# Chinese

## RULES OF APPLICATION

**Romanization**

1.  ALA-LC romanization of ideographic characters used for the Chinese language follows the principles of the Pinyin ("*spell sound*") system.  The Pinyin system was developed in the mid 20th century for creating Latin script readings for Chinese script ideographic characters.  It replaces the Wade-Giles system of romanization specified in earlier editions of the *ALA-LC Romanization Tables*.  The Pinyin system as outlined in *Han yu pin yin fang an* 汉语拼音方案  (1962) is followed closely for creating romanizations except that the ALA-LC guidelines do not include the indication of tone marks.

2.  Standard Chinese national (PRC) pronunciation is used as the basis for creating the Latin script reading of a character.  When it is necessary to make semantic distinctions between multiple readings of a single character, rely upon the usage of the most recent comprehensive edition of *Ci hai* 辞海  (published in China by Shanghai ci shu chu ban she).  To determine contemporary pronunciation, or when there is a conflict in pronunciation between different sources, it is appropriate to follow the guidance of a more recent dictionary (such as *Xian dai Han yu ci dian* 现代汉语词典*, Zhonghua da zi dian* 中華大字典 *, Han yu da ci dian* 漢語大詞典, and/or *Xin Hua zi dian*  新华字典 ).  More specialized dictionaries (such as *Zhongguo li dai yi jia zhuan lu* 中國歷代醫家 傳錄 , pub. 1991) may be consulted if necessary.  Judgment should be used in choosing between modern authoritative dictionaries and older standard dictionaries.

3.  Romanize words of non-Chinese origin systematically in all cases, even though normalized  non-systematic romanizations are known or the word comes from a Latin script language.

    | | |
    |---|---|
    | 乌鲁木齐 | Wulumuqi *not* Urumchi |
    | 哈尔滨市 | Haerbin Shi *not* Harbin |
    | 芝加哥 | Zhijiage *not* Chicago |
    | 東京 | Dongjing *not* Tokyo |

**Separation of Syllables**

Separate the romanization of each Chinese character with a space.  This includes corporate names, terms of address and titles of royalty. Do not join syllables of general, non-specific geographic terms.

| | |
|---|---|
| 明清小说比较研究 | Ming Qing xiao shuo bi jiao yan jiu |

| | |
|---|---|
| 李白和他的诗歌 | Li Bai he ta de shi ge |
| 地震文化与社会发展 | Di zhen wen hua yu she hui fa zhan |
| 商務印書館 | Shang wu yin shu guan |
| 李登輝先生言論集 | Li Denghui xian sheng yan lun ji |
| 塔尔寺修缮工程报告 | Ta er si xiu shan gong cheng bao gao |
| 中国老年文物研究学会 | Zhongguo lao nian wen wu yan jiu xue hui |
| 西北国棉四厂 | Xi bei guo mian si chang |

1.  Terms of address.  A term of address may follow a surname, a courtesy name, or another appellation.  Separate syllables in the term of address.  If a term appearing as an integral part of a name is not a title or term of address, romanize the name in running form, as a forename (see below).

| | |
|---|---|
| 林老师 | Lin lao shi |
| 韋大夫 | Wei dai fu |
| 白沙先生 | Baisha xian sheng |
| 晦菴先生 | Huian xian sheng |
| 蔣經國先生 | Jiang Jingguo xian sheng |

2.  Titles, and titles of royalty.  Syllables in a title should be separated and written in lower-case.  If a term appearing as an integral part of a name is not a title or term of address, romanize the name in running form, as a forename.  An epithet is separated from the name of a person, using lower case letters and separated syllables.

| | |
|---|---|
| 董鄂妃 | Donge fei |
| 慈禧皇后 | Cixi huang hou |
| 秦始皇帝 | Qin shi huang di |
| 楊太后 | Yang tai hou |

