

CTP/CCM Joint Working Group on ISO 7098 Romanization of Chinese (report prepared by Shi Deng, April 8, 2015)

In October 2013, the CEAL CTP/CCM Working Group on ISO 7098 Romanization of Chinese submitted [CEAL comments with suggested changes](#) on the ISO/CD 7098 draft focusing on section 11, **Transcription rules for personal names and geographic names**.

In October 2014, ALA NISO representative post a call for reviewing and commenting on the Draft International Standard (DIS) of ISO 7098 (ISO/DIS 7098), Romanization of Chinese. The revised draft accepted most of CEAL suggestions submitted in October 2013 and changes are reflected in the revised draft ISO/DIS 7098, section 12, **Transcription rules for named entities**. Meanwhile, the revised ISO/DIS draft added new instructions including the section 11. Chinese Pinyin Orthography, and section 12.14-16 on Language names, Ethnic names and tribal names, and Religion names.

After initial review and discussion among the members of the CEAL CTP/CCM Working Group, we decided to collect community feedback via a survey. From December 9, 2014 to January 8, 2015, the Working Group conducted a survey among CEAL members. The survey requested input on the ISO/DIS 7098 new revised draft sections, especially on Rules 11 and 12.14-17, in comparison to the [ALA-LC Romanization table on Chinese](#). The survey included 13 questions that were grouped into four categories by importance:

1. Instructions potentially contradictory between ISO 7098 and ALA-LC table:
 - 12.9 (Place names become a "Chinese word")
 - 12.14 (Language names)
 - 12.15 (Ethnic names and tribal names)
 - 12.8 (Transcription of non-Chinese names)
2. Instructions in ALA-LC table that may need to be aligned with ISO 7098:
 - 12.16 (Religion names)
 - 12.2 (Term of address)
 - 12.5 (Place name has a monosyllabic adjunct)
 - 12.6 (place name does not contain syllable(s) of geographical feature or jurisdiction)
 - 10 (Numerals)
 - 11 (Chinese Pinyin Orthography)
 - 12.13 (References)
3. Instructions in ALA-LC table that are in alignment with ISO 7098: 12.1, 12.3, 12.4, 12.7, and 12.17
4. Instructions in ISO 7098 that may not be applicable to ALA-LC table: 12.10-12.12

A total of 31 members participated in the survey. The majority voted to “support” or “support with modified suggestions” ISO/DIS 7098 instructions in Sections 11-12. Some voted not to support or voiced concerns. Most of the suggestions and concerns, whether members voted to support or not to support, include reasons. The Working Group summarized members’ concerns and submitted CEAL comments to NISO via ALA on Jan. 28, 2015. We ask ISO seriously

considers CEAL's input and revises some instructions of this standard to make it more practical, clearer, and easier to adopt globally so as to facilitate information dissemination and user discovery internationally.

The CEAL comments and the survey results were published on the Journal of East Asian Libraries, [no. 160, Feb. 2015](#).

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Charges:

- Review the draft revision of ISO 7098 in comparison with the ALA-LC Romanization Table for Chinese.
- Gather additional input from interested CEAL members.
- Prepare the final set of suggestions and obtain approval from the CEAL Executive Board.
- Send official CEAL response to NISO via ALA.

Members:

Shi Deng, Chair (UC San Diego)
Vickie Doll (U. Kansas)
Sarah Elman (Columbia)
T.J. Kao (Yale)
Dongyun Ni (U. Hawai'i)
Jia Xu (U. Iowa)