

CTP/CJM Joint Working Group on ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table

Final Report

August 24, 2015

CTP/CJM Joint Working Group on ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table

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Introduction

The Working Group on the ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table (JRTWG) was formed in September 2013 to follow up on the work of the Task Force that served to coordinate the CEAL response to the LC Proposal for the revision of the Japanese Romanization Table. Since then, JRTWG had a conference call almost every two weeks to discuss specific aspects of the Japanese Romanization Table (RT) currently making it difficult for catalogers to make consistent choices when romanizing Japanese text.

The purpose of this final report is to:

1. Present a summary of our activities between October 2013 and July 2015.
2. Report romanization issues that we have identified and that we believe need to be resolved.
3. Discuss possible action plans for future projects including collaboration with the Library of Congress (LC).

Membership

Rob Britt (University of Washington)
Mieko Mazza (Stanford University; on leave February-May 2015)
Hikaru Nakano (University of Florida) (- May 19, 2014)
Chiaki Sakai (University of Iowa)
Keiko Suzuki (Yale University)
Yoko Kudo (Chair, University of California Riverside)

Ex Officio:

Erica Chang (University of Hawaii) (Apr. 2014-)
Michiko Ito (University of Kansas) (Apr. 2014-)
Shi Deng (University of California San Diego) (-Mar. 2014)
Setsuko Noguchi (Princeton University) (-Mar. 2014)

Advisors/Consultants/Collaborators:

Bruce Johnson (Library of Congress)
Hisako Kotaka (OCLC) (-Aug. 2014)

Work Completed

Under its official charge (Appendix A), JRTWG accomplished the tasks noted below in chronological order. To organize work and facilitate group communication, JRTWG created a wiki space using PB Works. Google Doc applications were also used as needed.

Replacing Alifs with Apostrophes in Authority Records

—October-December 2013—

The current RT instructs catalogers to use the apostrophe rather than the alif. Since the apostrophe is easy to access on a standard QWERTY keyboard, this rule simplifies romanization. However, many old authority and bibliographic records retain the alif, and need to be updated. To help Japanese catalogers manually update

authority records to the new standard, JRTWG created [step-by-step instructions](#) and an online update request form (Appendix B) for non-NACO libraries. As of July 2015, five requests have been received and processed.

RT Summary of Changes

—March 2014—

To raise catalogers' awareness of major changes in the current RT, JRTWG created and distributed a summary of changes, titled "ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table: Significant Changes from 1997 ver. to 2012 rev." The summary is available on the [CEAL CTP JRTWG page](#) (scroll down to the fourth major bullet), and [LC CJK NACO Project page](#) (under CJK-Associated Documentation and Announcements).

Community Survey

—January-July 2014—

In May 2014, the committee conducted a Japanese romanization survey, using Google Forms. The survey concerned the CEAL community's experience with recent major RT changes, and also asked respondents what further RT improvements they hope to see. We publicized the survey within the CEAL community through the Eastlib and JpnLibLiaisons electronic mailing lists.

There were thirty-five survey responses, summarized as follows:

- Most respondents use RT for cataloging purposes.
- The new kana-roman equivalents charts are well accepted, but respondents request more kana examples, as well as instruction on exceptional cases.
- Most respondents ask for more help on word division, and indicate that examples are especially helpful.
- Most respondents find numerals problematic.
- Many prefer a written aid (supplementary guidelines) over a webinar or workshop.

For a complete summary of the survey, see Appendix C.

Analysis of Identified Issues

—August 2014-March 2015—

We identified the four focus areas listed below based on survey feedback, and used them as the basis for JRTWG's 2014-2015 work. The four areas are in priority order, along with the current status and/or findings for each.

1. Numerals (Clarification of Current Practice)

We put this item on hold pending decisions by the Library of Congress and the CTP Subcommittee on RDA.

**Note: The [August 11, 2015 release of the RDA Toolkit](#) contains the following update:*

LC-PCC PS for 1.8.2:

"LC practice/PCC practice for Alternative (1st): Apply the alternative, except when recording numerals found in these non-Latin scripts:

Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Perso-Arabic, Cyrillic, Greek: substitute Western-style arabic numerals

when non-Latin script numerals appear on the resource. If important for identification, the cataloger may record a note showing the non-Latin script form of the numeral found on the resource. "

2. Kana-roman Equivalents Charts (Possible Addition of More Kana and Footnotes)

Recommendations summarizing JRTWG research:

- Add kana listed in Kenkyusha’s New Japanese-English Dictionary 4th ed. not currently included in the RT charts (e.g., デュ)
- Add special instructions for “small tsu” following “chi”

The “small tsu”, known as sokuon | 促音 in Japanese, represents “assimilated sounds,” denoted with the "small tsu" [ッ | っ] kana in Japanese, and usually a double consonant in romanization. But when following the syllable chi | ち, the consonant is not doubled. Instead of “cc” following chi, “tc” is used. This is a common area of confusion for catalogers, and it requires special instruction in the RT. Footnote 3 (page xiii, first group) in the Kenkyusha’s New Japanese-English Dictionary 4th ed. should be adapted in the RT for this purpose. Examples include: 坊ちゃん: Botchan NOT Bocchan; 熱中: netchū NOT necchū
- Add useful notes from the ANSI standards (*System for the romanization of Japanese*. [ANSI Z39.11-1972](#)), including: morpheme boundaries (p. 5); what to do when the kana combination to be romanized is not listed in the chart (p. 11). Also, add note that this standard has been withdrawn and currently there is no standard Japanese romanization system in the United States.
- Remove kana を from the note under Table B.

This special kana is included in Table A, and is always romanized “o” regardless of its usage. The note is not only redundant but misleading, and therefore should be corrected.

Unsolved Issues:

- RT diacritics section uses this example that does not follow RT’s “one-on-one” conversion rules: shinpojūmu | シンポジウム. However, simply removing this problematic example will affect conference names that are already established using it. Other steps are required.
- Rules are absent for the silent subscript letter tsu | っ when it falls at the end of words: “あっ” “やっ.” In this case, the small “tsu” denotes an assimilated sound, pronounced with a kind of glottal stop by shortening the preceding syllable. It is unclear how this should be represented in romanization.

