

# Songtsen Library

**Songtsen Library**



**G**ENE TRAVELS BACK to India, this time to Dheradun, where we meet Dikang Kyibgen Chetsang Rinpoche, one of the highest lamas of the Kagyu tradition. After spending some time in the United States while in exile, working in a McDonald's, Dikang Chetsang Rinpoche returned to India and built the Songtsen Library, which Gene believes has the best collection of Tibetan books in the world. The library is a valuable resource for Tibetan monks, especially those studying medicine.

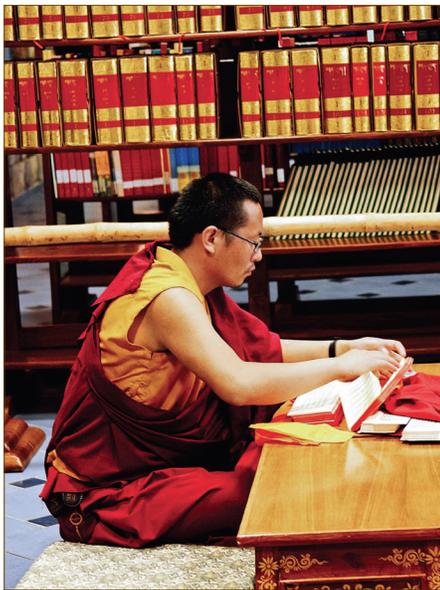
Right and next page: Gene reviews with scholars and assistants how to access and use the database created by the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center. Songtsen Library is one of the few institutions in Dheradun with a good internet connection.

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DHERADUN: "CITY OF JUST" | 109




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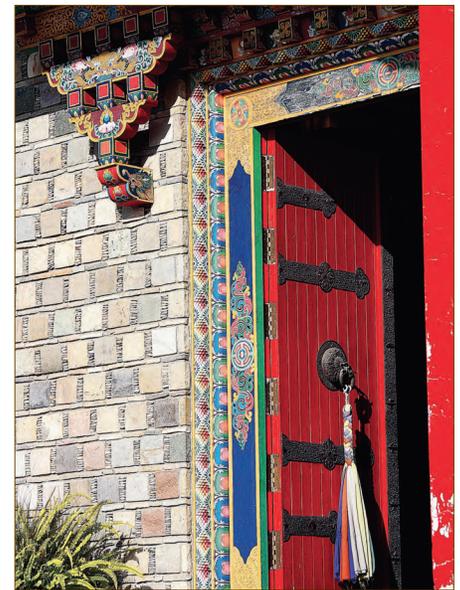




The grounds of Songtsen Library, with a statue of King Songtsen Gampo in front.

Next page: Gene and His Holiness Dikang Kyibgen Chetsang Rinpoche have tea and discuss the mission they share—preserving the books.

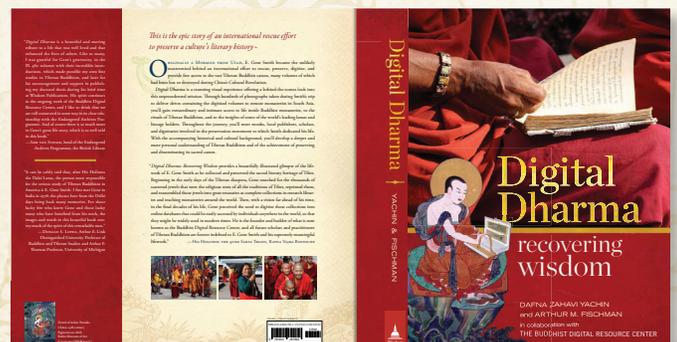
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## Digital Dharma: Recovering Wisdom

By Dafna Zahavi Yachin and Arthur M. Fischman  
In collaboration with the Buddhist Digital Resource Center

**Buddhist Digital Resource Center**  
210 South Street, 1st Floor, Boston, MA 02111 | bdrcc.org



**Digital Dharma** | YACHIN & FISCHMAN

**Digital Dharma**  
recovering wisdom

DAFNA ZAHAVI YACHIN  
AND ARTHUR M. FISCHMAN  
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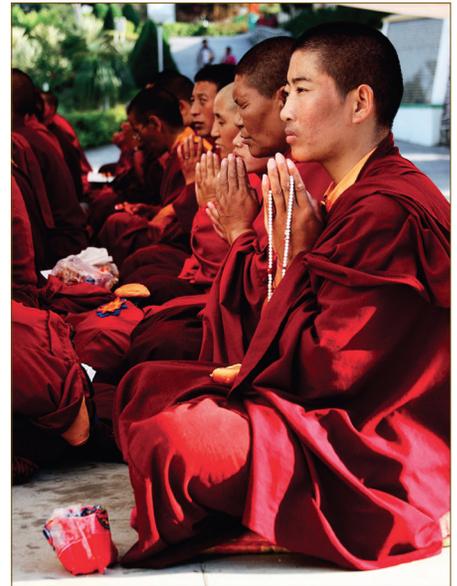
This is the epic story of an international rescue effort to preserve a culture's literary legacy.

**O**ne of the most significant cultural treasures of the world is the vast store of Buddhist texts. For centuries, these texts have been preserved in the form of handwritten manuscripts, often written in a script that is difficult to read and in a language that is difficult to understand. The result of this effort is a vast collection of texts that are now being digitized and made available to the world.

**Digital Dharma: Recovering Wisdom** provides a beautiful historical glimpse of the life of a Buddhist monk who dedicated his life to the preservation of these texts. The book tells the story of how these texts were saved from destruction and how they are now being made available to the world.

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"The whole essence of Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism is that it has to be a living lineage. If it becomes a nice museum or a beautiful thing that nobody visits, then that doesn't make sense."  
—HER EMINENCE MINDROLLING JETSON KHANDRO RINPOCHE

Tradition meets technology.

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Mindrolling is known for its jetunnas, a line of great female masters beginning with Jetun Mingyur Paldon (1699–1764). Gene looks forward to speaking with Her Eminence, Mindrolling Jetun Khadro Rinpoche, a teacher in both the Kagyu and Nyingma schools and the daughter of His Holiness Kyabe Mindrolling Trichen, who died in 2008, shortly before our visit, and whom Gene knew and admired. It is Jetun Khadro Rinpoche's commitment to carrying on her father's involvement in the preservation of Tibetan Buddhist texts that makes the meeting of special interest to Gene.

Through her two decades of teaching in Europe, North America, and Asia, Jetun Khadro Rinpoche has developed a large international following. She established the Mindrolling Lotus Garden Retreat Center (the North American seat of Mindrolling International) in Stanley, Virginia, in 2005, as well as centers in France, Germany, Greece, Denmark, and several other countries. In 1995, Jetun Khadro Rinpoche and her sister, Jetun Dechen Paldon, founded the DharmaWiki Foundation, which has worked to preserve the teachings of the Nyingma school and Mindrolling lineage.

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