3. General, non-specific geographic terms.  Some terms have both general and specific usage, depending upon context.  For example, when the term 东北 refers to the direction northeast, or, in a general way, to the Northeast, separate syllables; when it is used to refer specifically to Manchuria, capitalize and join syllables.

| | |
|---|---|
| 华东 | Hua dong |
| 西北 | xi bei |
| 东北 | dong bei |
| 陕北 | Shan bei |
| *But:* | |
| 东北林学院 | Dongbei lin xue yuan |

**Connection of syllables.**

1.  Join together (without spaces or hyphens) the syllables associated with multi-character surnames and given names.  Also join together given names, Buddhist names, courtesy names, etc., in more than one syllable.  For example:

| | |
|---|---|
| 孫中山 | Sun Zhongshan |
| 歐陽修 | Ouyang Xiu |
| 司馬相如 | Sima Xiangru |
| 尼克森 | Nikesen |
| 康有爲 | Kang Youwei |

1A.  Forenames, given names, courtesy names. A forename does not include a person's surname. Only capitalize the first letter of a forename. If a term appearing as an integral part of a name is not a title or term of address, romanize the name in running form.

| | |
|---|---|
| 無 名氏 | Wumingshi |
| 梧岗主人 | Wugangzhuren |
| 雲谷老人 | Yungulaoren |
| 孔子 | Kongzi |
| 老子 | Laozi |
| 浩然 | Haoran |

1B.  Married women.  Separate and capitalize family names.

| | |
|---|---|
| 蔣宋美齡 | Jiang Song Meiling |
| 陳趙月英 | Chen Zhao Yueying |

1C.  Fictional characters.  The names of fictional characters are romanized in the same manner as those of real people.

| | |
|---|---|
| 骆驼祥子 | Luotuo Xiangzi |
| 秦可卿 | Qin Keqing |

1D.  Names of persons of religious vocation.  Separate a term of address from a family name or forename.

| | |
|---|---|
| 惠能 | Huineng |
| 釋吉藏 | shi Jizang |
| 智顗大師 | Zhiyi da shi |
| 沙門元賢 | sha men Yuanxian |

1E.  Personal names appearing as part of the names of corporate bodies and meetings are

romanized in the same manner as all other personal names. (See also Section 2J)

| | |
|---|---|
| 中山大學 | Zhongshan da xue |
| 《刘少奇研究论文集》编辑组 | |
| | "Liu Shaoqi yan jiu lun wen ji" bian ji zu |
| 周恩来研究学术讨论会 | Zhou Enlai yan jiu xue shu tao lun hui |

2.  Join together (without spaces or hyphens) the syllables associated with multi-character geographic names. Do not join the names of jurisdictions and topographical features to geographic names, but separate them from the proper name by a space.

| | |
|---|---|
| 中华人民共和国史稿 | Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo shi gao |
| 臺灣省立博物館 | Taiwan sheng li bo wu guan |
| 西藏自治区文物管理委员会 | |
| | Xizang Zizhiqu wen wu guan li wei yuan hui |
| 东北林学院 | Dongbei lin xue yuan |
| 扬子江 | Yangzi Jiang |
| 广州市 | Guangzhou Shi |
| 安徽省 | Anhui Sheng |
| 商丘地区 | Shangqiu Diqu |
| 鹿港镇 | Lugang Zhen |
| 纽约市 | Niuyue Shi |
| 甘南藏族自治州 | Gannan Zangzu Zizhizhou |
| 翠亨村 | Cuiheng Cun |
| 浦棠乡 | Putang Xiang |
| 海南岛 | Hainan Dao |

2A.  Names of countries. Connect syllables according to the practice followed by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

| | |
|---|---|
| 中华人民共和国 | Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo |
| 朝鲜民主主义人民共和国 | Chaoxian Minzhu Zhuyi Renmin Gongheguo |
| 中華民國 | Zhonghua Minguo |
| 民国档案与民国史学术讨论会论文集 | |
| | Minguo dang an yu Minguo shi xue shu tao lun hui lun wen ji |
| 俄国戏剧史概要 | Eguo xi ju shi gai yao |