3. Word division (Clarification of Some RT Instructions; Providing Best Practices for Confusing Words and Phrases)

Recommendations summarizing JRTWG research:

We created tables of examples of problematic word division issues. The phrases were collected from survey responses and from email sent to JRTWG members through September 2014. In the tables, we

carefully examined each phrase, and where possible included recommended practices and clarification of applicable rules. The tables and other materials are appended to this report, and include the following:

Commonly found issues

See Appendix D.

Recommended practices

Appendix E includes three tables documenting issues for which we attempted to develop recommendations, each table representing a different result of our effort.

- Table 1
Issues that can be resolved by the current RT rules, and/or that require a relatively simple clarification.
- Table 2
Issues for which either no applicable rules were found, or relevant rules or examples were found, but we determined that they are incorrect, inconsistent, and/or confusing. These issues with RT rules and examples need to be corrected, but the table shows our recommended practices to address the issues in the meantime, based on our cataloging experience and extended interpretation of RT instructions.
- Table 3
Issues for which we were not able to develop recommended practices, either because of confusing RT instructions, our insufficient knowledge, lack of consensus, or a combination of these reasons.

Unsolved issues

- List of phrases for which we could not develop recommended practices (see Appendix E Table 3):
 - 観音経
 - 地藏菩薩経
 - 紫香楽宮
 - ノーベル賞
 - 天皇家
- Critical Issue Concerning RT section 2(c), "Adjectives."
(see Appendix E Table 2)

4. Long Vowels (Clarification of the Different Types of Long Vowels)

There was not enough time to address this issue.

Current Status and Next Steps

The consensus within JRTWG is that LC review of and input regarding the above findings and recommendations is needed. Only with LC participation can authoritative best practices for the application of RT rules be developed. The process of reviewing RT and creating best practices will hopefully lead to a future RT revision which would incorporate the best practices. In May 2015, given the very limited useful time left until the end of our term, we realized the necessity of deferring collaborative work with LC to a later time. At that time, we

requested guidance from the CTP and CJM chairs in this regard, and submitting a progress report to them. Action items recommended by both committees and the status of each item as of August 2015 are listed below:

1. Extend JRTWG's term so it can continue to work on either a revision of RT or on best practices guidelines.
→ Request for an extension to CEAL EB is on hold, pending the appointment of the new chair as well as feedback from LC. See 2, below.
2. Contact LC to share our activities and discuss possible collaboration.
→ Survey results and the progress report have been shared with LC, along with an inquiry about their interest in and the possibility of collaboration to improve RT. Their feedback is expected at the end of August.
3. Create a wiki site as a place to share questions and develop best practices.
→ This item will be deferred to the renewed JRTWG.

Conclusion

JRTWG initially looked at developing "best practice" type guidelines that would answer our questions and the questions submitted by the Japanese cataloging community. But as we worked our way through the questions, we began to consider the possibility of revising the RT itself. Some of the issues turned out to be so significant and complex that if they were addressed only in separate guidelines, it would risk confusing catalogers. Extensive and complex guidelines might even tend to supplant the RT, making the situation even more confusing for catalogers. In response to our progress report, CTP and CJM also strongly recommended that major issues be incorporated in RT instructions.

On the other hand, revising RT once again is a huge undertaking, requiring long hours and a high level of commitment for potential committee members, who will no doubt have limited time to contribute. Additionally, JRTWG has received more questions regarding word division and other practices from the community (Appendix F), which would possibly reveal new problems that need to be resolved promptly without waiting for a lengthy RT revision process. We hope that the renewed JRWG, in close consultation with LC, will find the best long-term solution possible to address these issues and help improve the community's romanization practices.

JRTWG would like to express our special gratitude to Mr. Satoru Ishikawa, Part-time Lecturer in Japanese at Boston University, and Ms. Kiyomi Kawakami, Japanese Language Lecturer at the University of Iowa for providing information regarding word division of adjectives and adjectival verbs. JRTWG is also grateful to our colleagues at LC, OCLC, and the CEAL CTP and CJM committees for their cooperation and strong support of our activities.

APPENDIX A:

Charge for the CTP/CJM Joint Working Group on the ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table

- 1) The CTP/CJM Joint Working Group represents the CEAL community and works closely in consultation with them on matters concerning revisions and updates to the ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table (RT).

Specifically, the Working Group:

- Informs the CEAL community of its activities, including any proposed changes to the RT
 - Seeks the CEAL community's feedback on the impact of any proposed changes
 - Shares with the CEAL community feedback from other stakeholders
 - Communicates with LC, OCLC, ALA, ISO and the ISSN Centers on behalf of the CEAL community
- 2) Upon the release of LC's upcoming revised ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table (RT), the Working Group will:
 - Facilitate and seek feedback from the CEAL community on the new RT
 - Coordinate database cleanup necessitated by the RT, as needed
 - 3) Always aware of future needs and cleanup issues, the Working Group will consider ideas for RT revision based on:
 - The feedback and concerns of the CEAL community and other stakeholders
 - Issues identified by the CTP/CJM Joint Task Force on the LC Proposal for Japanese Romanization.
(See the TF documentation on the web: <http://www.eastasianlib.org/ctp/index.htm>)
 - LC documentation, such as:
 - "Procedural Guidelines for Proposed New or Revised Romanization Tables"
(http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romguid_2010.html)
 - "Romanization Landscape"
(http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romlandscape_Oct2011.html),
 - The goal of coordination with International standards and the groups that create them, such as:
 - The International Standards Organization, and the German group working on a revision of the ISO Japanese Romanization standard ISO 3602: draft revision
 - ISSN Centers
 - 4) The term of the Working Group will be September 2013-August 2015. If needed, the CTP/CJM chairs may request an extension to this term, which would require the approval of the CEAL Executive Board.
 - 5) Membership
 - Members shall be selected in consideration of geographical location, specialty/research interests, size of East Asian collections, and length of membership in CEAL.
 - At least one representative from public services.
 - Invite representatives from LC, OCLC, and Japanese linguistics scholar to serve as advisors
-

Change request for replacement of alif with apostrophe

LCCN

ex. n 80153940

1XX

Tanizaki, Jun'ichirō, #d 1886-1965

Associated Authorized Access Point(s)?

