7 Limitations

7.1 Introduction

The present format definition ‘evolved’ largely in three stages.

The earliest stage was a set of conventions used in the 1990’s by people communicating through the internet (see also Ref. [R2]). This established some of the most basic usage, such as < > to identify loci, # for full-line comments, and . to indicate a word break in the text.

In a second stage, it was extended based on Unix-like notations such as { } for in-line comments, [ ] for alternate readings, ( ) for grouping and &…; for special characters.

In the present, third stage, many of these had to be changed in order to accommodate text in the v101 alphabet which uses many of these characters. As a result, some elements of this format definition are no longer as intuitive as they were in earlier definitions.

7.2 Limitations

1. In case transliteration files are not complete, or the loci are not sorted in increasing order, the ‘locator’ field can be potentially misleading. It is therefore preferred to re-arrange also historical transliteration files according to increasing locus order. It should be always understood that the meaning of the locator is w.r.t. the previous ‘number’, not necessarily the previous entry in the file
2. It has not always been possible to sort the loci in a completely consistent manner. This is most clearly the case in the presence of vertical lists. In some cases, the vertical arrangement appears the dominant one (e.g. on f66r), whereas in others, the horizontal alignment appears dominant (e.g. on f49v).
3. The so-called ‘interlinear placeholders’: ! and % which appeared in the LSI file, clash with the v101 transliteration alphabet. They are no longer used in the IVTFF format. Space characters shall be used in case the user wishes to create interlinear files where characters line up vertically.