

# Knowledge Maps

SHANTI developed Knowledge Maps to help you make annotated, hierarchical "maps" of areas of knowledge. A knowledge map is a hierarchical tree of labels, or *terms*.

You can contribute to existing terms or make your own. Currently, there are two types of Knowledge Maps: subjects and places. Each subject or place includes:

- one or more descriptions of the term
- resources across projects with the same label

To make a knowledge map, you first create a term in Subjects or Places. Then you label media from any of the Mandala tools with this term. You can represent terms in multiple languages, and each term can include descriptions with different authors.

In brief, Knowledge Maps lets you:

- **represent an area of knowledge using a tree of categories and subcategories**
- **index resources according to a hierarchy of controlled vocabulary, then annotate that hierarchy**

## Example

Here's the [Bhutan Cultural Library term](#) from Subjects.

The screenshot shows the 'Bhutan Cultural Library' Knowledge Map. The interface has a red header with the title and a search icon. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows 'SUBJECTS: Tibet And Himalayas > Bhutan Cultural Library'. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with 'OVERVIEW' (selected), 'SUBJECTS' (9), 'TEXTS' (38), 'IMAGES' (3488), and 'AUDIO-VIDEO' (17). The main content area displays the 'Bhutan Cultural Library' term, including a description: 'Bhutan is today renowned for its rich cultural traditions of Buddhism and a variety of local knowledge and practices, which have thrived and developed for centuries. However, Bhutanese culture is now under severe pressures from the combined forces of modernization and globalization, just as its equally famed pristine natural environment faces new challenges. The Bhutan Cultural Library seeks to use new digital technologies to deploy the tools of modernization for documenting these suddenly fragile traditions to support their continued growth and vitality.' Below the description, there are sections for 'NAMES' (showing the term in English and Tibetan) and 'IDS' (with a plus icon to add more).

As you can see, the Knowledge Maps includes a description of the item alongside several thousand linked texts, images, sound and video. Clicking each link on the sidebar will show you a gallery of resources tagged with "Bhutan Cultural Library."

**Related step-by-step guides:**

- [Subjects, Places, and Terms in Mandala](#)