Tanizaki, Jun'ichirō, #d 1886-1965. #t Works. #k Selections

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Institution

Name

Email address

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.



100%: You made it.

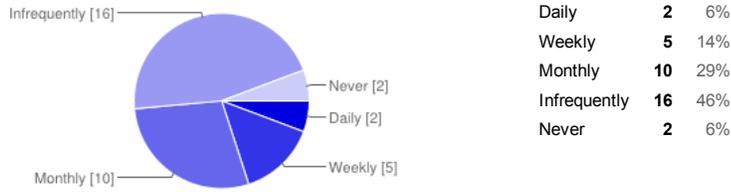
APPENDIX C: Survey Results Summary

35 responses

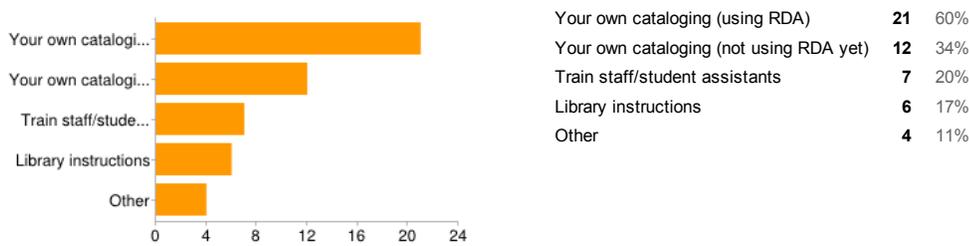
[View all responses](#) [Publish analytics](#)

Summary

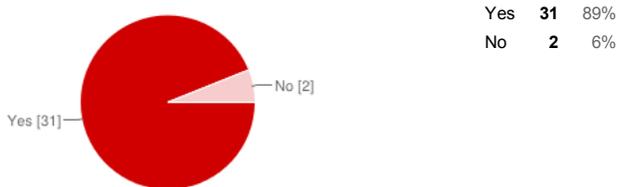
1. How often do you refer to the "ALA-LC Romanization Table: Japanese (updated in 2012)"?



2. For what purposes do you use the Romnization Table?



3. Do you think the newly added tables of roman/kana equivalentents (Tables A and B) are useful?



The non-traditional Japanese table is often helpful.

Somewhat good as a reference. Especially table B's uncommon kana usage.

No need to go to the other source such as Kenkyusha's New Japanese English Dictionary; for library instruction just need to indicate this page.

I am afraid to say that I have not seen Tables A and B yet.

There are many missing entries. E.g., katakana "de" followed by small katakana "yu"

It is useful, however, somehow the layout is hard to look at than the one in Kenkyusha's dictionary. Also wish to have デュ and exceptions note from Kenkyusha's table included somewhere in the document. Particles and compounds with pronunciation change are also difficult to determine what's correct.

Very useful.

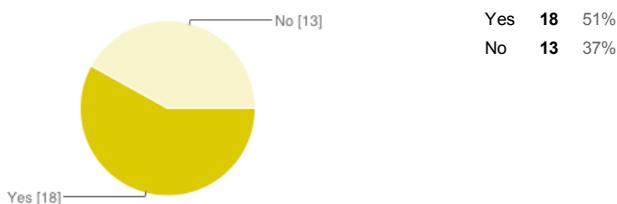
There are times when I forget the less frequently used mye, rye and the like. It is good to review the table from time to time.

For some one new to the system. I did not really use them since I have been cataloging more than 10 years. Also I have not had time to review it either...

They should be the first things one refers to when there's a romanization question.

They are useful as a quick reference.

4. Are there any particular words or phrases to which you have difficulty applying the Word Division guidelines?



Pop culture materials, films, manga titles, etc. often have titles which compounds with カタカナ and kanji. Also words with 撥音 and 促音 can be confusing.

Too numerous to make comments if survey creators think it takes only 5 minutes to do this survey.

now I know, but I had difficulties with dai 6-han vs. dairokuhan in edition statement. OCLC keyword search doesn't search 250

I cannot come up with the best examples, but I encountered some titles which were difficult to romanize, especially applying the word division guidelines.

Yes, certainly, there are many. -- RT, Word Division, 4, (a), exception (4)--beyond those 11 listed and 1 additional example, it is not always clear as to whether or not particular single characters fall under this category. e.g., [seaside place name] + oki ; Nihon-ron or Nihon ron or Nihonron ; ... + ran -- sono + go -- te + ni + o + ha -- Shikakkai or Shikakukai for Historical Society -- deity name + compound title/term + single-character suffix -- compound particle involving internal contraction -- Yu(macron)gen Kaisha, Go(macron)shi Kaisha (as with Kabushiki Kaisha) or Yu(macron)gen-gaisha, Go(macron)shi-gaisha -- foreign word + single Chinese character + "suru" -- non-Japanese jurisdiction names

I found inconsistency in -- その後 "sonogo" or "sono go" -- 問う "tō" or "tou" -- also ~しない ~する would be treated as verbs, but not for negative sentence or ? -- I found "omawarisan". How about "otetsudaisan"

I get confused about whether or not I should separate compound verbs.

Honorific prefixes o and go - should they be followed by a hyphen? o-cha or ocha, go-kansō or gokansō? I think it is illogical to insist on compound verbs with "suru" being written as one word but those with dekiru not. e.g. why : rikaisuru but rikai dekinai ? "na" adjectives - should it be bimyo na (as this is not inflected) alongside bimyonaru (which is inflected)?

Not with particular words/phrases, per se, but notes on the use of shortened forms of words (e.g. Shogakukan vs. Shogakkan) would be helpful.

Adverbs and conjunction, particles. shizukana or shizuka na? tame ni but tomoni.

I don't remember now, but there must be some. Is there any place we can post our questions so that they can be added to the examples?

どうなっているんだろう、言っているのだが

Sometimes continue to have problems with word separation in corporate names. There are numerous examples in the romanization tables; if possible, I'd add even more.

