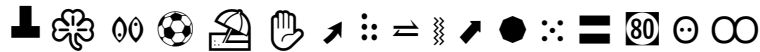


## No. 270: BabelMap

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, 715 N. Dries Street, Saukville, WI 53080-1664  
(262) 268-1949 [wb9rqr@att.net](mailto:wb9rqr@att.net)

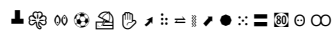
Did you ever write something and wish you had a symbol that just was not included in the bunch that came with Microsoft Word or even Libre Office? How about weird ones like these, just to show a few (a random selection by Stan):



Well, this month's topic is a fun one, that may turn out to be a happy find! A program called BabelMap.exe, available here at MajorGeeks:

<https://www.majorgeeks.com/files/details/babelmap.html>

It will make available to you the entire Unicode character set, consisting of over 137,000 characters like the samples I have printed above at 14 point. By the way, they come smaller than those shown here. I simply used Libre Office Writer to expand them somewhat above so they would be easier for you to see. You can expand or contract them as you like with Microsoft Word, as well, allowing you to put one or more right in line with your article text. Here they are at 6 point:



which might be close to the size you need for whatever article you are writing.

Wow! Over 137,000 characters! How do you find what you want? The program includes several utilities which will help you to home in on what you are looking for. An **Overview** utility lists essential details for all TrueType and OpenType fonts. A **Font Analysis** utility lists all Unicode blocks covered by a particular font, or lists all fonts that cover a particular Unicode block. A **Font Information** utility provides info about the currently selected font. A **Font Glyph Export** utility will export your selections in BMP, GIF, JPG or PNG format if you need to drop one in an illustration. A **Font Coverage** utility lists all fonts that cover a particular character, or all characters in a piece of text, or all the characters you have put in the BabelMap edit buffer. An **Advanced Character Search** utility lists all characters that meet certain criteria. And there are a bunch more utilities that will make your searches easier, including such things as utilities that will show you Han characters with a specified number of strokes, or characters with a particular Mandarin Pinyin pronunciation, or those with a particular Cantonese Jyutping pronunciation! Pretty amazing!

It is an impressive resource and utility, especially considering the .exe program itself occupies only 18.1MB of your hard drive space. It is worthwhile to get this program, if just to have a little fun with it during these boring Covid-19 days. Happy computing!