I am working on a project which is intended to use IDL
and the following issues have come up.

1. It could be just my Alzheimers, but I distinctly remember
    a co-worker of mine havig some user-contributed enhanced
    IDL vector font with among other things, 3 pages
    of Chinese characters.

    A lead on vector fonts for arabic characters would be great, too.

    This is another piece of the same project Mila Mitra asked
    about earlier, and the project entails writing directly to GIF,
    so we're stuck with the vector fonts.

2. The following code fragment "forgets" to draw a substantial
    region around the 180th meridian. This is seriously annoying.
    Any workaround or bugfix besides not mapping thru
    the 180th meridian?

```
    PRO example_bug

    SET_PLOT, 'X'
    DEVICE, pseudo_color = 8
    WINDOW,1,tit='Test',retain=2

    MAP_SET, 0.0, 90.0, /CYL, /ISOTROPIC, $
      LIMIT=[-90.0, -90.0, 90.0, 270.0]

    MAP_CONTINENTS, /COASTS, MLINETHICK=2
    MAP_CONTINENTS, /COUNTRIES, MLINETHICK=2

    END
```

3. The documentation for writing GIF's is kind of sketchy.
    Sue, the source is there, but it calls this "magic" verb
    ENCODE_GIF. Anyone know if this procedure can make a GIF
    with a transparent color level?

Many thanks in advance to anyone who offers assistance,

    -JLT-

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