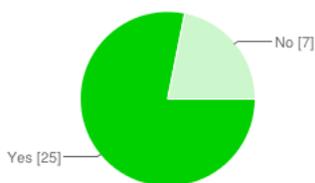
---化

Words with suffix "主義 (shugi)", "科学 (kagaku)".

adverbs and conjunctions: e.g. raku ni or rakuni?

The work ten 展: should it be attached or separated from the Example: Nihon kaiga ten or Nihon kaigaten. 日本絵画展 It always is a bit of a pain!

5-1) Instructions and Examples



Yes	25	71%
No	7	20%

I am often uncomfortable with romanizing "おお" as "ō." For example, romanizing 遠い as "tōi" seems strange to me. But that is the current practice.

A and B are fine. However, as to C, there must be distinction made between juncture-present versus junctureless phonemes, e.g., 里親 versus 砂糖屋 .

Although it is not the long vowel issues, I sometimes see Japanese vendor records put ō for ue (for example, instead of ou, ō for 井上; Inoue vs Inōe).

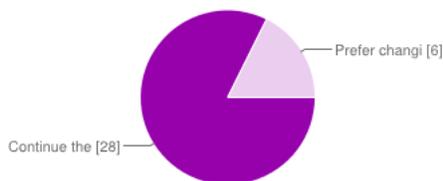
What about "atarashii" or "atarashi"? "chiisai" or "chīsai"

Words written in katakana with dashes should be romanized with dashes

It would be helpful to provide examples such as 茂平 and 茂兵衛 side by side.

Trying to match the character-to-character spelling of long vowels is a step backwards. If we are attempting to distinguish おお/おう for instance, then why not just romanize kanji with explanatory words like Oo [big] and ō [king]? The paired Japanese field should suffice to clarify orthographical ambiguities. Moreover, we have made efforts to train people in how to search using LC romanization, which includes this macron use for long vowels. Let's not over-RDA this.

5-2) Current Practice



Continue the current practice	28	80%
Prefer changing the practice (If you prefer a change, please share your ideas or recommendations in the box below)	6	17%

Japanese characters are specifically written ー or イ in the case of ビードロ or ビイドロ, so I prefer changing the practice.

It seems more natural to romanize 茂兵衛 as Mohee.

I feel strongly that 茂兵衛 should be romanized Mohei. And a long i in hiragana should be typed ii and in katakana with a macron.

Rather than romanizing phonetically, can we romanize words based on hiragana and katakana?

Needs more examples.

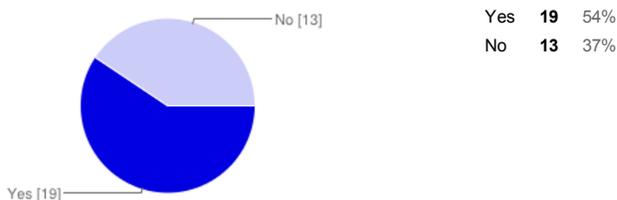
Mohee

茂兵衛 (もへえ) is not the same pronunciation as 茂平 (もへい), so it should not be the same romanization.

I think, as above, ビードロ and ひいどろ should be romanized the same way. 茂兵衛 is a bit confusing to some, who read the last kanji as "ei". A similar practice confounds me with: シンポジウム. Why this is romanized as "shinpojūmu" is beyond me: my searchers have failed to retrieve records because they search for "shinpojiumu", as it is spelled and pronounced. No one I have spoken to about this considers ジウ equivalent to ジュウ or ジュー.

I am new in the cataloging, and my answer/suggestion/comment might be out of focus or comes from my ignorance of and inexperience in cataloging, but is it possible for OCLC to map the alternative spelling? For instance, in Japanese, if a cataloger describes the title as it appears, the title might contain old Japanese (kyukanji). But there is a field in MAC that the catalog provides new kanji for the same title. As for Moe vs. Mohee, even though there is only one name authority (Mohe), I wonder if OCLC or the existing cataloging rules and tools can create a system (program) to map Mohee along with Mohe. What I suggest here might have been already done, and the questionnaire asks my opinion of whether or not to maintain or revise. I do not know which writing is more accurate or more appropriate.

6-1) Clear Instructions



I still don't know why I need to Romanize as numerals as follows (some are spelled out some are in roman numerals 第壹號 (明治二十八年三月 [March 1895]-第十四號; [2nd series], 第壹號-[2nd series], 第七卷四月號 = -第九十九號. Daiichigō (Meiji nijūhachinen 3-gatsu [March 1895]-daijūshigō; [2nd ser.], daiichigō-[2nd ser.], dai 7-kan 4-gatsugō = -daikujūkugō.(from PCC record)

The instructions are counterintuitive. In English, it is small numbers that are often written as "words" and large numbers that are "numerals". Also we have examples like 第三勢力 as "daisan seiryoku" but in practice we often see more of 第三卷, where the numeral is used instead as "dai 3-kan"

I often end up going to the CJK Examples of AACR2 site for better clarification and look at some examples.

It's no more useful to spell out a year in Japanese (sen kyūhyaku hachijūsan nen) than it is in English (the year nineteen hundred and eighty-three). Just use Arabic numerals (1983), whether it's in the title or not. That's how patrons will search for it.

Whatever is used, there can always be an element of confusion. The romanization of numbers takes a little getting used to, but once you know, it becomes easier for the most part.

Currently, there are only examples, but no clear rule spelled out. Also, among numerals, there must be separate provision (in addition to examples) made for cardinal and ordinal numbers (RT, Word Division, 5 (a) versus (b)).

It's not clear if 二・二六事件 (Ninroku Jiken) is supposed to be an exception.

Please add a few more examples for each category.

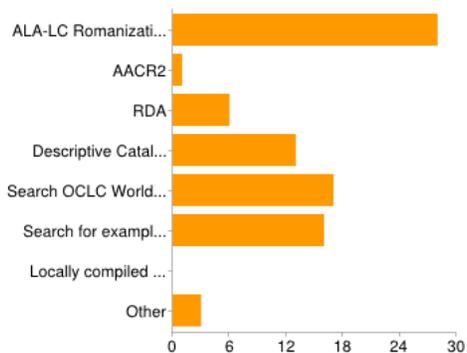
It is not very clear what should be categorized as 'historic events'.

it would be nice if you could show which section of the manual you are referring to. . . If the manual has a table of contents, it would be easier to find the section. . . 5(a) "Separate by hyphens the hundreds . . . in numbers over 100.: But examples look like to instruct adding hyphen if the numbers are in Arabic numerals. ???

