Typing Transliterated Text in Mac OS X
compiled by José C. Rodriguez, Emory College Language Center, Emory University 2009

These are instructions that we have used for Emory faculty and students needing to type transliterations and diacritics in Mac OS X (10.5 Leopard) in languages such as: Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Sanskrit.

You will need 2 things:

1. A **unicode font** that has an extended range of latin letters and IPA diacritics.

Gentium is a good, free font to use in Transliteration. Download for Mac, Windows, or Linux at: http://sil.org/computing/catalog/show_software.asp?id=83 . On the Mac simply double-click the font after downloading and click the **Install Font** button and the font will be loaded in the Font Book and ready for use. (NOTE: Gentium also has Italics versions and you can install these the same way)
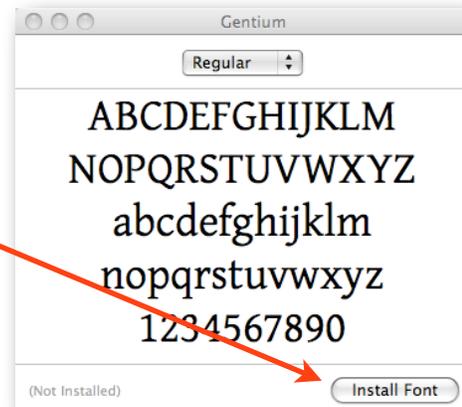
2. A **keyboard layout** that allows you to type the characters you need. There are several options and some may suit your needs better than others. The only way to know is to install keyboards, look at the keyboard layouts for each, and try them out to see. At the end of this document I have provided screenshots of the following keyboard layouts.

  A. **US Extended Keyboard in Mac OS X**. Many diacritics can be typed using this keyboard which comes free with OS X and simply requires enabling in the System Preferences --> International Preferences.

  B. **American Diacritics Keyboard**. This extended latin keyboard is particularly useful for Arabic and Hebrew transliteration (but try it out on other languages!):

    Download it free from: http://www.smi.uib.no/ksv/diacs.html#mac
    (see the link under "*Forward On: The Modern Way of Unicode*")

  C. **EasyUnicode Keyboard**. From Toshiya Unebe, this keyboard layout is particularly useful for Sanskrit and Pali transliteration:

    http://www.ebmp.org/p_easyunicode.php (information and mapping chart)
    http://www.ebmp.org/p_dwnlds.php (downloads page)

Keyboard layouts will generally also come with a Read Me file that instructs you on manually installing the keyboard layout file. But if not: Drag the the .keylayout file to:

    Your Harddrive --> System --> Library --> Keyboard Layouts

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Once you have the font(s) and keyboard layout(s) installed, follow these steps to enable the new keyboards and type your transliterated text:

1 Locate the **System Preferences** under the Apple in the uppermost left area of the Finder menu.
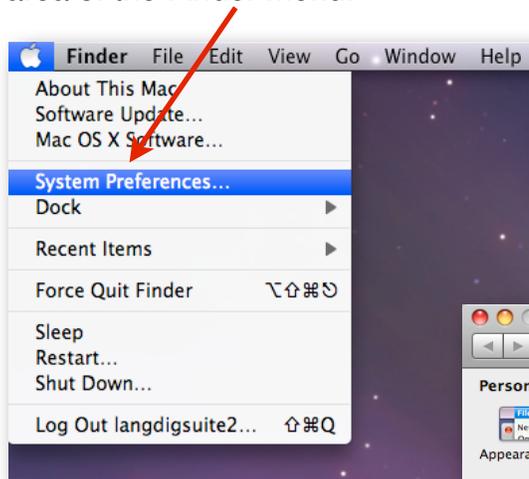
2 Click the **International** preferences.

