Leaflet L26

Working with Indic text (Apple Macintosh)

Last revised August 2015

On the Managed Cluster Service (MCS)

To read and type Indic characters on the MCS Macintosh computers you need to set your System Preferences to enable an input menu which will allow you to enter characters from Indic languages using the standard English keyboard.

1. From the Apple Menu (top left) pull down System Preferences > Language & Region.
2. Click the Keyboard Preferences button then the Input Sources tab.
3. A list of installed keyboards and input methods will appear.
4. Click the + button to install more keyboards and select the one you want to add from the list which appears.
5. Click the **Keyboard** tab and check the box by “Show Keyboard and Character Viewers”.

![Keyboard Settings](image)

6. Close **System Preferences**.

7. A menu headed by a British Union Flag icon will appear in the top right of the screen. If you click on it you will see the list of input methods that you added in step 4.

8. Start up the application you intend to use and open the document in which you want to type. Position the cursor at the point where you want to enter the first character.

9. Click once on the keyboard menu to drop down a complete menu of the available keyboards.

10. Click on one of the Indic keyboards. You should notice that the keyboard menu icon changes to match.

11. If Indic letters do not appear, check that the current font has switched to one of the Indic fonts. Change this manually if it has not been set automatically.

11. Not all word-processing programs are capable of handling the complex ligatures of Indic script correctly. You may find that you need to change to Nisus Writer instead of Microsoft Word.

**Finding the keyboard locations of the characters**

To discover the keyboard positions of the various characters select the **Keyboard Viewer** from the keyboard menu. Change to the Indic keyboard you want to use and it will display the various character positions. You will need to experiment with holding down the shift and alt keys to discover all the locations. Where glyphs vary depending on the characters on either side of them, you should find that this is done automatically.

**Viewing Indic Languages on the Web**

Point your browser at a suitable Indic page, such as [http://www.bbc.co.uk/hindi/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/hindi/).

If the web page has a correct header which tells your browser what character encoding it uses, then it should automatically switch to a display of Devanagari letters. If this doesn’t happen, you can try selecting **Text Encoding** from the **View** menu and experimenting with likely possibilities.
**Email**

1. Both Hermes Webmail and Apple Mail can support foreign language email. An alternative would be to send your text as an attachment.

2. Enter the email address to which you want to send your message in the “To:” field (remember this needs to be in Roman letters).

3. Place the cursor in the body of the message and switch to a suitable Indic keyboard.

4. Type your message.

5. You can use Indic characters in the “Subject:” field if you wish, but many email programs will fail to display them correctly when they receive your message. The best thing to do is to experiment to find what best suits the people with whom you exchange messages most frequently.

**Further Advice**

If you have any problems using the MCS for foreign language work or need any further advice, please contact the University Information Services Literary and Language Support specialist on 35029 or by emailing ll-support@uis.cam.ac.uk

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