1   Purpose

1.1   General

This document describes a file format that allows representation of all existing ('historical') and publicly available digital Voynich MS transliterations in a consistent manner. As the word 'intermediate' suggests, this format is not intended to be the last word, but it will allow the definition of a more permanent format, ideally following accepted standards (such as, for example, 'TEI' [1]), and allow automated machine conversion of all existing transliterations into this permanent format.

Having a standard format for all files also allows the creation of standardised tools and scripts to access all transliteration files.

I would use the occasion to recommend all owners of private (not publicly available) transliterations to consider moving to this format, as it will allow them to use standardised tools, possibly developed by a community of users.

1.2   Limitations

See Section 7.

1.3   Document change history

Issue	Date	Comment
-	(several)	Versions earlier than 1.4 were development versions which have not been released.
1.4	12/08/2017	Changes affecting the format: 1. The symbol used for continuation lines has been changed from \ to / 2. The symbol used to separate alternative readings has been changed from | to : 3. The format version has been added as an optional field to the file header All other changes are of editorial nature. This is the first released version of the format.
1.5	23/08/2017	Mistakes in Table 9 corrected (still had some references to | symbol)
1.5.1	23/09/2017	Additional mistakes corrected (line continuation symbol was still written as \ (instead of /) in Sections 5.5 and 6.2. New rule about version numbering
1.6	21/11/2019	Introduction of the dedicated comment <%> for start of paragraph. Move

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[1] "Text Encoding Initiative", see for example http://www.tei-c.org/index.xml . This is only intended to highlight one option.