I am still confusing when which one, romanization or Arabic numerals should be used. For search purpose, preferred to input both in different fields.

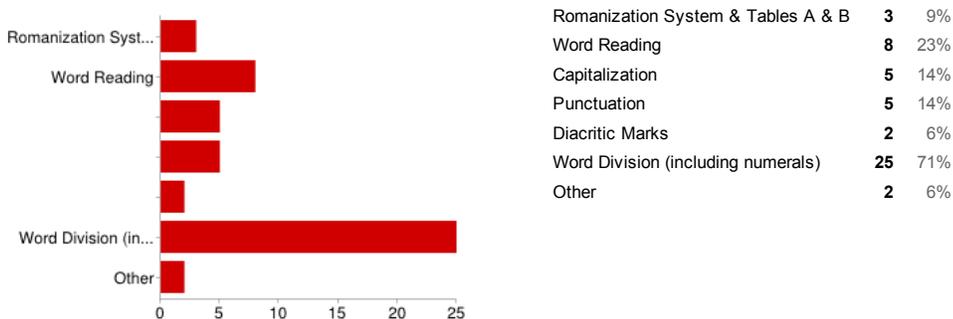
The table doesn't talk about converting to Arabic.

6-2) When romanizing numerals, what documentation do you consult?



ALA-LC Romanization Table (http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsa/romanization/japanese.pdf)	28	80%
AACR2	1	3%
RDA	6	17%
Descriptive Cataloging of East Asian Materials: CJK Examples of AACR2 and Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsa/CJKIntro.html)	13	37%
Search OCLC WorldCat for similar examples	17	49%
Search for examples in LC's records	16	46%
Locally compiled document	0	0%
Other	3	9%

7. For which section(s) do you want to see more examples?



Yet, while examples are fine, we do need clearer rules.

The oo, ou, ooo problem is always confusing.

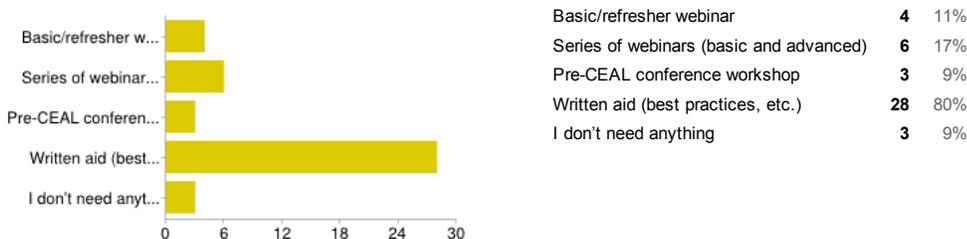
Definitely Word Division. I am working on the Japanese Historical Maps, and sometimes LC records and NDL's records have different word divisions.

Capitalization is sometimes confusing as well. I find myself wondering if I should capitalize some words when the equivalent in English is capitalized.

I'd like to see more counterexamples in each as well ("BUT:") to show how ambiguities arise. I'd also like to see some remarks on how best to handle titles that sources like Kokusho Somokuroku give with old kana usage, as well as titles that are to be romanized following idiosyncratic furigana usage (e.g. 超 = "スーパ-").

More examples for every category.

8. Which of the following would help you better understand the guidelines in the Romanization table?



9. Please provide any other Japanese Romanization Table related comments, questions or issues that you think need to be addressed.

Every romanization system in the world needs to remember that the first rule of romanization is: Can a person who doesn't speak this language pronounce it correctly from this romanized version, with minimal instruction? This points out the success of Hepburn and Pinyin, and the failure of Nihon-shiki, Wade-Giles and McCune-Reischauer.

I would like to see a roundup of CJK romanization scheme differences, particularly between Japanese and Korean, which share similarities in matters like word division, etc, but also mark differences in practice.

I'd like to know if there were any Japanese translation for Japanese ALA romanization table.

Thank you!

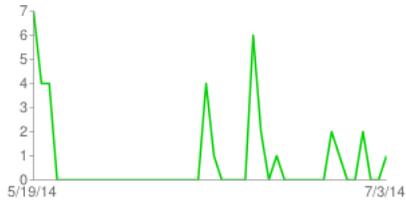
I find the current table quite thorough. Thank you very much for your work!

Japanese romanization of Chinese and Korean names--place names, names of persons, literary works and the like.

There are many instances of inconsistencies and some conflicts inside NAF, due to unclear Japanese RT provisions, which should be rectified.

I think that a separate document with more examples would also be helpful. This could perhaps be compiled by PCC catalogers and reviewed by the Joint Working Group?

Number of daily responses



APPENDIX D:

Commonly Found Word Division Issues

1. Organization and Consistency

It is necessary to refer to other parts of the romanization table (RT) in order to confirm proper word division for some phrases, and/or to find similar examples.

- Relevant rules are not referenced conveniently. For example:
 - “Derivatives of proper names” is mentioned in the RT Capitalization section, but not under “Proper Names” in the Word Division section. See: “日本兵” in Appendix E Table 2.
 - Phonetic change treatment is mentioned in RT 1-(d) Sino-Japanese Compounds, but not in other sections. See: 伊賀越え in Appendix E Table 2, and 観音経 in Table 3.
- RT instruction and examples provided are not consistent. See: 日本一 in Appendix E Table 2.

2. Clarification and Definition

The lack of clarification and/or clear definition of grammatical terms makes it difficult to interpret RT rules properly. RT users are likely to be confused about English grammatical terms used and their equivalents in Japanese. Examples include:

- Proper name
- Term of address
- Adjective
- Adjectival verb

3. Confusing and Inaccurate or Inappropriate References

RT references to grammatical terms do not always correspond to appropriate examples for those terms:

- Adjective or adjectival verb?

