



FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS. NO INTERNET REQUIRED.

# Sharing the Sherig Newsletter

Free

June 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

## From the Editor

The Rigsum Sherig Collection is less than two months old, and already has a strong and growing community of teachers, principals, students, parents and other educationalists.

Since its launch on April 13, 2013, the Collection has travelled far. Teachers and administrators from multiple schools, colleges and community centres have obtained the Collection for their schools.

### Why the newsletter?

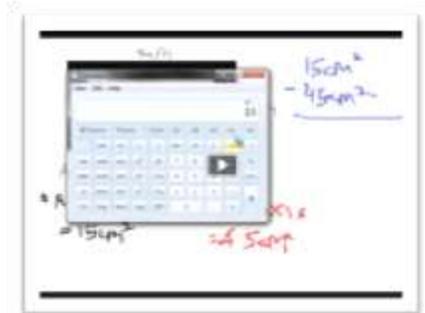
This newsletter intends to update our community about the Collection, where it is being used, how it is being used, and related news.

If you'd like to share your Collection story or photos, email us at [sherig@rigsum-it.com](mailto:sherig@rigsum-it.com).

Tashi Delek and  
happy learning!

### Feature: Uses of the Collection

How can teachers and students benefit from the Collection?



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### Breaking News: RSC 2.0

On May 24, 2013 the Rigsum Sherig Collection 2.0 was officially released.

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### WHAT PRINCIPALS SAY

"The initiative is superb! It really is going to make a lot of difference to schools without access to internet."

Pem Dechen  
Principal, Sherubling HSS

## The Pioneers

Several early adopters grabbed the Collection right after the information session or within 24 hours.

We spotted teachers **Passang "Passu" Tshering** from Bajothang HSS in Wangdue Phodrang, **Sonam Phuntsho** from Jigme Namgyal LSS in Thimphu, and lecturer **Tanveer Rouf** together with librarian **Cathy LeGrand** from Royal Thimphu College.



*Prof. Galit launching the Sherig Collection on April 13, 2013*

## The Collection at Bajothang Book Fair

The Sherig Collection team accepted a spontaneous invitation to display the Collection at the Bajothang Book Fair on May 10–11, 2013.

The Rigsum Sherig Collection tent was visited by many teachers, principals, MoE officers, interested parents, students, and more. Many have obtained the Collection and taken it back with them for their school, and to share with others. We received reports that the Collection already traveled to 9 dzongkhags!

Teacher **Passang "Passu" Tshering** was instrumental in organising the tent. He has been a focal point for schools in the Punakha–Wangdue area and beyond, both for sharing the Collection as well as sharing experiences with fellow teachers.

We were also delighted to meet Gasa PS principal **Pema Dorji**, who pledged to distribute the Collection to all schools in Gasa. Remote schools are especially benefiting from the Collection. Teacher **Tenzin Dorji** (Lungtengang PS, Dagana), who picked up the Collection during the fair, installed the Collection on computers for the benefit of all students.

The Collection travelled to many more schools after being on display at the Bajothang Book Fair.

*Many thanks to Bajothang HSS principal Shangkar Lal Dahal, teacher Passang Tshering, and the dedicated eLearning club students for organizing the Sherig tent and the wonderful hospitality.*



### Spreading the Knowledge

The Rigsum Sherig Collection has already been dispatched to more than 30 organisations around the Kingdom.

Here are a few of these organisations:

- Lungtengang PS, Dagana
- Gasa PS, Gasa
- Mongar LSS, Mongar
- Tashidingkha MSS, Punakha
- Druk School MSS, Thimphu
- Motithang HSS, Thimphu
- Lingshi PS, Thimphu
- Royal Thimphu College, Thimphu
- Yangchen Gatshel LSS, Thimphu
- ILCS, Trongsa
- Bajothang HSS, Wangdue
- Samtengang MSS, Wangdue

For the most updated list, visit [map.rigsum-it.com](http://map.rigsum-it.com)

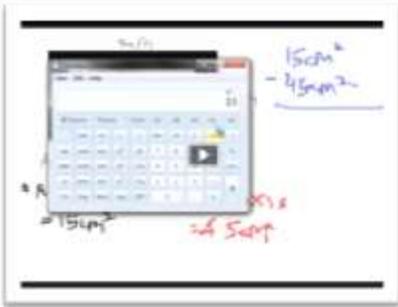
### CCs Get the Collection

Community Centres, frequented by children of different ages, are a great place for the Collection. Offering an alternative to Facebook and slow internet connectivity, computers with the Collection can help children with school work and beyond.

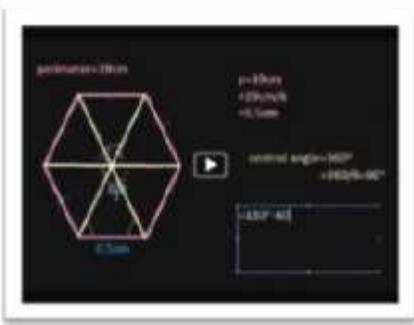
The Collection was obtained by READ Bhutan. It was also installed on computers at His Majesty's People's Project for the Youth in RICB Colony, Thimphu.

## BEST WAY TO LEARN A TOPIC: TEACH IT!

The Khan Academy videos inspired some of Mr. Passang's students to create Khan-type educational videos of their own. Class XI student Chidananda Dorji created a video showing how to compute the area between two shapes:



Fellow student Dhan Kumar Rai created a video on finding the area of a polygon:



The videos are available on the Facebook group.

