

# The Cuneiform Transliteration Keyboard Layout Manual – For Users of macOS

Version 1.0 Maaike Langerak, 2 May 2022

## LEGAL NOTICE

The ‘Cuneiform Transliteration’ software and the accompanying documentation is free software. Although it has never caused any harm that the developer (Maaike Langerak) knows of, she shall not be liable for any damage, direct or consequential, of installing and/or using the software and its accompanying documentation. The software is provided ‘AS IS’, with no warranty, either explicit or implied.

## FEATURES OF THE THE CUNEIFORM TRANSLITERATION KEYBOARD

This keyboard is created in order to provide a full package of glyphs needed for transliterating cuneiform text, regardless of the language the cuneiform text transmits. It is not intended for typing cuneiform signs. The special signs are all located under Alt/Option ⌥ and Alt/Option ⌥ + Shift. Without modifiers, the keyboard functions as a default ‘U.S. International - PC’ keyboard, with letters and numbers, including default ‘dead keys’ for attaching certain diacritics to base letters, in order to obtain letters such as á, à, â, etcetera. The Cuneiform Transliteration keyboard provides additionally:

1. **Diacritics and precomposed letters** used for Sumerian, Akkadian, Hittite, and Ugaritic transliteration, namely, precomposed glyphs ݁, ݂, ݃, ݄; ݅, ݆, ݇, ݈, ݉, ݊, ݋, ݌, ݍ, ݏ, ݐ, ݑ, ݒ, which can be combined with any letter; as well as ’ / ? (aleph) and ‘ / ؽ (ayin);
2. **Dedicated subscript numbers** to display index numbers, e.g., NA<sub>4</sub>, KU<sub>3</sub>, as well as “x” subscript <sub>x</sub>, for new values of signs and pronunciations for which no generally accepted index numbers yet exist (e.g., DA<sub>x</sub>);
3. **Sigla for text editions:** multiplication sign × for indicating sign combinations; angle brackets <> and double angle brackets <><>; half top brackets ⌠ and half bottom brackets ⌡;
4. **Common glyphs for discussing linguistic features** of cuneiform text: Ø for indicating zero-morphemes and - for marking clitics or morpheme boundaries.

In order to type all glyphs encoded in the keyboard, you will need a font or a set of fonts which contains these glyphs and combining characters. The ‘Brill’ typeface, developed for the Brill publishing house by John Hudson,

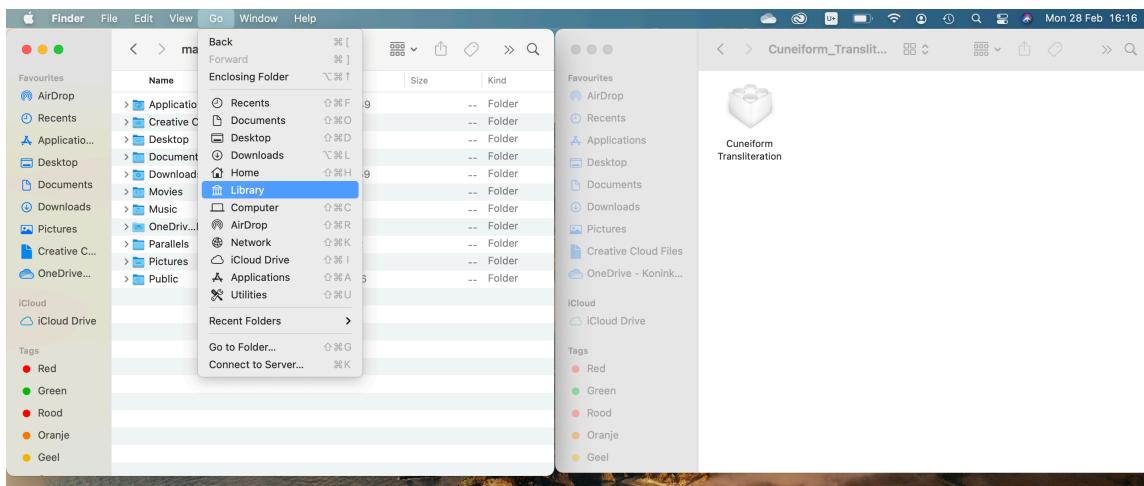
is a typeface which contains all needed characters. The font family can be downloaded at <https://brill.com/page/BrillFont/brill-typeface>.