Although the heading of RT 2-(c) is “Adjectives” (形容詞 in Japanese), the instruction and examples for that section include only adjectival verbs (形容動詞) and phrases. In fact, the section includes no instruction or examples for adjectives.
- RT examples and grammatical categories conflict with standard dictionaries

Examples given in the RT sometimes contradict grammatical categories noted in standard monolingual Japanese dictionaries such as Daijisen |大辞泉. For example, Daijisen categorizes the phrase 為に | tame ni as a conjunction. But RT section 2-(d) *Adverbs and conjunctions* does not include this phrase, as users might expect. Instead, the RT lists this phrase as an example of a “particle,” under RT 2-(e), *Particles*.
- RT reference to “long established”

RT 3-(b) refers to “long established” phrases, but what does this mean in practice?
- “Standard authorities” in RT Word Reading section not identified

In the RT Word Reading section, it advises to romanize “日本” as Nihon, “...unless the usage of

standard authorities has established a particular reading...” However it is unclear what “standard authorities” means in this context.

- “Single character” which can be suffixed to “any proper names.”
RT 4-(a) Exception (4) uses this phrase, but what does “any” mean in this context?

4. More than One Applicable Rule Exists:

- Different possible pronunciations
その後 (see Table 1) can be pronounced either “sonogo” or “sono ato”. Depending on the reading, word division will be different (this is not uncommon in Japanese).
- 春夏秋冬 (see Appendix E Table 1)
Either RT 1(c) or 1(a) could logically be applied. There is no guidance for users as to which is preferred.

5. Misleading and Confusing Examples

- Too few examples, badly placed
Examples are not varied enough or sorted well enough for easier comprehension, especially when a rule illustrates more than one aspect or point. RT 2-(c) *Adjectives*, for example, does not list actual adjectives (形容詞).
- Only partially applicable
Examples provided in RT instructions can be misleading because they cover only an aspect of the associated rules. For example, the RT 2-(b)-(3) *Auxiliaries* instruction includes examples of potential auxiliaries, *dekiru* and *dekinai*.

6. Outdated Rules

RT instruction does not take into account the increasingly colloquial vocabulary used in current bibliographic materials, and changes in modern usage. Only outdated rules are available in the RT. For example, contracted particles as in オレン家, 頭ン中 (see Appendix E Table 2), and newly introduced foreign/katakana words.

Appendix E: Word Division Issues and Recommended Practices

Table 1: Words that can be resolved by the current RT rules or relatively simple clarification

	Suggested form	Rule number	Reasoning	Additional comment	Information that needs to be provided	Future consideration for RT revision
春夏秋冬	shunkashūto	1(c)		It is also possible to judge that this consists of two binary compounds, thus be romanized in two parts. For consistency, one should be recommended over the other	Provide criteria for judgment: To determine 1(c) or 1(a), see if the two seeming binary compounds would make sense as one compound. If it does, apply 1(c)	
花鳥風月	kachōfūgetsu	1(c)		Same as above	Same as above	
探偵事務所 株式会社	kankensōsai in proper name: Yu(macron)gen Kaisha	1(c) 1-(d)	Follow the current instruction and example for 株式会社	Same as above	Same as above	
合資会社	other: yu(macron)-gaisha in proper name: Go(macron)shi Kaisha	1-(d)	Same as above			
行財政	other: go(macron)-gaisha gyo(macron)-zaisei	1-(e)		The word already has an independent entry in major dictionaries, thus, could be interpreted as a trinary compound. Hence writing as one word "gyo(macron)zaisei" is not wrong.		Possibly add this word as another example under 1(e) in place of one of the existing ones.
乳幼児	nyū-yōji	1(e)		The word already has an independent entry in major dictionaries, thus, could be interpreted as a trinary compound. Hence writing as one word "nyu(macron)yo(macron)ji" is not wrong.		Possibly add this word as another example under 1(e) in place of one of the existing ones.
普話	mukashibanashi	2-(a)-(1)				Possibly add this word as another example under 2(a)(1) or replace one of the existing ones with this.
死にたまう; 死にたもう	shini tamau; shini tamo(macron)	2-(b)-(3)	The rule covers honorific auxiliaries, even though it is not very clear.			Reword 2(b)3 to make it clear that the rule is for both honorific and potential auxiliaries.
言っているのだが	itte iru no da ga	itte iru: 2-(b)-(2) no: 2-(e) da: verb ga: particle, 2-(e)				
その後	#1 sonogo #2 sono ato	#1 2(d) #2 2(a)(1)	Could be read in two ways. If 後 is read "go," the phrase is considered to be an adverb.	"sono go" is not totally wrong, either. For consistency, one should be recommended over the other.		
これから	korekara	2(d)	The word is considered to be an adverb	It could be taken as two words. For consistency one should be recommended over the other.		
男の子	otokonoko	2(a)1	Based on the examples 世の中, 日の出.	Split judgments can be expected because of "when in doubt ..." instruction in the rule.		
草の根	kusanone	2(a)1	Same as above	Same as above		
誰か	#1 dareka	#1 2(a)(1)	Depending on the context, the answer differs.			
てにをは	tenioha	2-(a)-(1)				Possibly add this word as another example under 2(a)(1), so that the examples cover pseudo-compounds
デザイン学	dezain-gaku	3(b)	The word is not considered to be a long established word. According to the current rule, it is recommended to use a hyphen.		Need criteria to help determine a "long-established" word: Use of major dictionaries might not work because many libraries don't carry one.	It is confusing that 3(b) has examples with proper names (アメリカ人, キリスト者); rules pertaining to proper names should be gathered in 4."
国立国会図書館報	Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan ho(macron)	4-(a)				
十勝沖	Tokachioki	4-(c)-(5)				
薩英戦争	Satsuei senso(macron)	4-(d)-(1) first section	薩 refers to 薩摩, which is not a country.			
欧米	O(macron)bei	4-(d)-(1)	欧 is not a country. 欧米人 is in the examples.			
租税学	Soraigaku	4(a)exception (1)	It is pretty clear from the example 陽明学.		How to determine a proper name (whether the word is "proper" including the suffix or not)	
阿弥陀如来像	Amida Nyorai-zō	4(a)exception(4)	It is clear from the example 鑑真像.	像 is considered to be one of those generic single characters that can be attached to any proper names. 像 means a physical object as well as an abstract image, which will expand the scope of proper names.	Clarification of what falls into 4(a) exception (4); what is the criteria?	像 passes the criteria for exception (4), but 戦, which was recently added, probably does not.
東京圏	Tōkyō-ken	4(a)exception(4)	圏 is considered to fall into exception (4).	圏 means "area surrounded by sth," which is broader than merely geo. feature. 4(c)(5) does not apply.	Clarification of what constitutes the characters that belong to exception (4)	
内モンゴル	Uchimongoru	4(c)2	The rule says to "write separately" if "the modifiers are not part of the name of a jurisdiction". Clearly, Inner Mongolia is and has been one type of jurisdiction.	"Jurisdiction" here refers to any local area with an established local system of governance, even if changing over time. LC authority file "authorized forms" are applicable only when they are in Japanese. However, they are often in English and therefore not relevant when determining the appropriate systematic romanization of Japanese under the RT.	Some clarification about what "Jurisdiction" means is needed. Emphasize that LC Authority File records for jurisdictions may not be relevant, as non-Japanese jurisdictions are established in the AF with English names.	
北朝鮮	Kitachōsen	4(c)2	The rule says to "write separately" if "the modifiers are not part of the name of a jurisdiction". Clearly, the word is and has been one type of jurisdiction.	Same as above	Same as above	
本願寺派	Suggested form #1: Honganjiha Suggested form #2: Honganji-ha	#1: 4(a)exception(1) #2: 4(a)exception(4)	This phrase could be interpreted two ways. #1: specific long established body whose name officially includes 派. #2: group that just sprang up or an individual who claims to support certain group or person. Exception (1) applies for #1, and (4) applies for #2.			

