Digitization of Ancient Texts

by the Buddhist Digital Resource Center (BDRC)

21 years of preservation and access

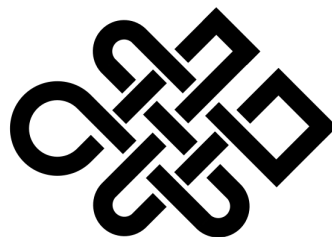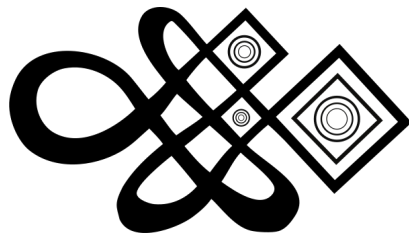Founder E. Gene Smith (1936-2010)

Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center founded in
1999

Original mission

2015 expansion of mission

New web platform

"Connecting Buddhist Literature with the World"

RJE BTSUN RAS CHUṄ RDO RJE GRAGS PA'I RNAM THAR RNAM MKHYEN

THAR LAM GSAL BA'I ME LON YE ŚES SNAṄ BA

A biography of Ras-chuṅ Rdo-rje-grags-pa
by
Rgod-tshaṅ-ras-pa Sna-tshogs-raṅ-grol
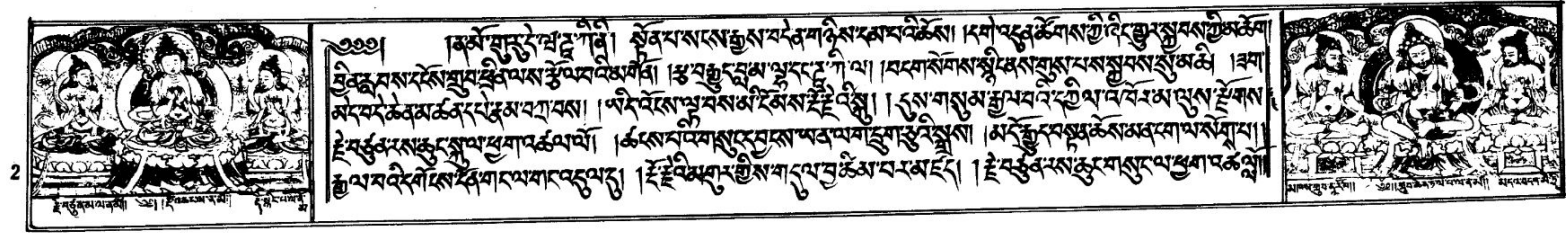Reproduced from a rare Bhutanese manuscript from the library of Slob-dpon Kun-legs
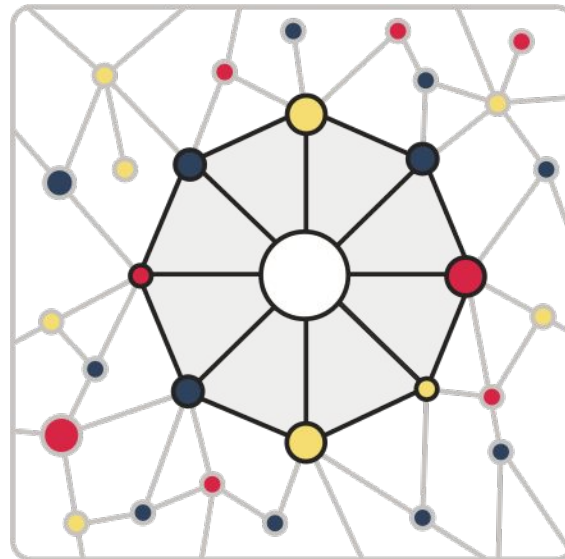
BDRC's 4 digitization projects in Asia

BDRC in numbers

- 20M images in 55k volumes
- 150-200k unique texts
- 8,000+ authors and translators

The BUDA platform

- library.bdrc.io (beta)
- LOD
- Bibliographical model
- Search Engine (multi-lingual, Lucene, NLP)
- Open Access

