

Tibetan

Comment [LRH1]: Transliteration revisions are highlighted below in light-gray or otherwise noted in a comment.

ALA-LC romanization of Tibetan letters follows the principles of the Wylie transliteration system, as described by Turrell Wylie (1959). Diacritical marks are used for those letters representing Indic or other non-Tibetan languages, and parallel the use of these marks when transcribing their counterpart letters in Sanskrit. These are applied for the sake of consistency, and to reflect international publishing standards. Accordingly, romanize words of non-Tibetan origin systematically (following this table) in all cases, even though the word may derive from Sanskrit or another language. When Tibetan is written in another script (e.g., 'Phags-pa) the corresponding letters in that script are also romanized according to this table.

Consonants (see Notes 1-3)

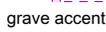
<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>	<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>	<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>
ཀ	ka	ད	da	ཇ	zha
ཁ	kha	ན	na	ཟ	za
ག	ga	པ	pa	འ	a
ང	nga	ཕ	pha	ཡ	ya
ཅ	ca	བ	ba	ར	ra
ཆ	cha	མ	ma	ལ	la
ཇ	ja	ཨ	tsa	ཤ	sha
ཉ	nya	མ	tsha	ས	sa
ཏ	ta	ཎ	dza	ཏ	ha
ཐ	tha	ཤ	wa	ཨ	a

Comment [LH2]: While the current ALA-LC table stipulates that an apostrophe should be used, this revision proposal recommends that the long-standing defacto LC practice of using an alif (U+02BC) be continued and explicitly stipulated in the Table. See accompanying Narrative for details.

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Notes 4 and 5)

ཨ	i	ཨ	ī	ཨ	ı
ཨ	u	ཨ	ū	ཨ	ı̄
ཨ	e	ཨ	ai	ཨ	!
ཨ	o	ཨ	au	ཨ	ı̄
ཨ	ā				

Other Letters or Diacritical Marks Used in Words of Non-Tibetan Origin (see Notes 6 and 7)

ལ་	ta	མ་	gha	ཛ་	ḍha
ཐ་	ṭha	ཞ་	jha	འོ་	<i>anusvāra</i> ṃ
ཏ་	ḍa	ཏ་	dha	འོ་	<i>anunāsika</i> ṁ
ཕ་	ṅa	ཕ་	bha	འོ་	<i>visarga</i> ḥ
ཕ་	ṣa	ཕ་	dzha	འོ་	<i>avagraha</i> 

Comment [LH3]: This letter combination does not occur in Tibetan texts, and has been deprecated from the Unicode Standard. We recommend dropping it from the table.

Comment [LH4]: The avagraha is not included in the current table. A spacing grave (U+0060) is proposed.

Consonant Clusters with Non-joiner to Disambiguate (see Notes 8 and 9)

གཡ་	g [̣] ya	མཎ་	t [̣] sa	མཎ་	n [̣] ya
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Comment [LH5]: This is the modified letter prime, and we recommend continuing its use. The original Wylie transliteration uses a period instead, but if the cataloger enters a period, then it is read as a space in many local systems and can cause searching difficulties. Also, the period is needed for other purposes and may prevent one-to-one correspondence for eventual script conversion. If LC retains the modified letter prime, the user can still search using the Wylie convention (a period) and get the expected results. In short, the proposal is for a *Wylie-compatible* system, which is better achieved if the LC transliteration in this case retains the diacritical mark instead of adopting the Wylie convention.

Comment [LH6]: This letter combination needs to be differentiated from *ts*. It is not included in the current LC table. For consistency, we suggest use of the modified letter prime as a non-joiner.

Comment [LH7]: This letter combination needs to be differentiated from *ny*. It is not included in the current LC table. See preceding comment.

Notes

1. Internal capitalization of base consonants is not to be followed.
2. The vowel *a* is implicit after all consonants in independent form and is supplied in romanization, unless another vowel is indicated by its appropriate sign.
3. The *'a chung* (འ་) is represented by an alif (') unless marked with a vowel marker, in which case it is represented by the alif plus the appropriate vowel. When the *'a chung* is written below any letter representing vocalic length, it is romanized according to the vowel table.
4. Only the vowel forms that appear at the beginning of a syllable are listed. A syllable is defined as a graph or group of graphs followed by a *tsheg* (ཅེག). The forms used for vowels following a consonant can be found in grammars.
5. The reversed form of the letter *i* (ཨི) that appears in Old Tibetan documents is transcribed in the same way as the more normative form ཨི (*i*), since it is a variation in script and does not carry any unique semantic or phonetic value.
6. The reverse-d (ཏྲ) is rendered as ḍ when it appears in Tibetanized Sanskrit words. However, when the reverse-d appears at the end of a Tibetan syllable as scribal shorthand for གཡས, then it is romanized as *gs*.

7. The *avagraha*, which marks an elided vowel in Sanskrit clusters, is represented by a spacing grave accent (`)

ཤུ་དྲ་ཏོ་ཧམ། | shū ddho`ham

8. When ལ་ is preceded by ལ།, it is romanized *g'ya* to distinguish it from ལ།, which is romanized *gya*. This diacritical mark is the “modified letter prime”. Note that the Wylie transliteration schema uses the period as a non-joiner (*g.ya*), but this can cause searching difficulties in local systems because it is read as a space.

Comment [LH8]: In the current LC table, this wording is erroneously reversed.

9. When two full forms of letters are stacked, as in Sanskritized Tibetan, there is no need to indicate the stacking. However, in the two cases noted here a modified letter prime should be inserted between the two consonants for the purpose of disambiguation.

ཧྲི་ འ་ ཅ་ ཉ་ རྣ་ རྣ་

t'sa tsa n'ya nya

10. Tibetan numerals are འ (0), ༡ (1), ༢ (2), ༣ (3), ༤ (4), ༥ (5), ༦ (6), ༧ (7), ༨ (8), and ༩ (9).

Punctuation

1. *Tsheg* (་), the syllabic boundary marker, is represented by a hyphen in proper names and by a space in other words.
2. Transcribe a centered point (་) indicating a space by a space.

འབའ་ བསོད་བླ་མ་བརྩམས། 'Ba' Bsod-bhas brtsams

Comment [LRH9]: The centered point sometimes appears in contemporary Tibetan publications from the PRC. It mimics the modern Chinese convention to insert such a dot between a foreign surname and forename, for example. The main purpose of this revision is simply to clarify the instruction for how to handle such instances. It does not represent a change in practice, and the wording here is identical to that in the Chinese RomanizationTable.

3. Transcribe angle brackets (《 ... 》) used in the manner of quotation marks ("...") as quotation marks.