## FAST FACTS

97%

% of secondary schools with computers

72%

% of primary schools with computers

## MORE EDU STATS

The Annual Education Statistics (AES) 2012 has more facts about education in Bhutan

<http://goo.gl/dxeYU>



*Demonstrating the Collection to Ms. Ugen Choden and Mr. Kuenga Yarphe from the Bhutan Foundation*

## The Many Uses of the Collection

The Sherig Collection can be used in many ways by subject and IT teachers, students, librarians, and parents.

### IT Labs

In schools where students have computer access during the weekly IT session, subject teachers can coordinate with the IT teacher to instruct students to conduct research on a particular topic. The IT teacher can then integrate the subject with IT usage. For example, at Druk School MSS, class VI students were instructed to create a presentation about the solar system, the topic they were learning in social studies. The students were instructed to use Wikipedia for conducting the research, and MS PowerPoint for creating the presentation. The IT teacher then projected the presentations for the students to present in class.

### Teachers' Staff Room

Installing the Collection on a staff room computer or on teachers' laptops can help teachers improve their lesson plans. Khan Academy videos can give ideas about new ways to teach a topic. Wikipedia can be used for gathering information and images, and for creating research activities.

### Library

If your school's library has computers, that's another great place for the Collection. During library hour, the librarian can play audio books for young children. You might have the books themselves in the library. If not, print the eBooks, which are also in the Collection. Older children can use the library computers for school work or for expanding their knowledge, quenching their curiosity, and having fun. If the library is open after

school hours or on weekends, parents and others in the community will also have access to the Rigsum Sherig Collection resources.

### Home Computers

Many parents are concerned about their children surfing the Internet unsupervised. While they want to allow their children to use the computer for learning, they do not want to encourage idle gaming and Facebook glaring. Installing the Collection on a home computer, and disconnecting it from the Internet, offers a great solution. Parents can get the Collection by simply copying the folder Sherig 2.0 (or the older Sherig 1.0) from any computer at school. Just visit your child's school with an external hard disk that has 25GB of free space, and copy from any computer.

### Featured Uses and Users

We would like to share with readers interesting uses of the Collection, as reported by teachers, students, or other users. Please do share with us your experiences and photos!

Our featured user and usage in this newsletter is the eLearning club at Bajothang HSS, led by IT and Math teacher Mr. Passang Tshering. The club installed the Collection on multiple computers across the school grounds, including their outdoor Wi-Fi park.

Mr. Passang uses Khan Academy videos in math during class time, by projecting a particular video within the classroom. This can be achieved by connecting a projector to a laptop with the Collection, and using "full screen" mode (bottom right button in a Khan Academy video played in Chrome).

# Breaking News: Version 2.0 Released

The Rigsum Sherig Collection community has provided valuable feedback about the Collection: what they love, what causes them grief (installation!), and a wish list. With that in mind, we quickly went to work and on May 24, 2013 the Rigsum Sherig Collection 2.0 was officially released.

## Effortless Installation

The new version has several improvements. On the technical side, automated installation replaces the manual and error-prone resource-by-resource installation. An uninstall tool was also added, especially useful for upgrading from 1.0.

## Curriculum Bookshelf

Additional resources include a Curriculum Bookshelf with materials from MoE's Curriculum Department website (textbooks, workbooks, syllabus, and more), and a large exam bank with sample papers by multiple schools and the MoE website.

## Poems and more

The Audio Books folder now also includes corresponding eBooks, so you can read and listen to the classics. We've added poetry for young kids as well as class IX–XII poems from the MoE curriculum. Listen to *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost or *Where the Mind is Without Fear* by Rabindranath Tagore.

## New Dictionary

More Dzongkha resources: a Children's Dzongkha dictionary and additional DDC publications are now included.

## The “King’s Game”

The recent inter-school Chess contests have led to the inclusion of DreamChess, allowing children to compete against the computer or each other.

## Instructions and Video

Collection 2.0 comes with an offline website that includes a short 5-step installation guide. A 9-minute video clip with an overview of the Collection is also included — perfect for teacher orientations!

## Recommendation

We strongly encourage users of 1.0 to upgrade to 2.0.



*DreamChess, a computer chess game, is included in Sherig Collection 2.0*

To compare versions 1.0 and 2.0, see [sherig.rigsum-it.com/compare](http://sherig.rigsum-it.com/compare)

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the  
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Newsletter



We invite teachers, principals, education NGOs and other educationalists to visit our lab, learn about the Collection, and try it out. To get your free copy of the Rigsum Sherig Collection 2.0, don't forget to bring an external disk with at least 25 GB of free space.

Outside of Thimphu? Check the interactive online map ([map.rigsum-it.com](http://map.rigsum-it.com)) to find a free copy near you.

## Rigsum Research Lab

Norzin Lam, #55 (KMT Building)  
Thimphu, BHUTAN

Web: [sherig.rigsum-it.com](http://sherig.rigsum-it.com)

Email: [sherig@rigsum-it.com](mailto:sherig@rigsum-it.com)

Phone: 02-332787 or 02-321466/7

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/sherigcollection](https://www.facebook.com/groups/sherigcollection)

The Rigsum Sherig Collection is a social responsibility project by the Rigsum Institute of IT & M

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