## HOW TO INSTALL THE CUNEIFORM TRANSLITERATION KEYBOARD LAYOUT SOFTWARE

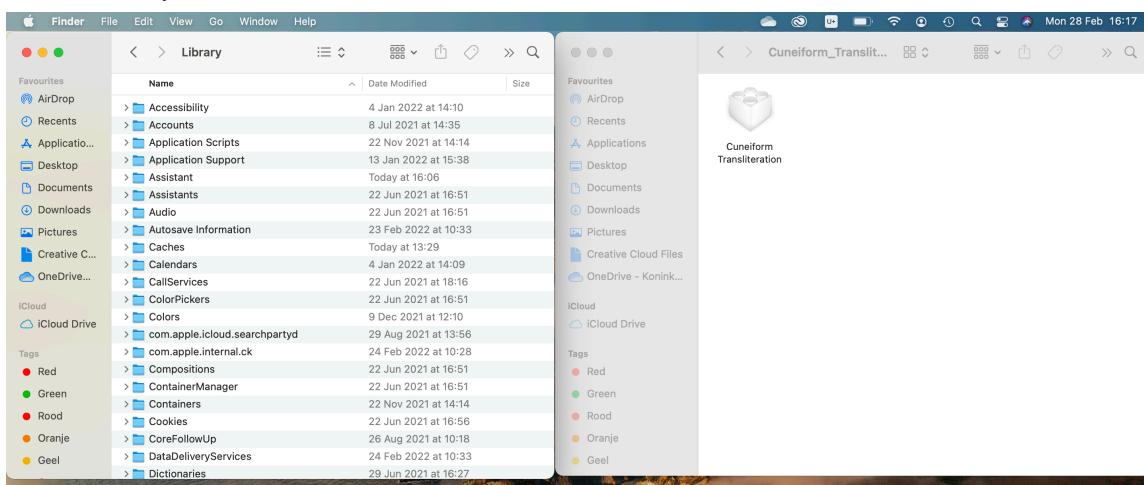
The keyboard layout software may be installed in several folders (or 'directories') on macOS, depending on the need of the user. This document illustrates installation of the keyboard in the current user's Keyboard Layouts folder, which is located inside the user's Library folder, because this what most users will need.

The user's Library folder is by default hidden from view, located in the Home folder. In order to make the Library folder appear, do the following.

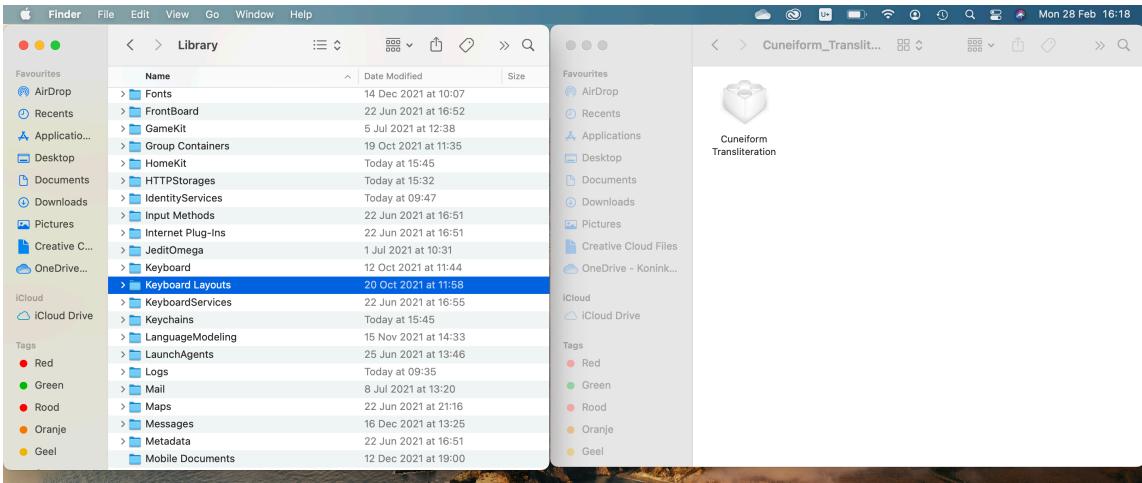
In Finder, go to Go in the menu bar. Press the Alt/Option ⌥ key and choose Go → Library.



