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Information and documentation — Romanization of Chinese

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National foreword

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2015

ISBN 978 0 580 79721 7

ICS 01.140.10

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 December 2015.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 7098

Third edition
2015-12-15

Information and documentation — Romanization of Chinese

Information et documentation — Romanisation du chinois

Reference number
ISO 7098:2015(E)

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 7098:1991), which has been technically revised.

Annexes A, B and C form the integral parts of this International Standard.

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Introduction

The first edition of ISO 7098 was published in 1982 after ISO/TC 46 recognized the need for an International Standard specifying the Chinese phonetic alphabet. The second edition was published in 1991.

This third edition is in response to new application needs, for instance to reflect current Chinese romanization practice and new developments in China and the rest of the world.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO 7098:2015(E)

Information and documentation — Romanization of Chinese

1 Scope

This International Standard explains the principles of the Romanization of Modern Chinese Putonghua (Mandarin Chinese), the official language of the People's Republic of China as defined in the *Directives for the Promotion of Putonghua*, promulgated on 1956-02-06 by the State Council of China. This International Standard can be applied in documentation of bibliographies, catalogues, indices, toponymic lists, etc.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1
character
element of a writing system, whether or not alphabetical, that represents a phoneme, a syllable, a word or even prosodic characteristics of the language, by using graphical symbols (letters, diacritical marks, syllabic signs, punctuation marks, prosodic accents, etc.) or a combination of these signs (a letter having an accent or a diacritical mark)

EXAMPLE *a*, *B*, *ω* or *Γ* are, therefore, characters as well as basic letters.

2.2
alphabets
ordered character set, the order of which has been agreed upon

2.3
alphabetical characters
character set that contains *letters* (2.8)

2.4
alphanumeric characters
character set that contains both *letters* (2.8) and digits

2.5
graphic character
character that has a visual representation and is normally produced by writing, printing or displaying

2.6
ideophonographical character
graphic character (2.6) that represents an object or a concept and is associated with a sound element in a natural language

EXAMPLE Chinese hanzi 鹤(crane), Japanese kanji 戦(war) and Korean hanja 冊(book) are ideophonographical characters.

2.7
Chinese characters
ideophonographical character set for recording the Chinese language

Note 1 to entry: Chinese characters (hanzi) are also used in the writing systems of other languages.

2.8
letter
graphic character (2.6) that, when appearing alone or combined with others, is primarily used to represent a sound element of a spoken language

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