6.5 Alternative locus identifiers

For machine processing, an alternative type of locus identifier is supported in parallel. This also has a '<' in the first position, but the locus ID consists of only 5 characters. It does not have any locator information but it supports the optional transcriber ID. It terminates with a '>' in position 7 or 9.

The five-character code consists of two upper case characters followed by three digits.

The two characters identify the page using the values of the $Q and $P page variables as defined in Annex 1. The three digits give the value of *num* as per Table 6, with leading zeroes. Thus, the following are valid 'alternative' locus identifiers:

```
<AA001>
```

```
<AA001;Z>
```

If a file uses alternative loci, the page header uses '000' for the value of *num*, i.e. the page header for f1r is:

```
<AA000>
```

In files using these alternative locus identifiers, it is recommended to start the transliterated text in character position 11.

6.6 Transliterated text

The transliterated text comes after each locus identifier, after some optional whitespace, and includes characters of the transliteration alphabet, with, in addition, any of the following special characters:

Table 9: List of special characters in transliterated text

Char.	Meaning
/	If this character appears, it must be the first or the last character in the line. It does not represent a voynichese character, but indicates wrapping of the transliterated text for a locus over two (or more) lines. Comment lines are not allowed between continuation lines. A line following one that ends with a / must also have a / in the first position. The / cannot appear inside brackets of the type [ ] or { } (see below) , and if it appears inside an in-line free comment (<! >) , it loses its special meaning and is just a text element.
.	This character represents an apparent word space in the MS text.
,	This character represents an uncertain apparent word space in the MS text, meaning that the transcriber had doubt that a space between two characters was sufficiently wide to call it a word space.
<	If this character appears as part of the transliterated text, it is not the start of a page header or locus identifier (which must have the < in the first position in the line), but it is the start of an in-line comment. More about in-line comments may be found below this table. Every in-line comment must be closed by a > on the same line in the file. It is permitted to have several < … > pairs on the same line.