Linked Open Data

- basis for AI
- Open
- authority databases
- not starting from scratch

Practical Linked Open Data

- URIs instead of names
  - "ཞུ་ཆེན་ཚུལ་ཁྲིམས་" ➜ http://purl.bdrc.io/resource/P6161
- linking to authority databases ([ex](#))
- vocabulary, bibliographical model
- Buddhist Digital Ontology

Bibliographical model

- similar to BIBFRAME 2.0
- Aligned with the rest of the world
- Easier to link to / from
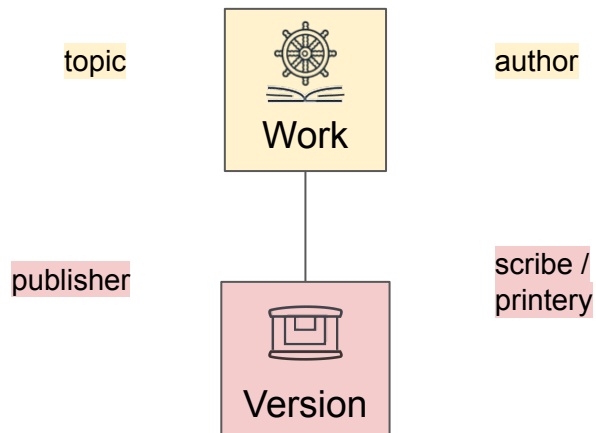- Long transition
- Adjust to cultural settings