3
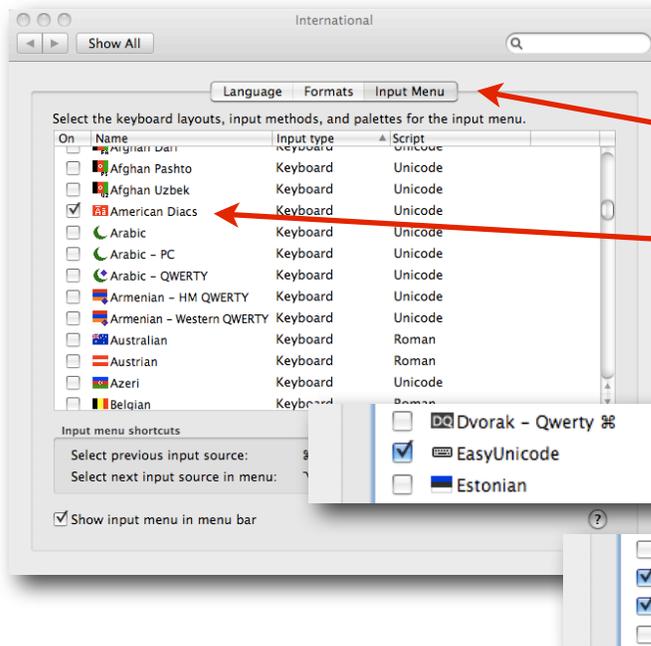
Click on the **Input Menu** tab and scroll down to select your keyboard(s). The list is alphabetical, so you will see American Diacritics first, then EasyUnicode, then US Extended towards the bottom.
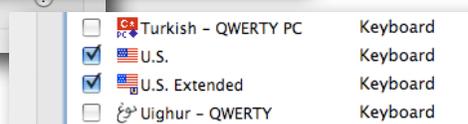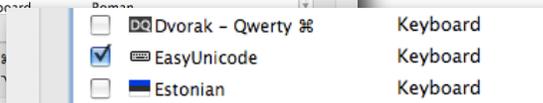
4 You may also want to select the **Keyboard Viewer** for when you want to see an On-Screen image of the keyboard layout mapping.
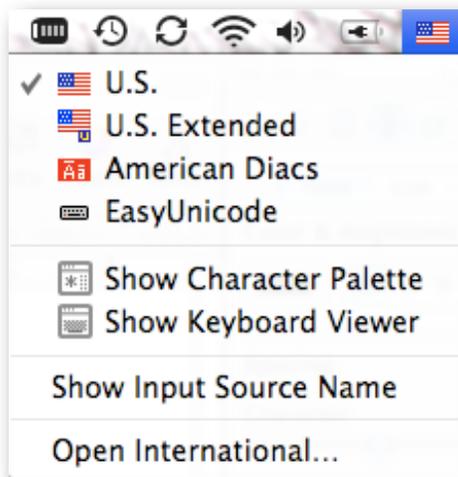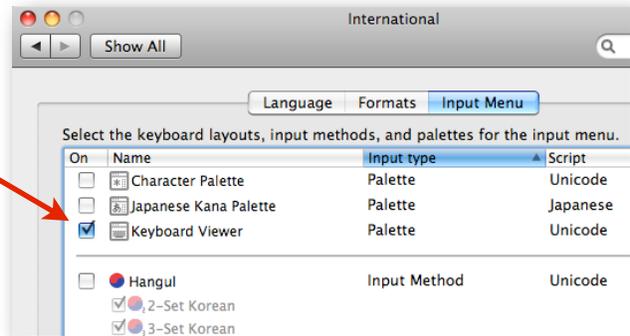
5 Once you've selected all your keyboards, you will find them and the keyboard viewer located under the Flag icon in the Finder.

6 To type your transliterated text, open a blank document in a word-processing application, select the Keyboard layout you want to use from the Flag menu and begin typing.

7

The keyboard maps on the next page will help you find the keys you need for certain characters. The orange-highlighted keys are "**dead keys**". These are keys that you type first, then type a letter to get an accented or diacritic-marked letter, such as

ñ   š   ḥ

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US Extended (Option Key)
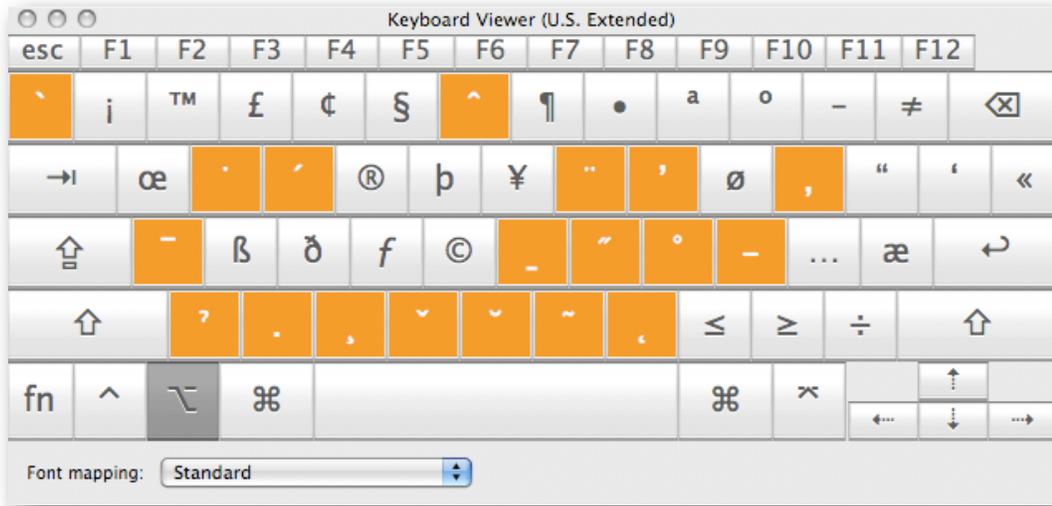
American Diacritics (Option Key)

EasyUnicode (Option Key)