

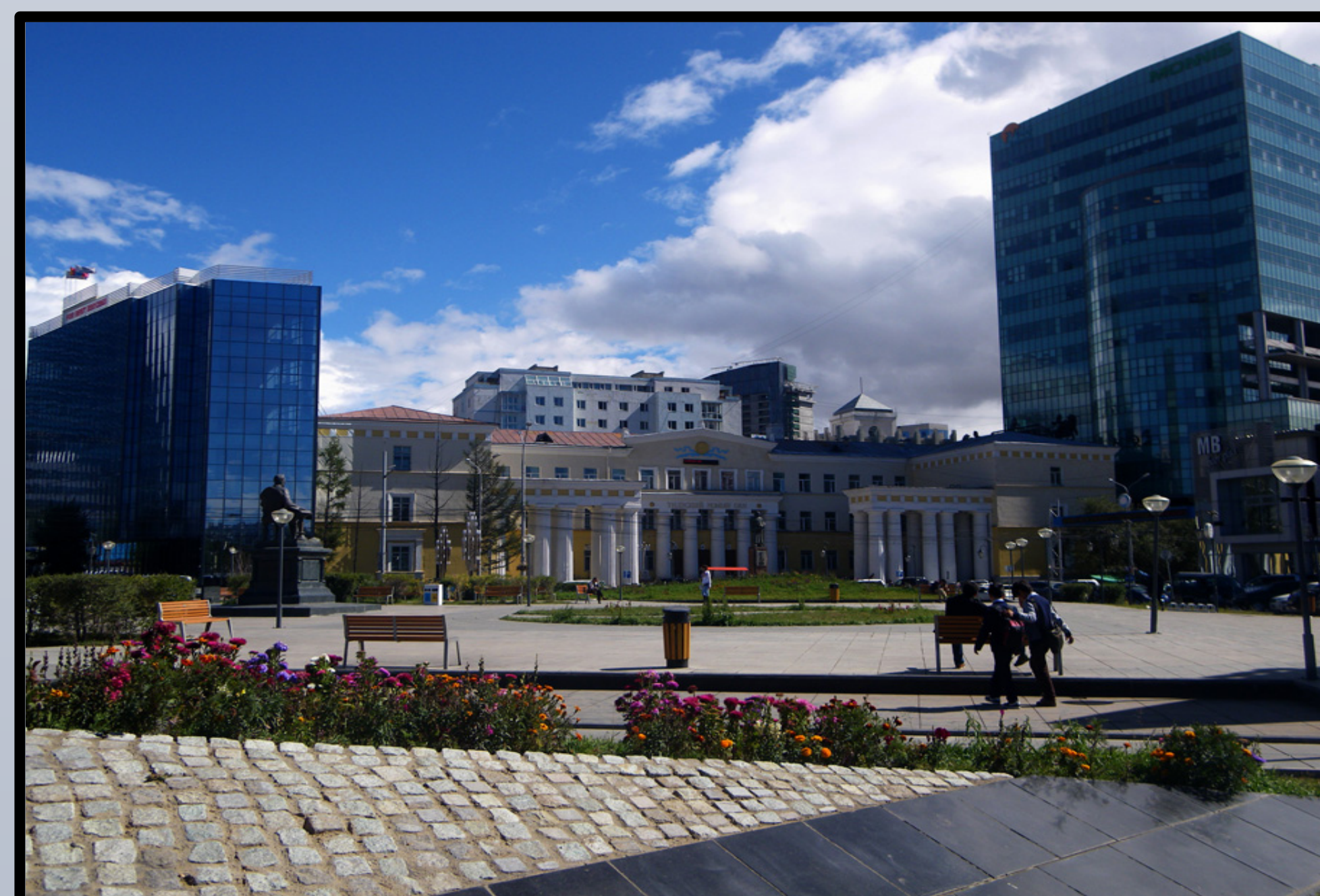
## Introduction

Mongolia's ties with Tibetan Buddhism date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Altan Khan conferred the title of Dalai Lama, Mongolian for 'Ocean Lama', to Tibetan spiritual leader Sonam Gyatso in 1587. Because of these close ties, many religious Tibetan texts were brought to Mongolia as gifts to monasteries or to be translated into Mongolian. Many of these texts were destroyed during the political upheaval of the communist purges in Mongolia during the 1930's. Today, the National Library of Mongolia holds over one million rescued scholarly and religious Buddhist texts in Tibetan, forming the largest collection of Tibetan manuscripts outside of Tibet. Currently, most of the collection is in storage, unknown to the world and uncataloged.

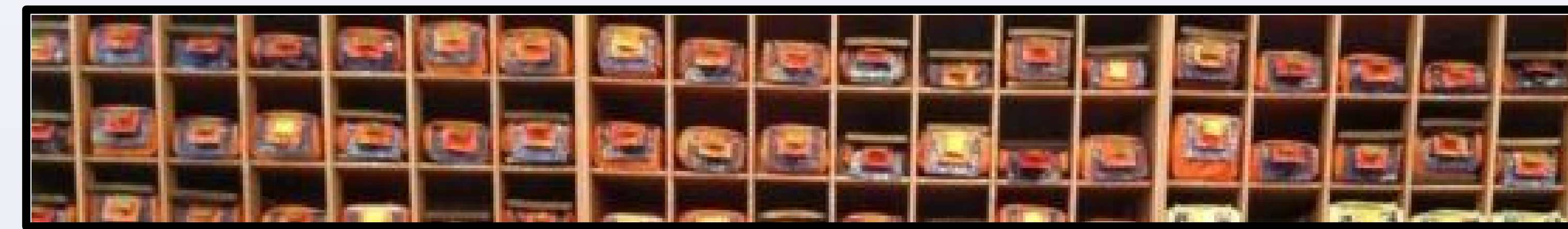


## The National Library of Mongolia

NLM is the largest library in Mongolia in terms of publications and services. Its collections include more than 3 million printed books, serials, and manuscripts in all subject areas, and in many foreign languages, including Tibetan, Sanskrit, Manchurian, Russian, German, English, French, Hindi, Japanese, and other languages. Included in these collections are rare sutras written in Classical Mongolian scripts, including Uyghur, Clear (Oirat), Square, and Soyombo.



## Issues



The National Library of Mongolia holds over one million uncataloged scholarly and religious Buddhist texts in Tibetan. Currently, most of the collection is in storage, unknown to the world. Through the American Center for Mongolian Studies Library Fellowship program, the National Library of Mongolia began the immense task of cataloging these special texts by receiving access and training to the OCLC online cataloging system thanks to an agreement with OCLC and training from MTSU Assistant Professor, Enerel Dambiinyam.

### Main issues

- Cataloging/digitizing
- Transliteration
- Lack of skilled catalogers
- Integrated library system
- Funding



## Future of the manuscripts

The NLM is equipped with software and the necessary training that was provided during the fellowship program to catalog and digitize its vast collection of Tibetan manuscripts according to the RDA (Resource and Description Access) cataloging rule. The goal of this cataloging project is to make the Tibetan manuscripts collection discoverable to scholars and researchers from around the world through OCLC access.



## Acknowledgements

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