Naturhistoriska
riksmuseet

Latin Script

Cary Karp
ck@nic.museum

The Latin alphabet is used in the writing systems of more languages than any other single script.

Only a small number of them use its basic 26-letter form.

a b c d e f g
h i j k l m n o p
q r s t u v w
x y z

Swedish is one such language.

It uses a 29-letter alphabet.

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n o p

q r s t u v w

x y z å ä ö

Diacritical marks are used with a number of these letters, primarily proper names of non-Swedish origin.

The distinction between "decorative" and "contrastive" use of diacritical marks is extremely important.

naivete

nâiveté

resume

résumé

norden

norden

nörden

In some cases "decomposing" a marked letter is permissible and in others it is not.

nörden

noerden

norden

This can be critical in the representation of proper names.

goethe

göthe

Guidelines for a character set for writing names in electronic administration. (2005)

a á à ă â å ä ã ą ā ă æ

b c ć č ċ ç d ď đ ð

e é è ê ě ë ę ē ė ə

f g ğ ğ ġ ǵ ɠ h ħ

ı ı í ì î ï į ī ǐ

j k ǩ ķ l ĺ ľ ļ ł m n ń ň ñ ṇ ŋ

o ó ò ô ö ő õ ō ǒ ø œ

p q r ŕ ř ṛ s ś š ş ß t ť ţ ŧ

u ú ù û ů ü ű ų ū ǔ

v w ẃ ẁ ŵ ẅ x y ý ỳ ŷ ÿ

z ź ž ż ʒ ʒ þ

ạ ả ấ ặ ầ ẩ ẫ ấ ậ ằ ẳ ẵ

ẹ ẻ ẽ ế ệ ề ể ễ

ị ỉ ĩ ọ ỏ ố ộ ồ ổ ỗ ơ ớ ợ ờ ở ỡ

ụ ủ ũ ư ứ ự ừ ử ữ

ỵ ỷ ỹ

There are five official minority languages in Sweden. Two of them are, in fact, language groups.

ruotsi
ruotti
ruoƫa
shvedo
sveerje
sveittiko
sverige
svieri
švedska
švedo

Variant aggregation is not solely an IDN issue.

Nor is it correct to assume that a given label will appear in one and only one such aggregate.

There are names for Sweden in more than just these three Sami languages:

ruota sveerje svieri

Or in these four Romani languages:

shvedo sveittiko švedska švedo

How does one determine the priority of multiple aggregates that include identical elements?