

Towards a Comprehensive Digital Sanskrit Buddhist Canon

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NIEM with collaboration with UWEST plans to create a comprehensive Digital Sanskrit Buddhist canon

To make this dream project a reality, Prof. Lewis R. Lancaster, Former President of University of the West and coordinator of this project, initiated cooperation with Mr. Min Bahadur Shakya, the Director of Nagarjuna Institute.

Since 2003 we have assisted Buddhist scholars and researchers by privately distributing the Sanskrit Buddhist e-texts available to date. Currently we have placed 62 Sutras, 108 Stotras, and 87 Shastra online, and the website is frequently updated with new texts. About 200 Sanskrit Buddhist texts are available today in printed form. We are accelerating our work by broadening our support and applying the latest computer technology.

Now, for the first time in history, the basic texts of Indian Buddhism are accessible to the whole world. Since 2005, the DSBC e-texts have been freely downloadable via the internet: <http://www.uwest.edu/sanskritcanon/>. We hope to complete the Sanskrit Buddhist Canon project by the year 2013.

We, in ECAI session, plan to discuss about

1. The categorization of digital canon.
2. Possible collaboration with ECAI Sanskrit web group and
3. A formation of team of experts who will work for the publication of Sanskrit Buddhist canon both in CDROM and hard copy in the near future.
4. Publication of Diplomatic edition of unpublished Buddhist manuscripts