2B.  Generic terms for geographical features are capitalized and separated from the names of the features. The syllables of the name of a jurisdiction or geographic feature that are included within another place name are connected together. These practices are also followed when geographic names appear within corporate names. In case of doubt, separate.

| | |
|---|---|
| 海南岛 | Hainan Dao |
| 太平洋 | Taiping Yang |
| 长江 | Chang Jiang |
| 长江口 | Changjiang Kou *not* Chang Jiang Kou |
| 长江大饭店 | Chang Jiang da fan dian n*ot* Changjiang da fan dian |
| 珠江水产研究所 | Zhu Jiang shui chan yan jiu suo |
| 汾河 | Fen He |
| 汾河水库 | Fenhe Shuiku |
| 梵净山 | Fanjing Shan |
| 梵净山自然保护区 | Fanjingshan Ziran Baohuqu |
| 黑龙江省 | Heilongjiang Sheng |
| 黄土高原 | Huangtu Gaoyuan |
| 印度半岛 | Yindu Bandao |

2C.  Two-syllable place names, in which the second syllable is a generic term.  Separate and capitalize a generic term for the jurisdiction.

| | |
|---|---|
| 吳縣 | Wu Xian |
| 祁縣 | Qi Xian |

2D.  Place names consisting of more than two syllables.  Separate and capitalize a generic term for the jurisdiction.

| | |
|---|---|
| 安徽省 | Anhui Sheng |
| 广州市 | Guangzhou Shi |
| 高雄市 | Gaoxiong Shi |
| 宝山区 | Baoshan Qu |
| 鹿港镇 | Lugang Zhen |
| 翠亨村 | Cuiheng Cun |
| 商丘地区 | Shangqiu Diqu |
| 甘南藏族自治州 | Gannan Zangzu Zizhizhou |

2E.  Obsolete terms for administrative units are romanized in the same manner as the names of contemporary places.

| | |
|---|---|
| 福寧州 | Funing Zhou |
| 昌平州 | Changping Zhou |
| 錦州府 | Jinzhou Fu |
| 安順府 | Anshun Fu |

2F.  Names of non-Chinese jurisdictions are romanized in the same manner as the names of Chinese jurisdictions.

| | |
|---|---|
| 加州 | Jia Zhou |
| 紐約市 | Niuyue Shi |
| 亞洲 | Ya Zhou |
| 東南亞 | Dong nan Ya |

2G.  Terms for archaeological sites, bridges, and other constructions of geographic extent are capitalized and separated from the names themselves.  Individual syllables of multi-syllable generic terms are connected together.  Individual syllables of multi-syllable generic terms are connected together, as are the syllables of the names of a jurisdiction or geographic feature that are included within the term.

| | |
|---|---|
| 泸州长江大桥 | Luzhou Changjiang Daqiao *not*  Luzhou Chang Jiang Daqiao |
| 黄壁庄水库 | Huangbizhuang Shuiku  *not*  Huangbi Zhuang Shuiku |
| 京杭运河 | Jing Hang Yunhe |

2H.  Names of buildings and other constructions of less than geographic extent.  Syllables are separated and not capitalized, except for proper nouns.

| | |
|---|---|
| 黄鶴楼 | Huang he lou |
| 聖果寺 | Sheng guo si |

2I.  Names of continents and regions. Generic terms are separated and capitalized in the names of continents and regions.  Distinguish when a term refers to a region, and when it refers to direction or position.

| | |
|---|---|
| 亞洲 | Ya Zhou |
| 東南亞 | Dong nan Ya |
| 北美洲 | Bei Mei Zhou |
| 東北 | dong bei (when referring to direction or position) |
| *But:* | |
| 東北 | Dongbei (when referring to the particular area formerly known as Manchuria) |

2J.  The syllables of personal names that appear within geographic names are connected together.  The generic term for the jurisdiction or geographic feature is separated.  This rule is an exception to Section 1E.

