

Statement of Interest for the IDN Variant TLDs Issues Project

1. **Your Name:** Chris Dillon
2. **Current employer and position:** University College London, Research Associate in Linguistic Computing (my position has changed recently – I used to be Faculty Information Support Officer for Arts & Humanities, supporting IT on language-related projects)
3. **Type of work performed:** Research into how computers handle complex scripts, especially Chinese characters and other aspects of linguistic computing
4. **Identify any financial ownership and/or senior management/leadership that are interested parties in IDN Variant TLDs related topics:** So far UCL has not been involved with IDN TLDs, but see 5. below. UCL is interested in research in this field.
5. **Identify any type of commercial or non-commercial interest in IDN Variant TLDs related topics. Are you representing other parties? Describe any arrangements/agreements between you and any other group, constituency or person(s) regarding your nomination/selection as a team member:** UCL is scheduled to carry out evaluation work on IDN TLDs for the String Similarity, Geographic Names and Community Priority Panels. The work will be for InterConnect Communications (ICC) which has a contract with ICANN. However, there were no agreements with UCL, ICC or ICANN when I volunteered for work on the VIP.
6. **IDN Variant Case Study Team members are expected to demonstrate knowledge or expertise in aspects related to the IDN Variants. Please, identify any knowledge, expertise or experience you have that would be relevant to the work on IDN Variant TLDs Issues Project:** I have a First Class Honours degree in Japanese with Korean and a good knowledge of written Chinese. I am especially interested in the use of Chinese characters in these three languages. I also have varying amounts of knowledge of many other languages and scripts including Arabic, French, German, Hindi, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Urdu. I have over twenty years of experience in supporting languages in libraries and other academic institutions.
7. **Describe any tangible or intangible benefit that you receive from participation in such processes, for example, if you are an academic or NGO and use your position to advance your ability to participate, this should be a part of the statement of interest, just as should employment by an organization that has an interest in IDN Variant TLDs:** As an academic, I hope that my participation in the VIP may identify areas for further research.