We have an interest in having more tools for identifying Unicode features.

For example, we need to be able to determine if a string is LTR or RTL. The current practice requires that a program contain complete knowledge of the distribution of directionality within the character set. It would be better if that could be put in a standard function.

```
String.direction(string)
```

We could have other functions to determine if a character is a letter, or digit, or modifier, etc. We could also have UTF8 conversions and extended plane calculations.

— Douglas Crockford 2010/05/17 22:19

Past work, still relevant:

- ES4 update Unicode proposal (discussion page)
- ES4 proposal for Unicode character classes in regexps (discussion)

— Brendan Eich 2010/05/18 19:58