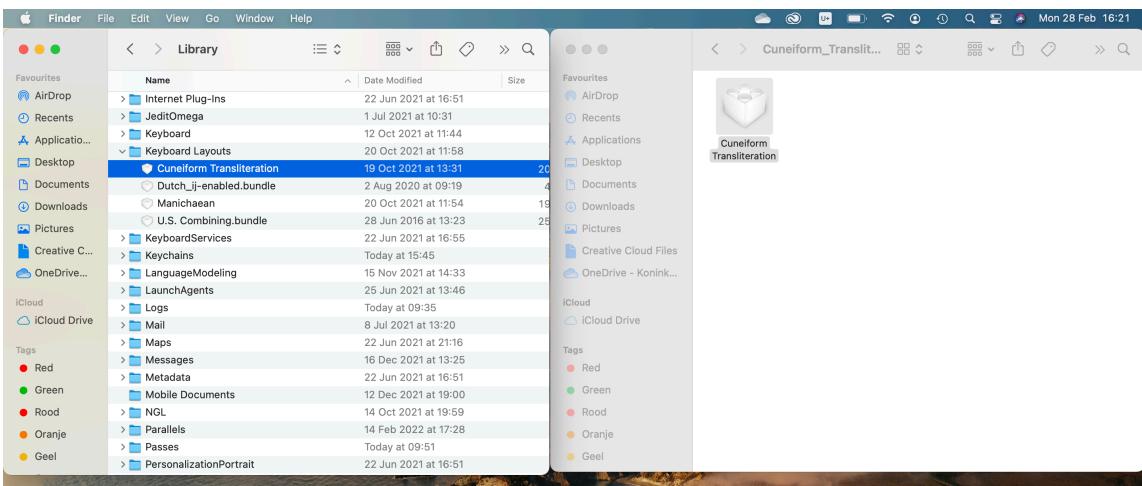
A new Finder window opens showing the contents of the current user's Library folder.



In the Library folder, there is a folder named 'Keyboard Layouts'.



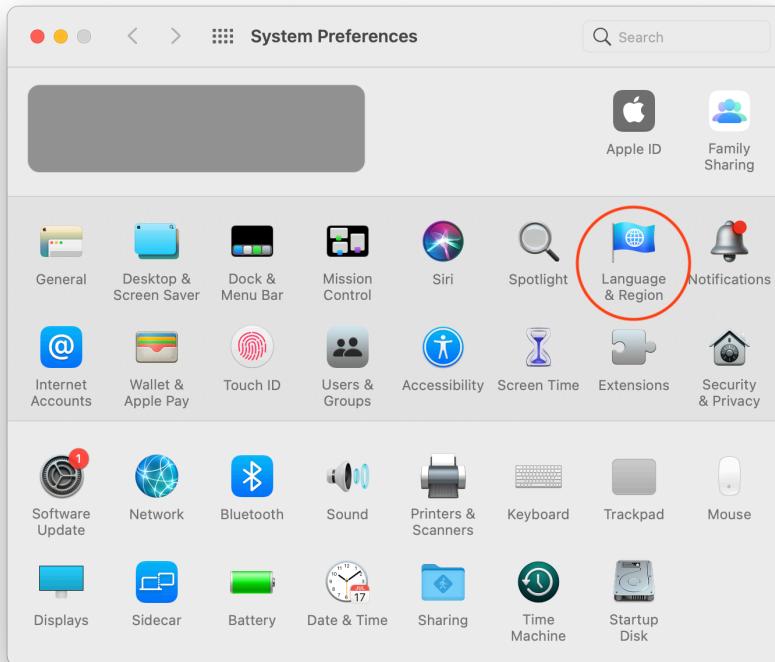
Drag the file named Cuneiform Transliteration.bundle into that folder.



