



Great Stupa LIBRARY

THE GREAT STUPA LIBRARY

LIBRARY MISSION

The Great Stupa Library will provide free and open access to a comprehensive collection of learning materials specialising in the interface between Buddhism and Science. The library will also serve as an international centre of excellence for interfaith dialogue, study, and the harmonious sharing of wisdom between Buddhism, science and other world religions and philosophies.

WHY A THEME OF BUDDHISM, INTERFAITH & SCIENCE?

Lama Yeshe first envisioned the development of a library as being an integral part of the Great Stupa—encouraging wider research, study and discussion between all religions and contemplative philosophies. In August 2007, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama blessed the Great Stupa and endorsed it as a Stupa for World Peace—a centre to facilitate deeper understanding, harmony and dialogue between world religions. In 2015, Lama Zopa Rinpoche reconfirmed the benefits of the library focusing on the interface between Buddhism, science and interfaith harmony.

The library has a key role in making this vision reality. As a dedicated space, designed and equipped for sharing knowledge and wisdom between the contemplative traditions and science disciplines, the library will serve to promote and inspire peace, compassion, and the enrichment of human learning and experience through its developing collections and programs.

AIMS OF THE GREAT STUPA LIBRARY

- To develop as a centre of excellence for the interface between Buddhism, science and world religions and philosophies by:
 - developing a broad collection focusing on Buddhism, religion and science, and interfaith dialogue between major religions in order to promote greater harmony and understanding
 - building connections to similar organisations around the world
 - linking with networks of experts in wisdom traditions and scientific and philosophical disciplines
 - attracting scholars, academics, researchers, and those with a genuine interest in growing knowledge and understanding of the interface between Buddhism & science
 - hosting programs to promote dialogue, teaching and learning between wisdom traditions and science and philosophy disciplines
 - making freely available a comprehensive collection of Buddhism, science & contemplative literature.
- To provide an interpretative centre for visitors to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion

- To house an archive, including the history of the Great Stupa and items of cultural and religious significance.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Bringing the envisioned Great Stupa Library into being commenced in March 2016 with the creation of the library as a public company and by mid-2016 a Library Board, Constitution and Library Advisory Committee were established. Library membership opened in 2017, and with this step actualizing the vision to facilitate learning between Buddhism, science and other world religions and philosophies commenced.

The library was initially housed in a refurbished building for seven years near the Great Stupa. In April 2023, with a major endowment from the Ribush family and financial assistance from the state government, a new purpose-built library was constructed, and the library, archives and collections moved into the Great Stupa. The collection now contains a mix of materials and exists primarily through the generosity of donors supportive of the library vision. Thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers the collection has been carefully catalogued and made available to the public online.

With continued generosity of donors and benefactors and contributions from other interested parties the library collection will continue to grow. The new library has compactus storage for archives and books, room for future growth and comfortable areas designed to promote inspiration for individual and group learning.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

- Purpose-built library, archive rooms and seminar space, designed to provide state of the art library services and inspire harmonious dialogue, learning and teaching
- Focused and comprehensive collections on Buddhism and the interface between faith and science, world religions and interfaith dialogue
- Facilities and technology to aid learning that are free to the public
- Online web catalogue
- Information resources in a variety of formats, including print, multimedia and digital
- Archival material and collections of cultural significance
- Research material relating to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion
- Research and study areas
- Space for public talks and seminar facilities
- Display and exhibitions areas
- Friendly staff and volunteers.