Bibliographical model

topic

Work

author

Bibliographical model

topic

author

Work

publisher

scribe / printery

Version

Bibliographical model

topic

author

Work

publisher

scribe / printery

Version

reproduction

scanInfo

provider

Scans

Bibliographical model

Bibliographical model

Work
topic
author

Version
publisher
scribe / printery

Scans
reproduction
scanInfo
provider

Etext
reproduction
ocr / input
producer

Item
collection
shelfmark
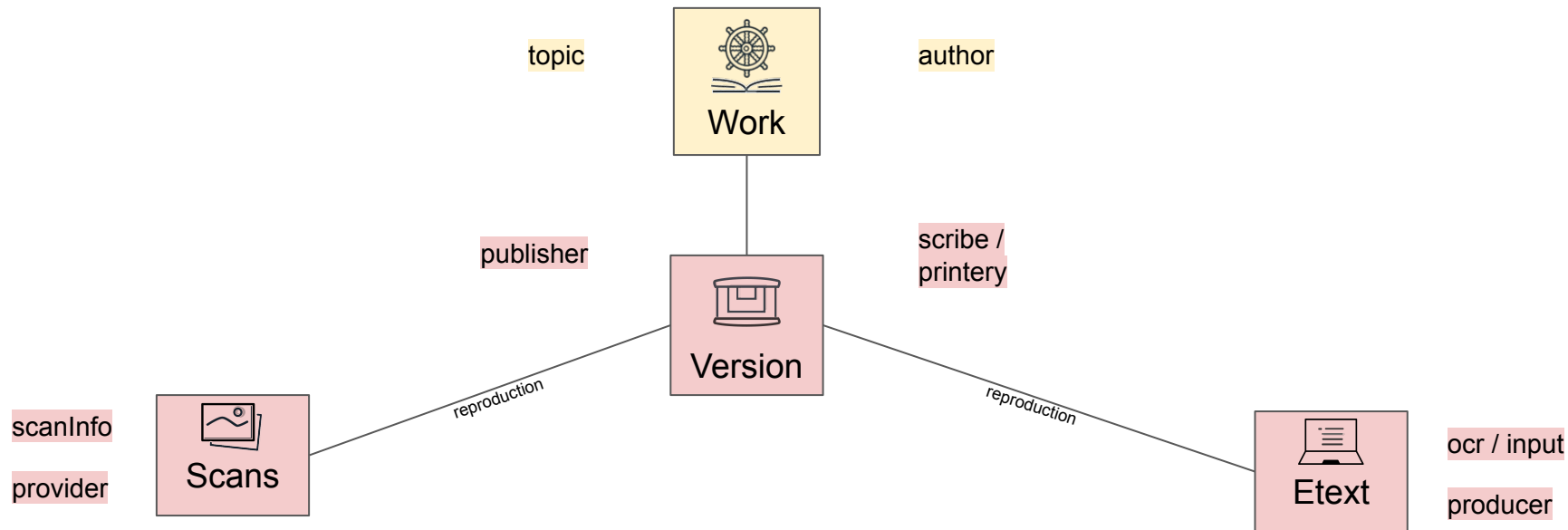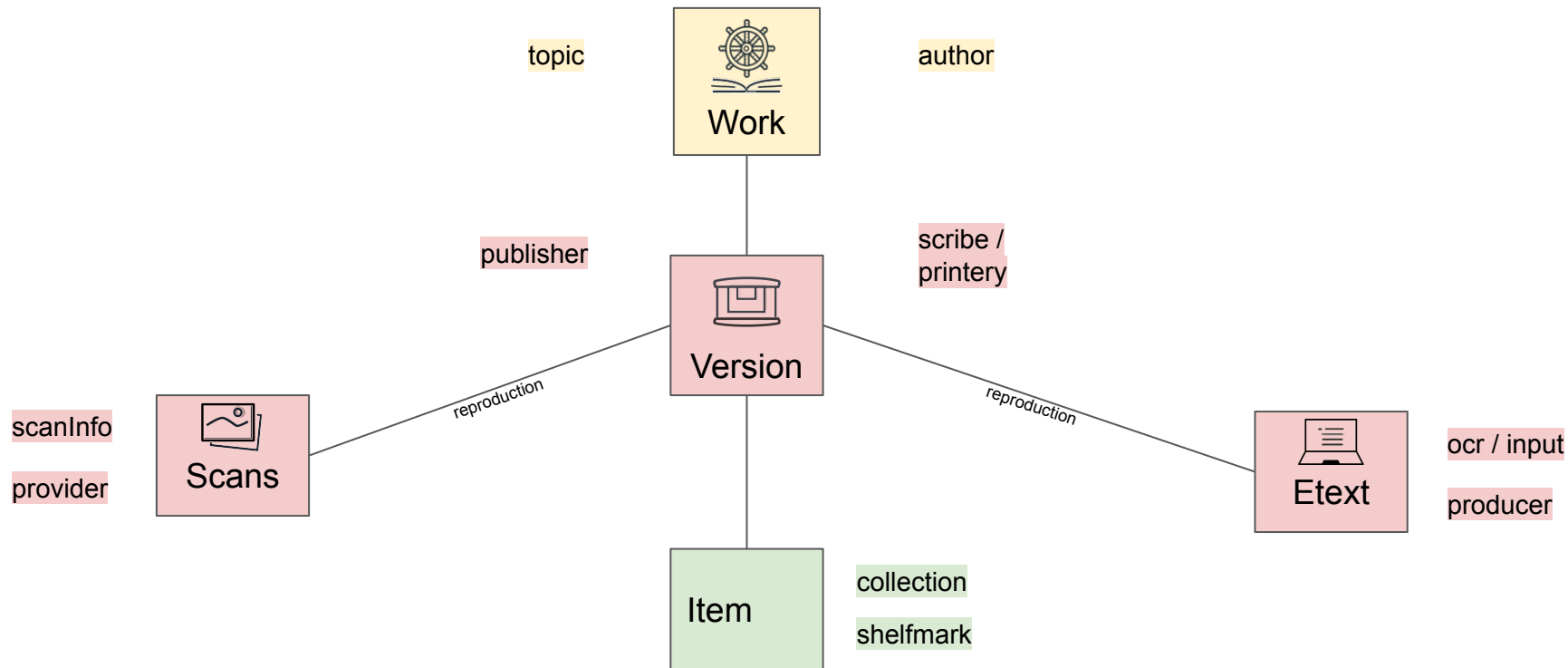
IIIF

- embedding images from partners
- alignment with museums, libraries, art galleries, etc.
- BDRC's images are now embeddable

