

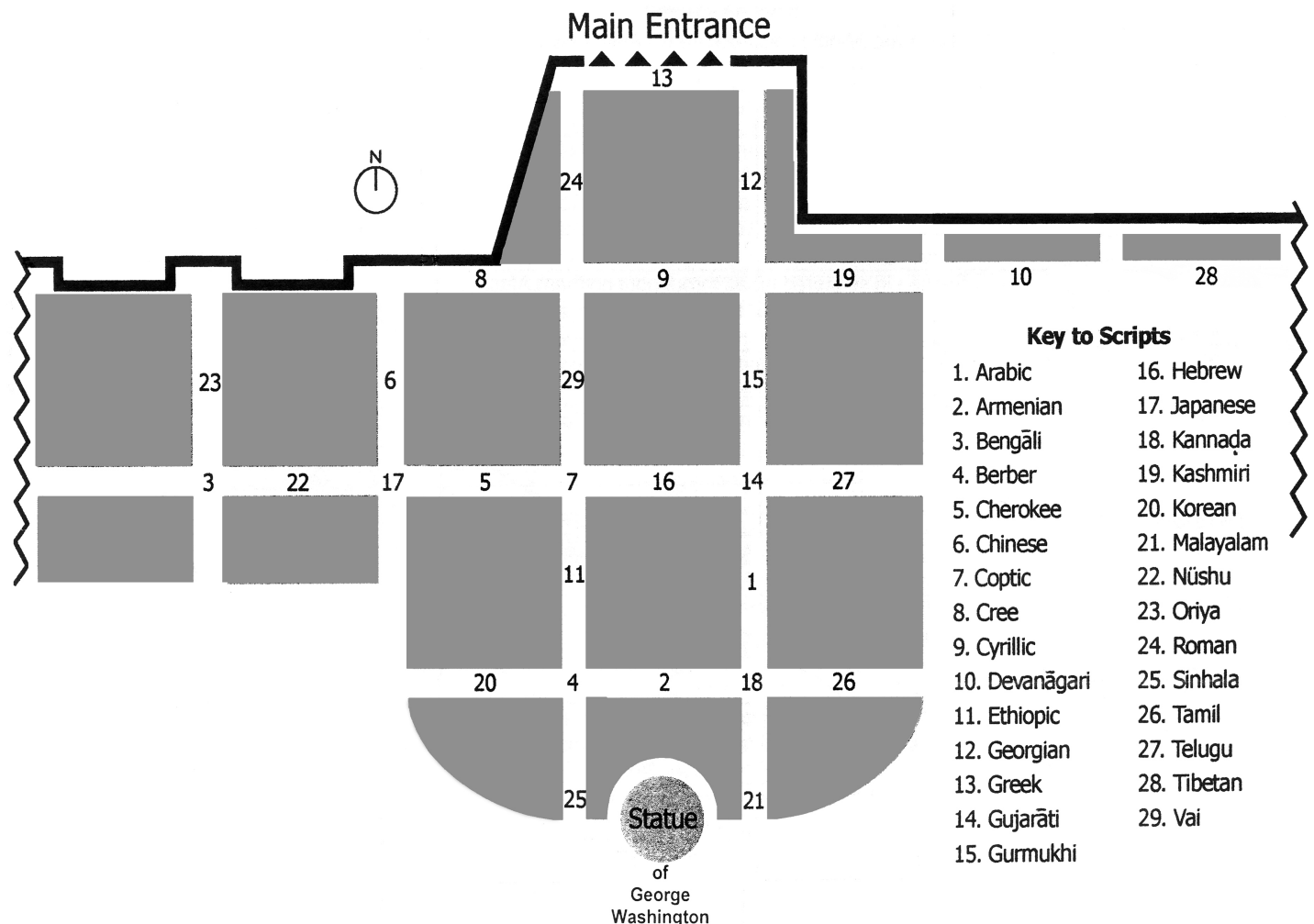
# Scripts of the World on the Olin Library Plaza

The scripts engraved on the Olin Library plaza represent the diversity of symbols for recording language. In *alphabetic* scripts, such as Latin (Roman), Cyrillic, and Korean, a letter symbol corresponds to a sound. In *syllabic alphabets*, such as Devanāgarī, Gurmukhī, and Ethiopic, and in *unmatched-base syllabaries*, such as Cherokee and Vai, a symbol represents a syllable. In *logographic* scripts, such as Chinese, a symbol may stand for or hint at the meaning of the concept or idea that formed its basis or be a part of a word or a whole word or even just a phonetic element.