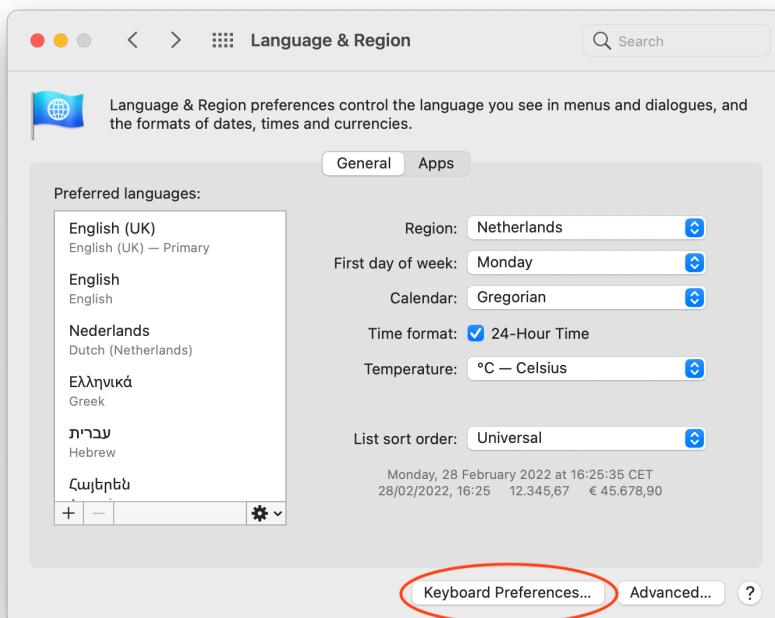
## HOW TO ACTIVATE THE CUNEIFORM TRANSLITERATION KEYBOARD LAYOUT SOFTWARE

**Restart your computer.** After this, the keyboard layout can be activated. This needs to be done only once. The procedure described here is for macOS 11.6 Big Sur.

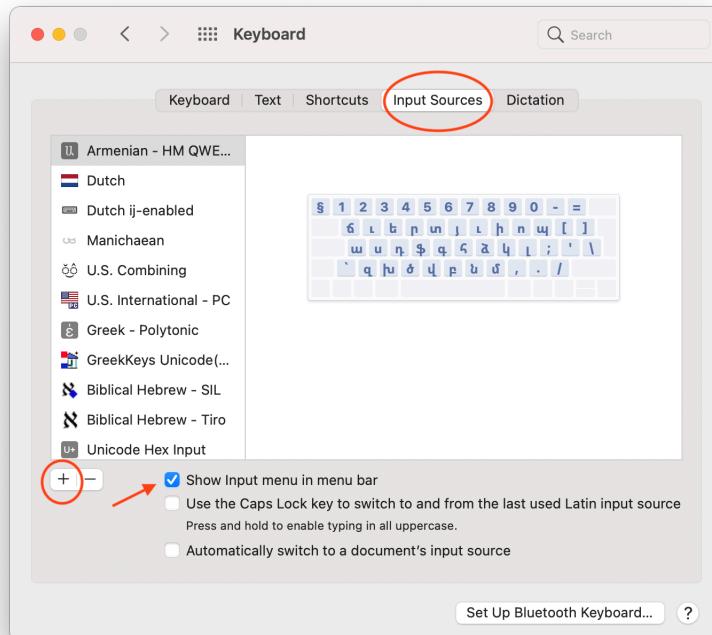
Go to System Preferences and click Language & Region.



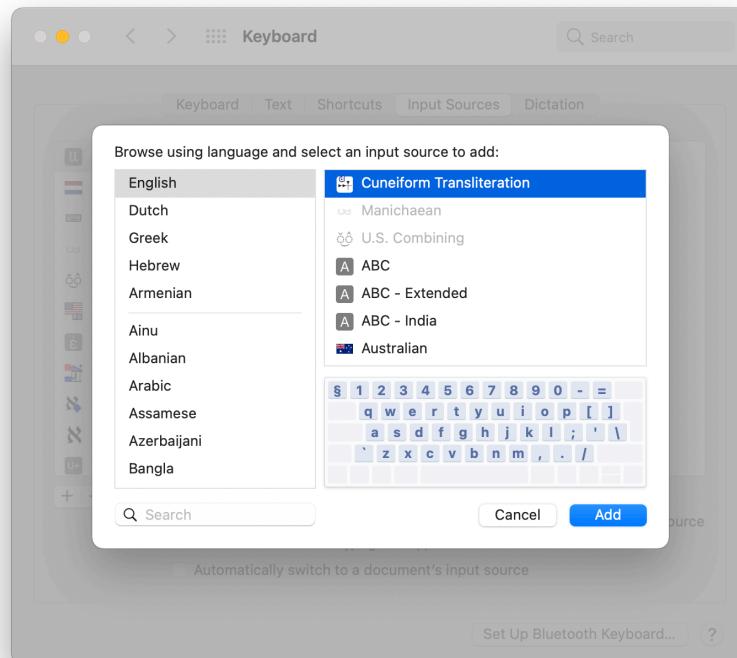
In the Language & Region window, choose Keyboard Preferences...