| | |
|---|---|
| 张自忠路 | Zhangzizhong Lu |
| 左权县 | Zuoquan Xian |
| 鲁迅公园 | Luxun Gongyuan |

3.  Join together transliterations of two or more characters comprising the names of racial, linguistic, or tribal groupings of mankind**.** Join the term zu (for tribe or people) to a name only in proper names of places.

| | |
|---|---|
| 基督徒 | Jidu tu |
| 桐城派 | Tongcheng pai |
| 毛南族 | Maonan zu |
| 美国人 | Meiguo ren |
| 客家话 | Kejia hua |
| 苗族风情录 | Miao zu feng qing lu |

But:
| | |
|---|---|
| 德宏傣族景颇族自治州 | Dehong Daizu Jingpozu Zizhizhou |

4.  Add an apostrophe before joined syllables that begin with a vowel in cases of ambiguity. For example:

| | |
|---|---|
| 長安市 | Chang'an Shi *to distinguish it from* Changan Shi |
| 延安市 | Yan'an Shi *to distinguish it from* Yanan Shi |
| 张章昂 | Zhang Zhang'ang *to distinguish it from* |
| 张占钢 | Zhang Zhangang |
| 劉正安 | Liu Zheng'an *to distinguish it from* |
| 刘镇干 | Liu Zhengan |
| 王健安 | Wang Jian'an *to distinguish it from* |
| 王佳南 | Wang Jianan |

**Capitalization**

1.      Capitalize the first word of a proper noun.

2.      Capitalize the first word of a corporate name.  Capitalize the first word of the name of a corporate subdivision appearing in conjunction with the name of the larger body only when the subdivision is used in headings.

3.      Capitalize each separately written word of a geographical name.  Capitalize the first word of the names of a dynasty.

4.      Capitalize the first word of the title of a book, periodical, or series.

**Punctuation**

1.  Transcribe a centered point ( ● ) indicating coordinate words as a comma.  Represent a centered point indicating a space by a space.

    | | |
    |---|---|
    | 索尔 ● 呗娄 | Suoer Bailou |
    | 理查 ● M ● 尼克逊 | Licha M Nikexun |
    | 理想 ● 劳动 ● 幸福 | li xiang, lao dong, xing fu |

2.  Transcribe brackets ( ⌐ …   ) or angle brackets (< … >) used in the manner of quotation marks ("... ") as quotation marks.

    | | |
    |---|---|
    | <淇 县 志 >编 纂 委 员 会 | "Qi Xian zhi" bian zuan wei yuan hui |

**Dates**

1.  Romanize non-numerical dates as separated syllables, except for reign periods that are also the names of emperors.  For example:

    | | |
    |---|---|
    | 光緒己丑 [1889] | Guangxu ji chou [1889] |
    | 清光緒 15 年 [1889] | Qing Guangxu 15 nian [1889] |
    | 嘉靖乙卯 [1555] | Jiajing yi mao [1555] |
    | 民國 79 [1990] | Minguo 79 [1990] |
    | 康德 3 [1936] | Kangde 3 [1936] |
    | 明治 1 [1868] | Mingzhi 1 [1868] |
    | 一九九八年 [1998] | yi jiu jiu ba nian [1998] |
    | 一九九零年 [1990] | yi jiu jiu ling nian [1990] |

**SPECIAL CHARACTERS IN ROMANIZATION**

| *Special Character* | *Name* | *USMARC hexadecimal code* |
|---|---|---|
| ' | apostrophe | 27 |
| ¨ | umlaut | E8 |

**CORRESPONDENCE OF WADE-GILES TO PINYIN**

The table below presents Wade-Giles syllabic readings found in *Di ming Han zi yi yin biao* 地名漢字譯音表 (1971) and the ALA-LC romanization tables (1997), and Pinyin equivalents based on sounds and romanizations found in *Xian dai Han yu ci dian* 现代