



An Opportunity to Explore a Treasure Archive at Stanford

The East Asia Library, Stanford recently acquired two monumental sets of Tibetan Buddhist canonical materials, the comparative editions of the [Kanjur](#) and [Tanjur](#), which contain over four thousand Buddhist texts in the Tibetan language.

To hear the in-depth story about the texts and this major acquisition, do not miss an incredible learning opportunity with Dr. Josh Capitanio of Stanford’s East Asia Library.

In Conjunction with the Asian Art Museum Special Exhibition

Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey Toward Enlightenment

SACHI Members and Asian Art Museum Docents are Invited to Join A Unique and Specially Designed Program on Stanford campus

An Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Canons

Monday, March 30
10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Stanford East Asia Library
518 Memorial Way, Room 224

Please RSVP [here](#)

For questions, please contact kalpana@sachi.org;
Tel: 650-349-1247

Everyone is welcome to plan lunch after the event.
A list of restaurant options in Stanford vicinity will be shared in a forthcoming announcement.

In this presentation, Dr. Josh Capitanio, Stanford Libraries’ subject specialist in Buddhism and Asian religions, will give an introduction to the different textual canons of Tibetan Buddhism. Participants will learn about the significant role of canonical collections in the history of Buddhism in Tibet, the different types of canons, and the various methods used to produce them. Several different examples of manuscripts and canonical texts from the Stanford East Asia Library’s collections will be on hand for participants to view.

Excerpt from Stanford Libraries Blog by [Joshua Capitanio](#)

The Kanjur and Tanjur acquisitions:

Tibetan Buddhists have traditionally divided the vast quantity of Indic Buddhist literature that was transmitted to Tibet into two canonical collections. The Kanjur/Kangyur contains scriptural texts such as *sutras* and *tantras* that were believed to have been spoken by the Buddha, while the Tanjur/Tengyur contains translations of treatises and commentaries written by later authors. There are a number of different manuscript and printed editions for each of these collections. These new comparative editions of the Kanjur and Tanjur were produced by a large team of scholars working in the People’s Republic of China for over twenty years.

Bound in codex form rather than the traditional loose leaf format (known as *pothi* or *pecha*), these new versions consist of critical editions based largely on the well-known Dege (Sde rge) printing of the Kanjur and Tanjur, accompanied by a critical apparatus showing variant readings from a number of other editions. The addition of the critical apparatus makes this collection an extremely valuable resource for scholars working with these Tibetan canonical materials.

The comparative [Kanjur](#) and [Tanjur](#) are currently housed in [SAL1&2](#), Stanford Libraries’ on-campus auxiliary library facility. They can be viewed during SAL1&2’s regular operating hours.



Joshua Capitanio

As Public Services Librarian at the East Asia Library, Dr. Capitanio manages the library’s outreach activities, such as exhibits and other events. He is also the bibliographer responsible for developing Stanford’s Western-language collections in the areas of East Asian Studies and Southeast Asian Studies, and a subject specialist in Buddhism and Asian Religions. He is the author of several published writings.

Dr. Capitanio earned his graduate and doctoral degrees in East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania, and specialized in Chinese during his under graduate studies at UCLA.



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Carpooling is recommended.
For parking, general information is available here: <https://visit.stanford.edu/plan/parking.html>
The recommended parking lot is Visitor/Track Lot, located at 269 Galvez St. A 2.0 hour metered parking is available. You may also download the Parkmobile app ahead of time, a way that visitors can pay for parking at Stanford lots. You are advised not to leave valuables in your cars.