The Tibetans collected Buddhist dharma material into three major collections, along with associated reference materials: Kangyur collection, Tengyur collection, and Sungbum collection.

A. Kangyur Collection - Tibetan Translations of Early Sanskrit Classics

The Kangyur collection consists of approximately 81,600 pages of text in nearly 100 volumes.

1. Buddhist Discipline (דול ווא | dul wa) - details on the eight sets of vowed morality that comprises the study of Buddhist ethics, or Vinaya (9000 pages in 13 volumes).

2. Perfection of Wisdom (_salaryin | sher chin) - 21 volumes of detailed philosophical inquiry (Prajna Paramita), traditionally subdivided into six groups:
   a. Hundred thousand verses ( bum) - extensive presentations of the principles of the Perfection of Wisdom (11,000 pages in 12 volumes).
   b. Twenty-five thousand verses ( nyi tri) - similar in subject matter to the eight thousand verses (2500 pages in three volumes).
   c. Eighteen thousand ( tri gye) - contains 1800 pages in two and one-half volume.
   d. Ten thousand ( tri pa) - 1200 pages in one and one-half volume.
   e. Eight thousand verses ( gya tong pa) - principles on the perfection of wisdom presented in a seven-hundred-page narrative of an extraordinary spiritual adventure (700 pages in one volume).
   f. Various works on the Perfection of Wisdom ( she chin na tsok) - collection of shorter treatises on perceptual theory and epistemology (700 pages in one volume), includes the Diamond Cutter Sutra and the Heart of Wisdom Sutra.
3. The Majority Sutras (ས་ཀྱི་བོད་པ་ pel chen) - this group is also known as the Buddha Avatamsaka Sutra (3600 pages in four volumes).

4. Anthology of Philosophy (དཔལ་བཞི་ གཏན་ཏོག kon tzek) - wide range of shorter philosophical works (4100 pages in six volumes).

5. Manifold Sutra group (ཐོང་ཕྱོག་ mdo mang) - records of oral teachings delivered by Gautama Buddha, these most often contain advanced philosophical topics such as the nature of human perception couched in historical narrative (23,000 pages in 32 volumes), includes the Lotus Sutra, the Teaching of Vimalakirti, the Lankavatara Sutra and the Sutra of Great Liberation.

6. Esoteric instruction (སྐྱོང་ gyu) - advanced philosophical and meditational techniques (24,000 pages in 20 volumes).

B. The Tengyur Collection - Tibetan Translations of the Classical Commentarial Literature

The Tengyur collection consists of approximately 147,000 pages of text in over 200 volumes.

1. Classical Poetry and Eulogies (དབང་གྱི་བསྟན་པ་ to tsok) - 650 pages in one volume.

2. Commentaries on Esoteric Texts (སྐྱོང་ རྡེལ gyu drel) - 65,000 pages in 78 volumes.

3. Treaties on the Perfection of Wisdom (ཨོ་ཐོོག་ sher chin) - includes texts by Maitreya, Vimalakirti, and Kamalashila (11,200 pages in 16 volumes).

4. Treaties on Middle Way Philosophy (ཟླ་ མ་ u ma) - includes seminal works by Nagarjuna, Chandrakirti, and Shantideva (12,000 pages in 17 volumes).

5. Commentaries on Sutras (དབང་ རྡེལ do drel) - 6500 pages in 10 volumes.

6. Treaties on Mind-Only Philosophy (ཉེག་པ་ རྡེལ sem tsam) - includes important philosophical inquiries into the nature of reality by Asanga and Vasubandhu (10,500 pages in 16 volumes).
Tibetan Buddhist Book Collections

7. Treaties on Higher Knowledge (དཔེ་བོད་ ngon pa) - includes the famous Treasury of Higher Knowledge by Vasubandhu (6000 pages in 11 volumes).

8. Commentaries on Ethics and Buddhist Discipline (དབུས་པ་་ du drel) - 11,100 pages in 18 volumes.

9. Birth Stories (དབུས་པ་ kye rab) - the previous lives of the Buddha and other important figures are used to illustrate the principles of actions and their consequences (2950 pages in four and one half volume).

10. Letters of Spiritual Advice (དབུས་པ་ drin yik) - includes the famous Letter to a Friend, composed by Nagarjuna (600 pages in one and one-half volume).

11. Treatise on Logic and Valid Knowledge (འོ་ས་ tse ma) - includes important works by Dharmakirti and Dignaga (15,200 pages in 20 volumes).

12. Sanskrit Grammar and Linguistics (སྲིད་ rik pa) - 2850 pages in four volumes.

13. Medicine and Healing (གསུང་ rik pa) - 3800 pages in five volumes.

14. Fine Arts (བོད་ rik pa) - sculpture, painting, architecture, and other fine arts (220 pages in one-half volume).

15. Treatises on Government and Commerce (འོ་ས་ luk kyi ten cho) - 380 pages in one-half volume.

16. Miscellaneous Topics (དཔེ་བོད་ na tsok) - various grammatical treatises and liturgical works (7300 pages in nine volumes).

17. Catalogue of the Kangyur (ཀིའི་སྒྲི། ka gyur kar chak) - native catalog of the Kangyur text (390 pages in one volume).

18. Catalogue of the Tengyur (ཀིའི་སྒྲི། ten gyur kar chak) - native catalog of the Tengyur text (1150 pages in one volume).
C. Sungbum Collection - Commentarial Literature Composed in Tibetan

This consists of roughly more than ten million pages from over 100,000 separate works.

1. Official Documents (ca yik).

2. Liturgical Texts (cho ga).

3. Commentaries on Sutras (do drel).

4. Treatises on Classical Grammar (dra).

5. Art of Interpretation (drang nge).


7. Buddhist Discipline and Ethics (dul wa).


9. Treatises on Sacred Art (hla zo).


11. Texts on Prominent Teachers (la gyu).

12. Steps of the Path Literature (lam rim).


15. Higher Knowledge (ཉོན་པ་ ngon pa).

16. Instructions for Practice (ཐོག་པ་ nyam len).

17. Poetics (ཉིན་གཉན་ nyan ngak).

18. Perfection of Wisdom (ཐར་ཆུན thar chin).

19. Mind-only Philosophy (ཤེམ་ཚམ sem tsam).

20. Spiritual Resumes (ཨུན་ཡིག san yik).


22. Studies of Early Buddhist Saints (ཐོག་ལྭིབ་ tok jo).

23. Miscellaneous (ཐྲེན་ཚེམ thren tsek).


25. Logic and Valid Knowledge (ཤེས་ma tse ma).

26. Lexical Materials (ཤེཤི tsik).

27. Eulogies and Odes of Praise (ཐོཔ་ to pa).

28. Middle-Way Philosophy (ཤུག་u ma).