TRANSLITERATING CACARAKAN MANUSCRIPT

DIGITAL ACCESS TO PRESERVE CULTURAL HERITAGE

On Sundanese Wikisource, there are several **Cacarakan manuscript** collections that are **rarely read due to unfamiliarity** with the script (at least among present-day Sundanese people) and lack of a Latin-script version.

Supported by WMID, Wikimedia Bandung Community tried to transliterate them. We called this pilot project WikiAksara.

Cacarakan, a modified form of the Javanese script, was once used widely in the Sundanese region. Today, it is no longer in use, having been replaced by the Sundanese script.

Watch this video to learn more >>>>>

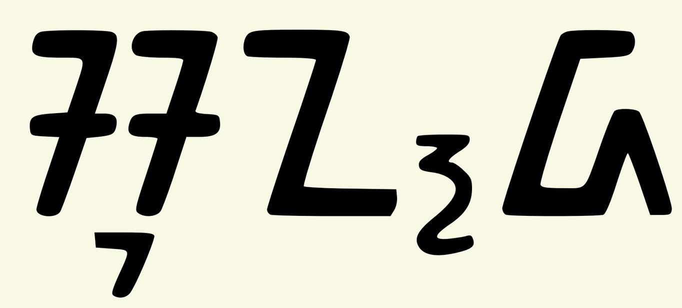
Cacarakan vs Sundanese scripts at a glance

Cacarakan script

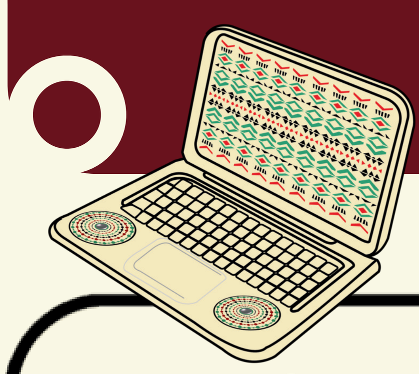
- Adaptation from Javanese script.
- First introduced in the early 17th century.
- Used to write Sundanese during the Dutch colonial era.

Sundanese script

- Adaptation from Old Sundanese script.
- Reintroduced in the late 20th century.
- Used to write modern Sundanese.



And here's what we've accomplished



Project implemented

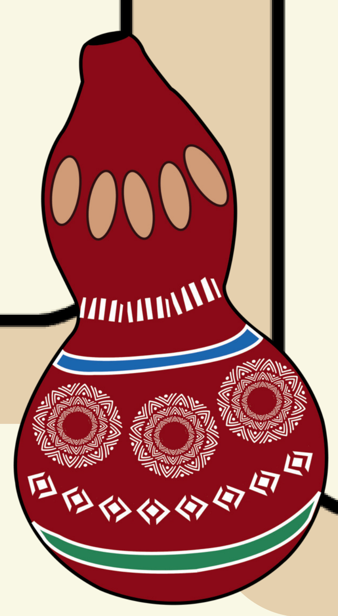
- Team consists of 3 members.
- They handle proofreading on Ws/su, transliteration on Wb/su or translation on Wb/id.
- The book contains folktales and legends, which made the tasks easier to complete.

Best part of transliteration

- It helps us understand the content more clearly.
- Enrich local knowledge on Wiki platforms.
- Making Cacarakan impactful to the public.
- Notably, even with auto tools, errors still happen —so Cacarakan still needs a human touch.

Learning

- There are several uncommon words or phrases for potential use in Wiktionary or Wikidata lexeme.
- Some texts were difficult to understand due to differences in writting systems.
- A small step toward developing our Wb/su which is still in the Incubator.



Metrics

- 114 pages of Cacarakan on Ws/su have been proofread.
- 1 transliterated book article published on Wb/su—over ±100,000 bytes.
- 1 translated book article published on Wb/id—over ±117,000 bytes.

Attributions

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Poster by Akbar Soepadhi for Wikimania 2025

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Any thoughts about this poster, feel free to ping me anytime.
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