Table 2: Words for which either no appropriate rules were found, or relevant rules or examples were found but they need to be corrected

	Suggested form	Rule number	Reasoning	Additional comment	Information that needs to be	Changes and additions needed to	Additional issues
「対話」カ	"taiwa" ryoku (with space after quotation marks)	1(b)(2)				Revising or adding to the rule so that the rule covers more than just a single character, possibly adding to the punctuation section.	
伊賀越え	Iga-goe	1-(d)	伊賀 is a proper name thus needs to be separated from the rest of the word. There is a phonetic change in 越え. 1(d) is the only rule dealing with phonetic changes, even though it is for combinations of Sino-Japanese compounds.		Provide instruction that covers phonetic changes for all types of words.	Add new instruction about phonetic changes that involve proper names and native Japanese words	
お茶	ocher	none; relevant examples in other sections	Based on the available examples throughout the table: お送り, お出掛け, お母さん, お姉さん, etc.		Provide instruction that covers honorific prefixes	Add new instruction about honorific prefixes, possibly under 3 Prefixes, suffixes, etc. section	
ご感想	guanos(macron)	none; relevant examples in other sections	Same as above		Same above	Same as above	
お手伝いさん	otetsudaisan	No rules available	Use examples from other sections (お姉さん, お母さん in Diacritic marks section; お送り in 2(b)(3))		Provide instruction that covers honorific prefixes and suffixes	Add new instruction about honorific prefixes/suffixes, possibly under 3 Prefixes, suffixes, etc. section	
どうなっているんだらう	do(macron) natte iru n daro(macron)	none	No rule available for contracted or elided particles		Provide instruction that covers contracted/elided particles.	Add new instruction about contracted/elided particles: "Treat contracted or elided forms such as "n" for "no" in the same way as the non-contracted form" to 2-(e) or other appropriate rules	
頭中 オレン家	atama n naka, ore n chi	2-(e)	Same as above		Same as above	Same as above	
そうだったんだ	so datta n da	2(b)(2) for そう 2(e) for ん	so (副詞), datta (助動詞), no (助詞), da (助動詞).		Same as above	Same as above	
楽に	rakuni	2(d)	The rule covers adverbs and conjunctions derived from nouns, and says to write them as one word	香気に under 2(e) contradicts what 2(d) instructs. It is not totally wrong to write in two parts given the fact that the word was originally noun + particle, however the rules need to be corrected for consistency	Clarification of the scope and definition of 2(d)	Correct 香気に and 香気な examples in 2(e) to make the rules consistent	
静かな	shizukana	2(c)	The rule covers Na-adjectives and other parts of speech (i.e., verbs as in 誤った) that are used in the same way to modify nouns. the word is a Na-adjective.	2(c) does not explicitly mention I-adjectives (most common type of the adjective) because that type is too simple to address in the word division rules. 香気に under 2(e) contradicts what 2(d) instructs. It is not totally wrong to write in two parts given the fact that the word was originally noun + particle, however the rules need to be corrected for consistency	Clarification of the scope and definition of 2(c)	Correct 香気に and 香気な examples in 2(e) to make the rules consistent	Conflict between 2(b) and 2(c): which rule should be applied when a verb is used to modify a noun? (e.g., 知っている人) WG members' opinions vary: 1) "When such verbs as under 2(b) are used to modify nouns, follow the rule for adjectives and write them as single words. If the verbs are used as verbs (e.g., when used at the end of the sentence), follow 2(b) and write as in the examples." 2) "When such verbs as under 2(b) are used to modify nouns, follow 2(b) and write them as in the examples (i.e., verbs you see under 2(b) are always written the same way no matter how they are used and how they function)."
微妙な	bimyōna	2(c)	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
さっちゃん ○○ちゃん	Sat-chan	4(b)3	The fact that the name is contracted does not affect the choice of rules		Same as above	Same as above	
日本兵	Nihon hei	4-(a)	兵 does not fall under 4(a) exception (4); 日本 still maintains the meaning as a place, as opposed to that in 日本画, 日本酒, etc. (derivatives of proper names as instructed in Capitalization 9)	Only characters that can be attached to ANY proper names use Exception 4. There is no clear cut criteria for judging this "ANY." It needs to be based on common sense and experience. There is no set criteria for determining derivatives either. Major dictionaries could be used, but it cannot be required because not all libraries have access to certain dictionaries. Consider whether the proper name still maintains the original meaning in a derived word. If it does, apply 4, if not, treat it as a derivative.	Clarification of 4(a) vs. its exception (4), i.e., what constitutes single characters that can be attached to "any" proper names. Clarification of what qualifies as derivatives of proper names	The instruction regarding derivatives in the Capitalization section should either also be included or be at least mentioned in the Proper names section.	
日本一	Nihon ichi	4-(a)	一 (ichi) does not fall under the exception (4); 日本 still maintains the meaning as a place, as opposed to that in 日本画, 日本酒, etc. (derivatives of proper names as instructed in Capitalization 9)	Same as above	Same as above	Correct Nippon'ichi (with no space before ichi) in the word reading section (p.1) It doesn't follow any of the existing rules.	
				4(a), 4(a)exception(4), Capitalization 6 and 9: these rules are making romanization of various trinary compounds derived from 日本 looks extremely inconsistent. Is that the intention of RT or something that needs to be corrected?			

