



Variant letter forms

Non-standard or ‘exotic’ letter forms can be represented using entities, which may be given either as numeric entity references in the Universal Character Set developed by the Unicode Consortium, or using a standardised name which is defined with reference to the Unicode standard, as in the following example:

```
<!ENTITY aelig "æ">  
<!ENTITY aeligacute "ǽ">  
<!ENTITY avlig "">  
<!ENTITY avligacute "">
```

Note that while the first two of these are standard Unicode characters, the latter two have been defined using the Private Use Area.

With P5 there is available a new mechanism, described in the chapter ‘Representation of non-standard characters and glyphs’, for dealing with characters which are either not (yet) available in Unicode, as is often the case when dealing with ancient languages for which encoding standards do not yet exist, or where one wishes to distinguish between different allographs of a single character, for example for purposes of statistical analysis.