IIIF connection: EAP

- IIIF
  - Images are served by the British Library
  - No copy on BDRC's servers
  - Integrated in our image viewer

- 1 Sanskrit collection   (235 manuscripts)
- 4 Bhutanese collections (2,500 volumes, ex 1, 2)
- 1 Chinese collection   (1,200 manuscripts)

BRITISH LIBRARY

New connections

CUDL   (IIIF: 185 rare Sanskrit manuscripts)

Internet Archives   (IIIF: 32 scans from Hodgson Collection)

GRETIL   (catalog: 620 links to Sanskrit and Pali etexts)

Treasury of Lives   (catalog: 6,400 phonetic names)

84000.co   (catalog: English translations of the kangyur)

Wikidata   (catalog: 165 links)

Sakya Research Center   (catalog: 1,500 new person records)

Waddell Collection @Stabi   (IIIF: 300 scans)

Van Manen Collection @Leiden   (IIIF: 1,500 scans)

ཀ྄ཿ　འཇོན་དགའ་བོ་ད་སྨྲ་ཤ྄ཿ　དེ་ཆེ་མ྄ཁ྄ད་འགྲོའ྄ི་ཕྱིན྄་རྣ྄བ྄ས྄་འཕྲ྄ོཤ྄ཿ　མ྄ཁ྄ད྄་འགྲ྄ོ་ལ྄ུས྄་ད྄ང྄་གྱ྄ིབ྄་བཞིན྄་འགྲ྄ོག྄ཤ྄ཿ　ཡ྄ེ་ཤེས྄་མ྄ཁ྄ད྄་འགྲ྄ོས྄་མ྄ཚ྄ོག྄་སྤྲ྄ོག྄་ལ྄ཞིང྄ཤ྄ཿ　སྐ྄ུ་ག྄ས྄ུམ྄་འབྲ྄ས྄་བ྄ུ་འཕ྄ོབ྄྄
པར྄་འགྱ྄ུར྄ཤ྄ཿ　འཇ྄ིག྄་ཉ྄ེན྄་མ྄ཁ྄ད྄་འགྲ྄ོས྄་བྱ྄ན྄་གྱ྄ིས྄་ཅ྄ིང྄ཤ྄ཿ　འད྄྄ུ་རྣ྄ས྄་བ྄ཞ྄ི་ལྷ྄ུན྄་གྱ྄ིས྄་གྲ྄ུབ྄ཤ྄ཿ　ད྄ས྄་ཚ྄ོག྄་མ྄ཁ྄ད྄་འགྲ྄ོས྄་ད྄པ྄ལ྄་བ྄སྐྱ྄ེད྄་ཅ྄ིང྄ཤ྄ཿ　ཆ྄ེ་ད྄པ྄ལ྄་མ྄ཆ྄ད྄་ཟ྄བ྄་ཕྱ྄ོག྄ས྄་བ྄ཅ྄ུར྄་རྒྱ྄ས྄ཤ྄ཿ　འཇ྄ིག྄་ཉ྄ེན྄྄
