

Joint Research Group

**Manuscriptology and Digital Humanities****The Research Environment for Ancient Documents:  
A Digital Toolbox for Editing Indic Texts****Dr. Stefan BAUMS • Stephen WHITE M.Sc.**

(Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July****09:15-10:45 Hrs**  
(CEST/UTC+2h)**4:15-5:45 pm**  
(JST)FREE online talk  
**ZOOM LINK**

The Research Environment for Ancient Documents (READ) is a new software system for the study of ancient texts and their physical carriers, developed by the Buddhist Manuscripts from Gandhāra Project at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in international collaboration. READ is designed to support editorial work on documents from any part of the ancient world, with a focus on South Asian manuscripts and inscriptions. Core architectural features are the close linking of images, transcriptions and analysis, the ability to handle multiple interpretations of the same document in parallel, and the production of paleographic charts and glossaries. READ consists of a user interface written in PHP and Javascript, uses PostgreSQL for storage, and can be installed locally or on a network. The EpiDoc TEI data format is supported for interoperability with other software.

This presentation will start with a description of the source material (fragmentary Buddhist manuscripts) and the particular tasks that READ was designed to support, then provide a walk-through of its features using an example document, and finally address details of the technical implementation and planned features. Further information on READ is available at

<https://github.com/readsoftware/read>.

