

Summary of Proposed Revisions to the Japanese Romanization Table (RT)

Following is a section-by-section overview of proposed changes in the Japanese romanization table, reflected in the draft revision. Numbering and headings were revised for ease of reference. For internal references, See and See Also links were added to provide users with easy access to relevant sections within the RT. The document includes a left-side navigation pane, allowing users to see in one glance the outline structure and to move around easily within the document.

Comparison Between the Current and Proposed Japanese Romanization Tables (RT)		
Current RT Section	Proposed RT Section	Highlights of Proposed Changes
Romanization System	1. Introduction	Revised to clarify the RT scope.
Word Reading	2. Basic principles for Romanization	Expanded. Added new instructions and examples. Long vowel section (2.5) created, and also a macron section (5.1.1). Under section 2.5.5, the concept of morpheme boundaries was introduced to clarify where and when to separate vowels. Romanization form of シンポジウム (symposium) was changed from shinpojūmu to shinpojiumu, to respond to majority of Japanese community member's support for the change and to follow the basic principles for Romanization (2.1). Note that this change would affect a number of bibliographic records and conference name authority records and would require a future group project among LC, OCLC and Japanese cataloger community to correct those affected records.
Capitalization	3. Capitalization	Rules for derivatives of proper names (3.9) were revised and expanded to be well aligned with English usage.
Punctuation	4. Japanese punctuation and typographical marks	Expanded. Added many details, with specific examples of how to transcribe Japanese punctuation in romanized fields.
Diacritic Marks	5. Diacritic marks and other symbols used in Romanization	Added two new diacritics (breve and acute) to allow more accurate romanization for special cases that involve the final tsu (促音 sokuon= small tsu) (5.1.3 and 5.1.4)
Word Division	6. Word Division	This section underwent major revision and reorganization, informed by the grammatical construction and word division rules used by the National Diet Library in Japan. Major changes and additions include: 6.6 Prefixes: A rule for the honorific prefixes is added. Except for the honorific prefixes, the rules guide catalogers to use their best judgement to decide whether a prefix is an integral part of the following word or not. If it is, romanize it as one word. If not, romanize it separately. 6.8 Foreign words: This separate and detailed section is newly established. The current rule to hyphenate foreign words was dropped for consistency with word division rules for kana and kanji. 6.10 Proper name exceptions: Added some major changes throughout this section. For example, in 6.10.3 Geographic and Other Proper Names, 日本史 is now Romanized as one word. On the other hand, 丹羽文雄集編集委員会, would now be romanized as Niwa Fumio Shū Henshu linkai, NOT Niwa Fumioshū Henshu linkai as it is under the current rule: Word division, 4, (a), exception (1). This change may affect many corporate body names.
[Handled Under Word division]	7. Numerals	Elevated the numeral section to the top level: 7. Numerals. Previously, it was part of the Word Division section. The revised Numeral section includes not only word division issues, but also reading issues relevant to numbers. Major changes include rules on when to convert and not to convert East Asian numerals to Arabic numerals in 7.2 and 7.3.
Appendices: Romanization Tables	Roman/Kana Equivalent Charts	Revised the Romanization Tables (Appendices A and B), including the formatting of the chart, notes added to the chart, and also the addition of frequent kana compounds and the deletion of some impractical kana compounds. Frequent kana compounds and impractical kana compounds were identified by record mining.
[N/A]	Helpful Resources	Lists various dictionaries and online resources that served as sources, and/or that are helpful to users of the romanization table.

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