## ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table: Significant Changes from 1997 ver. to 2012 rev.

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|  | Old (1997 ver.) | New (2012 rev.) |
| Romanization System | The modified Hepburn system of romanization as employed in *Kenkyusha’s New Japanese-English Dictionary* (3rd and later editions) is used. … Romanization for words of foreign (i.e., non-Japanese) origin follows the American National Standard system for the romanization of Japanese … | Tables of roman/kana equivalents based in part on both Kenkyusha’s table (in p. xiii for 4th ed.) and on the American National Standard standard.  *Note:*  **Two tables (A. Standard; B. Non-traditional Japanese (Foreign words, etc.)) are attached at the end of the Romanization Table for use in place of the Kenkyusha’s dictionary and American National Standard. If non-traditional Japanese syllables or combinations of those on hand are not listed in Table B, romanize them by following the similar syllables listed, or kana-by-kana according to Table A.** |
| Capitalization | 6. Peoples and Languages: Capitalize names of peoples and languages | 6. Peoples, Languages **and Areas of Study Derived from proper Names**: Capitalize names of peoples, languages **and areas of study derived from proper names**. |
| --- | **[new section]** 8. Structures, etc.: Capitalize names of structures, etc. |
| Diacritic Marks | Special Characters and Character Modifiers in Romanization: special character apostrophe and character modifiers macron | **[new section]** 1. Transcribe the macron (¯) over the letters *a*, *i*, *u*, *e*, and *o* to indicate a long vowel pronunciation; 2. Transcribe the apostrophe (‘) between syllables when the first syllable ends with the letter n and the following syllable begins with the letter *a*, *i*, *u*, *e*, *o*, and *y* and when it is necessary to separate romanization.  *Note:*  **Diacritic marks had been implemented inconsistently due to the conflicting guidelines: the pre-2012 Romanization Table defining the apostrophe and macron as the diacritics to be used for Japanese romanization, and Cataloging service bulletin no. 100 (Spring 2003) advising the use of the alif instead of apostrophe. The new Diacritic marks section has been added to resolve this confusion.** |
| Word Division | 2(b)(2) example: *aa shitai* ああしたい | The example has been removed.  *Note:*  **Romanize ああ as *ā* according to the Diacritic Marks instruction above.** |
| 3(d) if the word romanized together with a single-character substantive becomes meaningless, hyphenate it with the word preceding it. | The instruction has been removed.  *Note:*  **It is no longer necessary to hyphenate the words.** |
| --- | More examples have been added throughout the section, which include:  3(d) 経済学史　keizaigakushi  5(a) 一九八三年　1983-nen  *Note:*  **Kanji numerals, when spelled out with tens, hundreds, etc., are romanized with hyphens (e.g., 千九百八十三 = sen-kyūhyaku-hachijūsan). Those that are represented by only kanji 一 to 九 are substituted by Arabic numerals as shown in the example above.** |