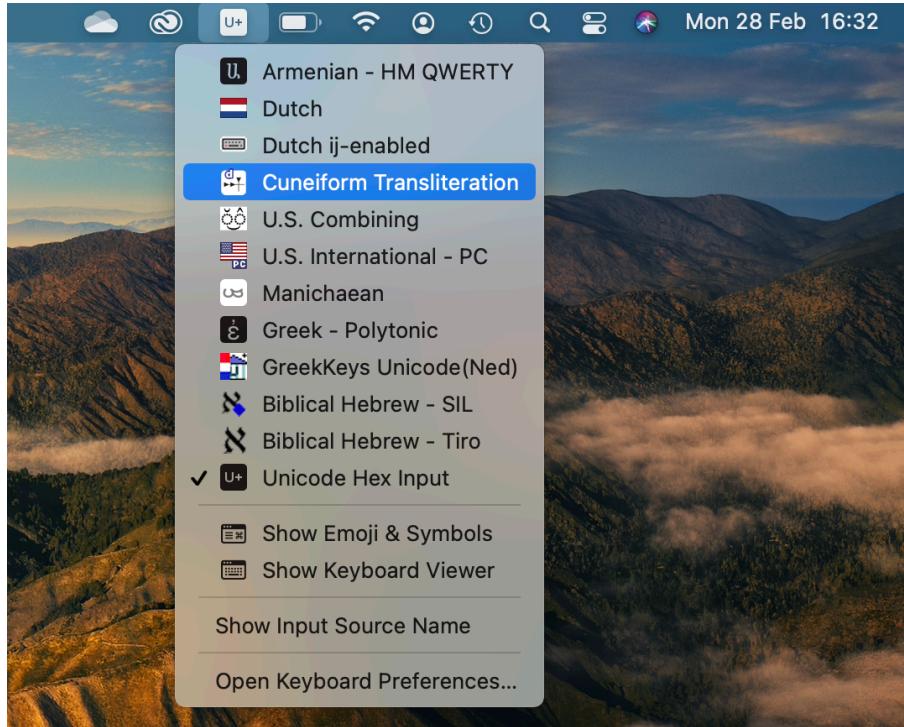
Choose **Input Sources** and make sure you checkmark the option ‘Show Input menu in menu bar’. Click **+**.



In the new pop-up menu, choose English on the left in the list of languages, select the Cuneiform Transliteration keyboard on the right and click Add.



Quit System Preferences. You should now see the Keyboard menu in the right-hand half of your menu bar, and after clicking on the Keyboard icon the menu drops down, showing you all the active keyboards, among which you will see the Cuneiform Transliteration keyboard listed.



**KEYBOARD LAYOUT DIAGRAMS OF THE CUNEIFORM TRANSLITERATION KEYBOARD (ISO)**

NO MODIFIERS



The Cuneiform Transliteration plain keyboard layout (the one that is active when no modifier key such as Shift or Alt/Option ⌘ is pressed) is the same as the regular ‘U.S. International - PC’ keyboard for English-language text.

The orange rectangles indicate ‘dead keys’: e.g., ‘ + a renders á; ` + a results in à.