Scripts also symbolize the dynamic and complex relationship between languages and societies through history. For example, Kashmiri, written in Kashmiri script, is also comprehensible to Kashmiri speakers when written in Arabic and Devanāgarī scripts. Some scripts were intentionally designed, such as Sequoya's Cherokee syllabary developed by him in 1821 but possibly having a rough precursor script according to some Cherokee scholars now. Some scripts were wholly adopted, such as the Roman script used for modern Turkish and promulgated in 1928 as the official script of the Turkish Republic. Scripts continue to change. For Chinese, many characters were simplified on the mainland but additional ones also for the computer keyboard. Some scripts, like Coptic and the phonetic Nūshu ('women's script'), are receding as their populations of users decrease.

Use the location guide and key to locate the scripts on the plaza. The table below lists the scripts, pronunciations, script name, languages, and primary locations where spoken.

(Text and table revisions by Carl Masthay, St. Louis April 2007 and May 2018)



#	Specimen Reading	Script	Language(s)	Where spoken
	(ʌ, <i>but</i> ; ə, <i>sofə</i> ; e, <i>they</i> ; ɔ, <i>law</i> ; subscript dot = retroflex; Cherokee v = nasal ə; ' = glottalized; ˖ = voiced upper pharyngeal fricative)			
1.	ع ل ك س	‘ lā l k	<b>Arabic</b>	<i>Arabic, Urdu</i> <i>Persian</i> Near East, Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa
2.	Ճ ը Ֆ Պ	ch/j ə f p/b	<b>Armenian (e./w.)</b>	<i>Armenian</i> Armenian, Iran, Georgia, Turkey, Azerbaijan
3.	ঝ য এ ড	j <sup>h</sup> a yʌ e dʌ	<b>Bengali</b>	<i>Bengali</i> <i>Assamese</i> <i>Manipuri</i> <i>Garo</i> <i>Mundari</i> Bangladesh and in the Indian state of West Bengal; Bengali script used for <i>Assamese</i> and <i>Manipuri</i> in the Indian states of Assam and Manipur; <i>Garo</i> in the Brahmaputra valley in Assam; <i>Mundari</i> mainly in Bihar, India
4.	ⵍ ⵎ ⵏ ⵑ ⵔ ⵖ ⵗ	y(y) k z t	<b>Berber</b>	<i>Berber</i> <i>(Libyan)</i> Spoken in scattered areas throughout northern Africa from Egypt west to Atlantic Ocean and from Niger River north to Mediterranean
5.	Ꮝ Ꮖ Ꮗ Ꮘ	ne qu o lv	<b>Cherokee</b>	<i>Cherokee</i> 22,000 speakers, primarily in OK and NC
6.	我 您 她 他	wǒ nín tā tā (I you she he)	<b>Chinese</b>	<i>Mandarin, Wú,</i> <i>Gàn, Mǐn, Yuè,</i> <i>Hakka, Xiāng</i> China, Burma, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia
7.	ⲁ ⲟ ⲛ Ⲙ	ǎ ǒ ǝ tsh	<b>Coptic</b>	<i>Coptic</i> Liturgical language of Coptic Church in Egypt
8.	ᐅ ᐆ ᐇ ᐈ	e po me yi	<b>Cree</b>	<i>Cree,</i> <i>Ojibwa rarely</i> Canada: Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba; USA: MI, WI, MN, MT, ND
9.	Б Ц Д Ж	b ts d zh	<b>Cyrillic</b>	<i>Russian</i> <i>Bulgarian</i> <i>Serbian, etc.</i> Eastern Slavs: Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Russia, Ukraine, Belarusian
10.	व उ ण त	vʌ u ɳʌ tʌ	<b>Devanâgari</b>	<i>Hindi</i> <i>Sanskrit</i> <i>Nepali</i> <i>Hindi</i> in Indian states: Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, northern Bihar; also Bangladesh; <i>Nepali</i> in Nepal
11.	ወ ጸ ከ ኀ	wʌ s'ʌ hʌ hī	<b>Ethiopic</b>	<i>Amharic, Tigré</i> <i>Tigrinya</i> <i>Amharic</i> , national language of Ethiopia; <i>Tigrinya</i> and <i>Tigré</i> in Eritrea, Ethiopia
12.	ქ ლ ვ ფ	k j ts' p	<b>Georgian</b>	<i>Georgian</i> Georgia, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Iran
13.	Φ Σ Ψ Δ	ph/f s ps d	<b>Greek</b>	<i>Greek</i> Greece, Cyprus
14.	ક ઠ ડ ક for ઢ	fʌ t <sup>h</sup> ʌ dʌ kshʌ	<b>Gujarati</b>	<i>Gujarâti</i> <i>Gujarâti</i> in Indian state of Gujarat; <i>Kachchi</i> in India, Kenya, Malawi, Pakistan, Tanzania
15.	ਠ ਕ ਬ ਝ	t <sup>h</sup> ʌ kʌ t <sup>h</sup> ʌ ŋʌ	<b>Gurmukhi</b>	<i>Punjabi</i> <i>Panjâbi, or Punjabi</i> , in Indian state of Panjab; Pakistan (but in a version of Arabic script)

