

Variant glyphs for XH

Currently the Ethiopic characters used in Melbourne and Harar for the XH series differs. In Harar, characters borrowed from the Oromo Ethiopic orthography are used. These Oromo characters do not exist in ISO-10646 or Unicode repertoires.

	xha	xhu	xhi	xhâ	xhe	xh	xho
Melbourne	ጸ	ጹ	፯	፰	፱	፳	፴
Harar	፯	፰	፱	፴	፳	፳	፳

Information sources for the Abyssinica SIL font indicate that ፯, ፰, ፱, ፴, ፳, ፳ and ፳ are variants of ጸ, ጹ, ፯, ፰, ፱, ፳ and ፴.

There are two options:

1. Treat these sets of characters as distinct separate characters. In which case it would be necessary to get the Oromo characters added to Unicode. A long process that isn't guaranteed to be successful.
2. Treat them as variant glyphs (shapes) of the same Unicode characters.

The second approach is the most practical. In the future fonts can be developed that could use either glyph set.

Which glyph set is the preferred set?