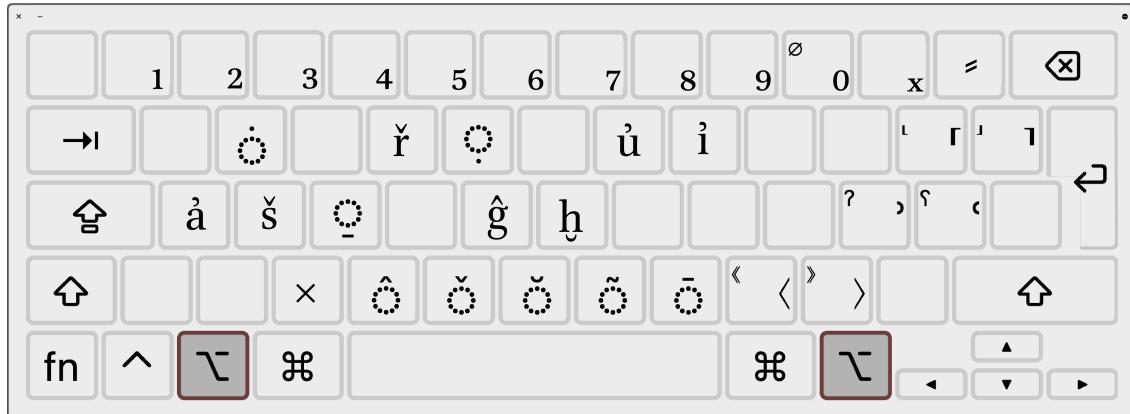
SHIFT



Also the Shift-state of the Cuneiform Transliteration keyboard is similar to the ‘U.S. International - PC’ keyboard layout.

The orange rectangles again indicate ‘dead keys’: e.g., Shift+6 = ^. Key Shift+6 + a to render â.

ALT/OPTION ⌥

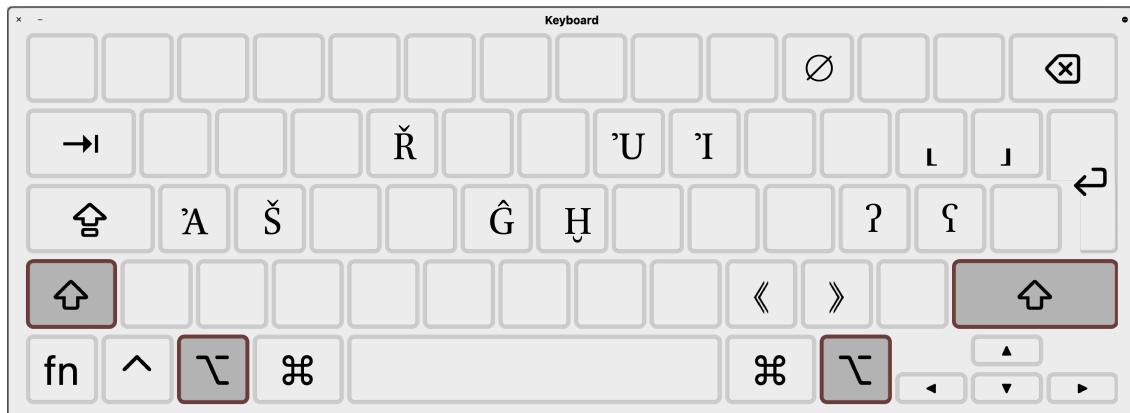


Pressing Alt/Option (⌥) provides access to the Cuneiform Transliteration glyphs: index numbers, precomposed accented letters, combining diacritics, special brackets, and half rings for transliterating *aleph* and *ayin*.

Keying ⌥+[number] results in the dedicated subscript number. For instance, ⌥+4 gives ₄.

Dotted circles indicate combining characters. First, key the character that is to carry the diacritic(s), and then insert one or more combining characters. Key, e.g., s + ⌥+t to render š; key s + ⌥+v + ⌥+t to display š.

ALT/OPTION ⌥ + SHIFT



Pressing Alt/Option ⌥ + Shift provides access to the capital letters of the precomposed accented letters, and to some more brackets, as well as to the zero-morpheme indicator: press ⌥ + Shift+o to render Ø.

NOTE FOR USERS OF NON-ISO KEYBOARDS

The keyboard diagrams above are based on the so-called ISO hardware keyboard, which is used mostly outside the USA. Just as the ANSI hardware keyboard, (used mostly in the USA), the ISO keyboard is of the QWERTY

layout. The only difference between both hardware keyboards is the shape and/or position of the Return key, the Backslash key, the Grave accent/Tilde key, and the presence or absence of the §/± key. I have not made diagrams showing non-QWERTY layouts, like **QWERTZ** (German, a.o.), **AZERTY** (French, a.o.), etc. This does not mean that you cannot use the Cuneiform Transliteration keyboard on these hardware keyboards, but you would either have to do some mental swapping of a few hardware keys, or you could just print out the keyboard diagrams and write the few differences on the printed version.