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16.	א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת ם ן ף ץ	' l sh/s t	Hebrew	Hebrew	Israel
17.	カ ホ ム ラ	ka ho mu ra	Japanese	Japanese	Japan, USA, Brazil, Peru
18.	ಅ ರ ಞ ಚ	ʌ re ɳʌ je	Kannaḍa	Kannaḍa (Tulu)	Kannaḍa, or Canarese, in Indian state of Karnataka
19.	उ ऋ ऌ म	u jhʌ lʌ mʌ	Kashmiri	Kashmiri	India, Pakistan
20.	ㄷ ㄷ ㅈ ㅈ	r/l t/d ch/j p/b	Korean	Korean	South Korea, North Korea, China, Japan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia
21.	ങ ഡ ള ഠ → ഡ [ligature]	ngʌ ɖʌ tʰʌ gmʌ	Malayalam	Malayalam	Indian state of Kerala and the Lakshadweep Islands; Singapore, Malaysia (where written by Muslims with a version of the Arabic script)
22.	𠃉 𠃊 𠃋 𠃌	[See footnote]	Nüshu	dialect of Jiāngyǒng	Nüshū 'Women's script', developed in secret by and for women in Hunan Province, China
23.	ଚ ଓ ଝ ଞ	chɔ o dʰɔ ʌi	Oriya	Oriya	Indian state of Orissa
24.	A B C D	a b c d	Roman (Latin)	Latin European and many world languages	Countries of the Western Hemisphere, Europe, Turkey, former colonies of those countries
25.	ඊ ඉ ඊ ඊ ← ඊ	tʌ gʌ fʌ jʌ (tə gə fə jə)	Sinhala	Sinhala (Pali) (Sanskrit)	Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand; Sinhala script is also used to write Pali and Sanskrit in Sri Lanka
26.	ம ன் அ வ	mʌ ngʌ ʌ vʌ	Tamil	Tamil	Indian state of Tamilnadu, northeastern Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore
27.	ప డ అ జ ర ళ జ	pʰʌ dʰʌ rʰʌ jʌ	Telugu	Telugu	Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and in neighboring states
28.	ཆ ལ ས རྩ	chʰ l pʰ rm	Tibetan	Tibetan	Tibet, China, Bhutan, Sikkim, Ladakh, Nepal
29.	𐎎 𐎏 𐎐 𐎑	mu 'o/ wo va nḍi	Vai	Vai	Liberia, Sierra Leone; language in Mande family, North Western branch

For 22. Nüshu: ◆ 𠃉 tɕiŋ<sup>21</sup> 见 'to see'; ◆ 𠃊 tɕiou<sup>35</sup> 九 'nine', 久 'old', 韭 'scallions'; tɕiou<sup>21</sup> 教 'to teach'; ɕiou<sup>35</sup> 守 'to guard'; ◆ 𠃋 uai<sup>41</sup> 文 'literature'; 闻 'to hear'; fai<sup>44</sup> 昏 'dusk, dark'; fai<sup>41</sup> 坟 'grave, mound'; ◆ 𠃌 tou<sup>41</sup> 头 'head'.

Transliteration and editing by Carl Masthay, St. Louis, 2007, into previous Olin Library chart  
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