

Africa Bibliography, Research & Documentation (ABRD)

STYLE GUIDE

AFRICAN LANGUAGE NAMES (October 2023)

This document lists preferred spelling and versions of African language names as they should appear in ABRD. It is a work in progress and more language names will be added as they occur in ABRD articles.

It is appreciated that authors may wish to use alternative (often historical) versions of names, e.g. as they appear in library catalogues, documents, manuscripts or archives to which the article refers.

In this case, authors are requested to provide the preferred version, in parentheses, on first mention, e.g. Ashanti (Asante); Fulani (Fula); Ibo (Igbo); Sechuana (Setswana); Swahili (kiSwahili); Xhosa (isiXhosa) ...

The list below is in alphabetical order with *see* references to the preferred form.

A

Abron *see* Brong

Acholi

Acoli *see* Acholi

Akan

Akuapem

Amharic

Appolo *see* Nzema

Asante

Ashanti *see* Asante

B

Bantu

Bemba *see* ChiBemba

Berber

Brong

C

Changana *see* Xitsonga

Chewa *see* Chichewa

ChiBemba

Chichewa

Chiga *see* Kiga

Chiila *see* Ila

Chinyanja *see* Chichewa

ChiShona

Chitonga

Chokwe

D

Dagbane *see* Dagbani

Dagbani

Dangme

E

Ekegusii *see* Gusii

Ewe

F

Fante

Fanti *see* Fante

Fula

Fulani *see* Fula

Fulfulde *see* Fula

G

Ga

Galla *see* Oromo

Ganda

Ge'ez

Gikuyu

Gur

Gusii

H

Harari

Hausa

I

Ibo *see* Igbo

Idoma

Igala

Igara *see* Igala

Igbo

Ikalanga *see* Tjikalanga

Ila (Chiila)

Iramba *see* Nilamba

isiNdebele

isiXhosa

isiZulu

K

Kalanga *see* Tjikalanga, Ikalanga

Kanuri

Kanembu

Kasem *see* Kasena

Kasena

Kassena *see* Kasena

Khoekhoegowab

Khoisan

Kiga

Kigiryama

Kikamba

Kikongo

Kikuyu *see* Gikuyu

Kimakonde *see* Makonde

Kinyarwanda

Kiswahili

Kongo *see* Kikongo

Kwa

L

luGanda

Lungu *see* Rungu

Luo

Lwo *see* Luo

M

Maasai

Makonde

Makhua
Makua *see* Makhua
Malagasy
Mambwe
Mandingo *see* Mandinka
Mandinka
Masai *see* Maasai
Mende

N

Nama *see* Khoekhoegowab
Ndebele *see* isiNdebele
Nilamba
N'Ko
Nyanja *see* Chichewa
Nyiramba *see* Nilamba
Nyoro *see* Runyoro
Nzema
Nzim *see* Nzema

O

Oromo

P

Pedi *see* Sepedi
Pokot *see* Pökoot
Pökoot
Pulaar *see* Fulfulde

R

Runyoro

Ruchiga *see* Kiga

Rukiga *see* Kiga

Rungu

S

Sechuana *see* Setswana

Sepedi

Sesotho

Setswana

Shilluk

Shona *see* ChiShona

siSwati

Somali

Sotho *see* Sesotho

Suk *see* Pökoot

Sukuma

Swahili *see* Kiswahili

Swati *see* siSwati

Swazi *see* siSwati

T

Taabwa *see* Rungu

Tigrinya

Tjikalanga

Tonga (Zambesi) *see* Chitonga

Tshitsonga

Tshivenda

Tsonga *see* Xitsonga

Tswana *see* Setswana

Twi

V

Venda *see* Tshivenda

W

Wolof

X

Xangana *see* Xitsonga

Xitsonga

Xhosa *see* isiXhosa

Y

Yorùbá

Z

Zenaga

Zulu *see* isiZulu