

Definitions

character A member of a set of elements used for the organisation, control, or representation of data. (ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2003)

E.g ARABIC LETTER ALEF, ARABIC LETTER BEH (ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2003)

glyph A recognizable abstract graphic symbol which is independent of any specific design. (ISO/IEC 9541-1: 1991)

e.g the glyph for the characters ARABIC LETTER ALEF, ARABIC LETTER BEH, ARABIC LETTER TEH are ; ا , ب , ت

A character may have many different glyphs. e.g ب, ب, ب, ب

font A collection of glyph images having the same basic design, e.g. Arabic Typesetting, Adobe Arabic. (ISO/IEC 9541-1: 1991)

font type Adobe Arabic جاوي سوکا ساي

font type Arabic Typesetting جاوي سوکا ساي

font type Arial جاوي سوکا ساي

Coded character A character together with its coded representation. E.g The character ARABIC LETTER ALEF is coded U+0627. Each character has a unique code. (ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2003)

In information technology, characters are abstract information elements in the domain of coding for data representation and, in particular, data interchange.

Coded character set standards assign numeric values, character names, and representative (sample) images to each character contained in a coded character set. Typically a character is given a name, which also serves to differentiate it from the other characters of the coded character set.

The precise semantics and appearance of the information elements in any given implementation are not defined by those standards for coded character sets. This apparent lack of definition is not considered to be a defect in the standards. Recognizing that the information may be acted upon (deciphered,

sorted, transformed, formatted, archived, presented, etc.) by many different application processes during its lifetime, standards for coded character sets are defined as a basis for information interchange.

Characters and glyphs are closely related, with many attributes in common and yet with distinctions that make it essential that they be managed in information processing as separate entities.

The ISO/IEC 10646 standard recognizes the distinction between characters and their visual representation by defining the term, graphic symbol. The graphic symbol of SC 2 standards and the glyph image of SC 18 standards represent equivalent concepts.

However, glyph and its associated ISO/IEC 9541 terminology are preferred when referring to presentation and presentation processing.