Table 3: Words for which JRTWG could not develop recommended practices

	Suggested	Rule number	Reasoning	Additional comment	Judgment/solution	Information that needs
観音経	no recommendation	possibly 4-(a), 4(a) exception (1), 1-(d)	The word is possibly considered to be a proper name including 経, which justifies applying 4(a)exception (1), but could not be certain about it, if only 観音 is a proper name and 経 is a suffix, then they should be separated with a hyphen following the rule for phonetic change. It is agreed that 経 cannot be attached to any proper names, meaning 4(a)exception(4) doesn't apply.	Problem in this case is not about interpreting the rules, but about determining a proper name. This is beyond WG's knowledge.	Is the word a proper name in its entirety or not?	How to determine a proper name (whether the word is "proper" including the suffix or not)
地藏菩薩経	no recommendation	possibly 4(a) exception (1)	The word is possibly considered to be a proper name including 経, which justifies applying 4(a)exception (1), but could not be certain about it. Also not certain whether 地藏菩薩 is a proper name as a whole or only 地藏 is. If 地藏菩薩 is a proper name and 経 is a suffix, then they should be separated. It is agreed that 経 cannot be attached to any proper names, meaning 4(a)exception(4) doesn't apply.	Possibilities #1 the word is a proper name: Jizo Bosatsukyo(macron) #2 地藏菩薩 is a proper name but 経 is not: Jizo(macron) Bosatsu kyo(macron) #3 地藏 is a proper name but 菩薩 and 経 are not: Jizo(macron) bosatsukyo(macron)	Is the word a proper name in its entirety or not?	How to determine a proper name (whether the word is "proper" including the suffix or not)
紫香楽宮	no recommendation	possibly 4(c)1 exception (3) or 4(a) exception (1)	Could not be certain whether the word refers to a place, or another type of proper name (building, etc.). If it's a place, 4(c)1exception(1) applies; if it's a name of a building (palace), 4(a)exception(1) applies.	There is a strong opinion from the community that supports that the name is for a palace.	Is the word a geo. name or name of a building?	
ノーベル賞	no recommendation	Possibly 4(a)exception(1) or 4(a)	The word is likely a proper name including 賞, but could not be certain about it. It might be possible to separate 賞 and apply 4(a)	Question deepens when similar words are taken into consideration (芥川賞, etc.)	Is the word a proper name in its entirety or not?	How to determine a proper name (whether the word is "proper" including the suffix or not)
天皇家	#1 tenno(macron)ke #2 no recommendation	#1 1(b)#2 ?	The word can be used in two ways: #1 as a simple trinary compound, #2 in combination with a proper name. Pretty straight forward for #1. Two possibilities for #2	Option 1) for #2: Meiji Tenno-ke (hyphenate the second title or term of address) 天皇 is a title (or term of address depending on the context) which falls under 4(b)2. 家 is also a title (or term of address as seen in 徳川家 and 平家 examples)* which falls under 4(b)3. 明治天皇家 contains two titles (or terms of address depending on the context) in it. Both 4(b)2 and 4(b)3 say "if a title or a term of address ...," so it seems like they are talking about a case where only one title or term of address is used. Under 4(b)2, however, there is the example 日蓮上人様, and it is romanized as Nichiren Shonin-sama. By this example, we can assume that the rule instructs us to hyphenate when more than one titles or terms of address are used in a word (and one of those titles or terms of address is not directly attached to a proper name), even though it is not clearly worded in the rule. This is very similar to 明治天皇家, thus we hyphenate 天皇 and 家. Option 2) for #2: Meiji Tennoke (write it as a trinary compound) 明治天皇家 might be similar to 日蓮上人様, but it is somehow different. While 上人 and 様 are two separate titles and do not form a compound together, 天皇 and 家 do. 上人様 is probably never used on its own without a proper name, but 天皇家 is. In the strict sense, we don't have rules to apply for a situation like this, and we need to stretch the existing rules. Somewhat using the analogy of 4(c)(1) where Tokyo-to becomes Tokyo Togikai, we could say "when compounds are formed with multiple titles or terms of address or in combination with generic terms, write them separately from the personal names." Alternative explanation for #2: the difference with 日蓮上人様 is that, unlike 天皇家, the case of 上人様 usually assume [XX]上人様 to refer some specific person even if it might be omitted in a particular sentence. So even though the term 上人 itself is not a personal name in general, it used in a part of 上人様, 上人 is always considered like a personal name (thus, capitalized), hence, need to use 4 (b) (3) "Hyphenate a title or a term of address when it consists of a single character or kana for san, sama, chan kun, etc., and follows a personal name." On the other hand, 天皇 could be still a generic term and unlike 徳川家, 天皇家 could be tenno(macron)ke.	What rule should be applied when the word is used along with a proper name?	

Appendix F: Additional Romanization Questions

- 東京都議会
Would it be helpful to add a note with regard to the formulation of authorized access points?
- 日本病
With or without a hyphen?
- kō (考, 稿)
For treaties or treatise?
- 信長公記
Which word division rule should be followed, the one that applies to 信長記 or the one that applies to 東洋史論?
- 南部相撲
How to handle a phonetic change in a grouped compound consisting of a common noun directly following a proper noun.