

N'ko

<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>	<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>
<i>Vowels</i>		<i>Consonants</i>	
l	a	᠑	n'
o	e	F	b
Y	i	᠑	p
^	ε (See note 1)	b	t
u	u	᠑	j
o	o	1	c
o	o (See note 1)	᠑	d
<i>Numerals</i>		†	r
0	0	††	rr
1	1	᠑	s
2	2	᠑	gb
3	3	᠑	f
4	4	᠑	k
5	5	᠑	l
6	6	Δ	m
7	7	᠑	ŋ (See note 1)
8	8	᠑	n
9	9	᠑	h

Foreign sounds

Ḷ	b (See note 1)	Ḷ	kh
Ḷ	t'	Ḷ	j'
Ḷ	z	Ḷ	'a
Ḷ	zh	Ḷ	ə (See note 1)
Ḷ	d'	Ḷ	ü
Ḷ	r'	Ḷ	z'
Ḷ	sh	Ḷ	ɔ (See note 1)
Ḷ	g	Ḷ	th
Ḷ	v	Ḷ	kp
Ḷ	x	Ḷ	s'
Ḷ	l'	Ḷ	ɣ (See note 1)
Ḷ	m'	Ḷ	q
Ḷ	ŋ (See note 1)		

Diacritics

(Applies generally to vowels, illustrated here using N'ko script *a*):

Short descending tone – unmarked in N'ko script orthography:

Ḷ â

Long descending tone – *kanmayele mafanen samanama*:

Ḷ âa

Short high tone – *kanmayele labarenen*:

Ḷ á

Long high tone – *kanmayele labarenen samanama*:

Ḷ áa

Short rising tone – *kanmajii mafanen*:

Ḷ ă

Long rising tone – *kanmajii mafanen samanama*:

Ḷ ăa

Short low tone – *kanmajii labarenen*:

Ḷ à

Long low tone – *kanmajii labarenen samanama*:

Ḷ àa

Nasalization, *kannadiyalan* mark of a dot under a vowel:

Ḷ
romanize as *an*
(vowel + *n*)

The gbàralí (contraction) rule

Apart from certain exceptions, some oral vowels are not written in N'ko script orthography. If the same short vowel appears in two consecutive syllables, only the second one is written (Rovenchak & Glavy, 2011, p. 54). In romanization, the vowel should be reinserted, thus:  = 'fâlâ'.

Two consecutive consonants in N'ko script orthography do not always indicate an implicit vowel. The dagbasinna (◌◌) should not be romanized.

Example

 = 'Krīstôf' (Christophe)

Explanation of example: Dagbasinnas indicate consonant clusters for <kr> and <st>

Note

1. The use of extended Latin characters in this document leverages use of the Unicode standard, as approved by the NDMSO office of the Library of Congress in December, 2007, while remaining usable for libraries using MARC-8 as well. Within a strictly MARC-8 environment, the double underscore may continue to be applied to a base character, following LC-PCC PS 1.4 for the characters b, d, e, g, n, n and o: b, d, e, g, n, n and o. LC-PCC PS 1.4 also allows for the character ə (schwa) to be recorded as ä without double underscore.