ឺ្រ: (See Notes 8.)
5. ឺ្រ (ih) and ឺ្រ (yh) have been added to the dependent vowels table to make the vowel table clearer.

6. It is suggested that ǎ (ǎ) and ǎ: (ǎ) be moved from the dependent vowels table to the diacritical marks table because that is where they belong. *Solution:* Move complete. (See [Diacritical marks 1.](#))
7. It is suggested that ǎ (ǎ) and ǎ (ǎ) be moved from the dependent vowels table to the diacritical marks table. *Solution:* Move complete. (See [Diacritical marks 2.](#))
8. The dependent vowels table has been rearranged.

DIACRITICAL MARKS

1. ǎ (ǎ) and ǎ: (ǎ) have been moved from the dependent vowels table to the diacritical marks table. (See [Dependent vowels table 6.](#))
2. ǎ (ǎ) and ǎ (ǎ) have been moved from the dependent vowels table to the diacritical marks table. (See [Dependent vowels table 7.](#))

NOTES

1. The second sentence in Note #2 needs to be rephrased. Also in the first sentence of note #2 ǎ (ǎj) should be romanized as ǎ (ǎc) *Solution:* Rephrasing complete. (ǎj) has been changed to (ǎc).
2. Note #4 is no longer needed and has been deleted since there is no - in the vowels column anymore. The numbering of notes that follow have been adjusted accordingly.
3. Note #5 is no longer needed and has been deleted because it is now covered by the dependent vowels table. (See [Dependent vowels table 2.](#))
4. It is suggested that note #6 be re-phrased. *Solution:* Revision complete. It is now note #4 due to the deletion of the earlier notes #4 and #5.
5. It is suggested that ǎǎ (qǎtman) in note #7 should be written as ǎǎ (ǎtmǎn) because the revised table no longer includes "q". *Solution:* Revision complete. Note #7 has become note #5 due to the deletion of the earlier notes #4 and #5.
6. The second sentence in note #10 has been rephrased. Note #10 has become note #8 due to the deletion of the earlier notes #4 and #5.
7. A new note #9 has been added to cover the use of ǎ. (See [Independent vowels table 5.](#))
8. Note #10 has been added to cover the explanatory note for ǎǎ, ǎǎ, ǎ, ǎ, and ǎ: (See [Dependent vowels table 4.](#))