མ྄ི་མ྄ོས྄་བ྄ག྄ད྄་ཉ྄ན྄་ཞ྄ིང྄ཤ྄ཿ　མ྄ཉ྄ེས྄་པ྄འ྄ི་ཞ྄བ྄ས྄་ཏ྄ོག྄་ཕྱ྄ུན྄་ཚ྄ོག྄ས྄་སྨྲ྄ཤ྄ཿ　མ྄ཁ྄ད྄་འགྲ྄ོ་བ྄སྙ྄ེན྄་པ྄འ྄ི་རྣ྄ལ྄་འབྱ྄ོར྄་པ྄ས྄ཤ྄ཿ　ག྄྄ུཉ྄ེས྄་ད྄ས྄་ཚ྄ོག྄་ལྷ྄ུན྄་པ྄་ད྄ང྄ཤ྄ཿ　སྐ྄྄ུ་ད྄་མ྄ཚ྄ོན྄་ཕ྄ོན྄་ཏ྄་ད྄ང྄ཤ྄ཿ　ཤ྄ིན྄་ཁྲ྄ར྄་ད྄ང྄྄
མ྄ེ་ལ྄ོན྄་ད྄ང྄ཤ྄ཿ　རྟ྄ན྄་རྫ྄་གྱ྄ི་ག྄྄ུག྄་ཀ྄ང྄་གྱ྄ིང྄་འཚ྄ང྄ཤ྄ཿ　ད྄ས྄་མ྄ེད྄་རྣ྄མ྄ས྄་ལ྄་སྨྲ྄་བ྄་ག྄ཏ྄ད྄ཤ྄ཿ　བྱ྄ད྄་མ྄ེད྄་ཕྱ྄ོག྄ས྄་ལ྄་འགྲ྄ོར྄་སྨྲ྄ཤ྄ཿ　ཉ྄ེར྄་ལྷ྄ར྄་ཚ྄ོག྄ས྄་འཕ྄ོར྄་བ྄སྒྲ྄ར྄་བ྄ཀ྄ག྄ས྄་འབ྄ད྄ཤ྄ཿ　ས྄་མ྄ཡ྄ཿ　ག྄྄ུག྄྄ུག྄྄ུཿ
ད྄ེ་ལྟ྄ར྄་སྨྲ྄ལ྄་པ྄་མ྄ཆ྄ོལ྄་འཕྱ྄ོལ྄་ན྄ས྄ཤ྄ཿ　ད྄྄ོས྄་གྲ྄ུབ྄་ཕ྄ོབ྄་པ྄འ྄ི་རྟ྄ག྄ས྄་བྱ྄ུང྄་ཆ྄ོཤ྄ཿ　ཕྱ྄ུག྄ས྄་ད྄ས྄་བ྄སྣ྄ལ྄་ཞ྄ིང྄་ད྄྄ོས྄་གྲ྄ུབ྄་ལ྄ཿ　སྨྲ྄ལ྄་རྟ྄ས྄་ར྄ང྄་གྱ྄ི་ག྄ན྄ས྄་ལྷ྄ར྄་ག྄ཏ྄ུག྄ས྄ཤ྄ཿ　ད྄ང྄ས྄་ད྄ང྄་ཡ྄ེ་ཤ྄ེས྄་ཕ྄ོར྄་བ྄སྒྲ྄ོམ྄ས྄྄
ཤ྄ིས྄་བ྄ཏ྄ོད྄་བ྄སྩ྄ོ་སྨྲ྄ོན྄་འད྄྄ི་ལྷ྄ར྄་བྱ྄ཿ　ཧ྄྄ུཿ　ཡ྄ེ་ཤ྄ེས྄་ད྄བྱ྄ིད྄ས྄་ཀྱ྄ི་ཕ྄ོ་བྲ྄ང྄་ན྄ས྄ཤ྄ཿ　ཕ྄ག྄་མ྄ོ་ཚ྄ོམ྄ས྄་སྐྱ྄ེ་བ྄ག྄་ཤ྄ིས྄་ཕ྄ོག྄ཤ྄ཿ　ཡ྄ེ་ཤ྄ེས྄་ཇ྄་ལྷ྄ུན྄་ཕ྄ོ་བྲ྄ང྄་ན྄ས྄ཤ྄ཿ　ཕ྄ག྄་མ྄ོ་ལྷ྄ོན྄ས྄་སྐྱ྄ེའ྄ི་བ྄ག྄་ཤ྄ིས྄་ཕ྄ོག྄ཤ྄ཿ　མ྄ཁ྄ད྄་སྨྲ྄ོན྄྄

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ཨ྄ོཿ

After digitization

- distribution
- access
- promotion
- long term preservation

After digitization

- distribution
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**LOST IN TIBET, FOUND IN BHUTAN:
THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THE
MŪLASARVĀSTIVĀDIN LAW CODE
FOR NUNS**

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Conclusion

-   technical or data sharing partnerships
-   eroux@bdrc.io