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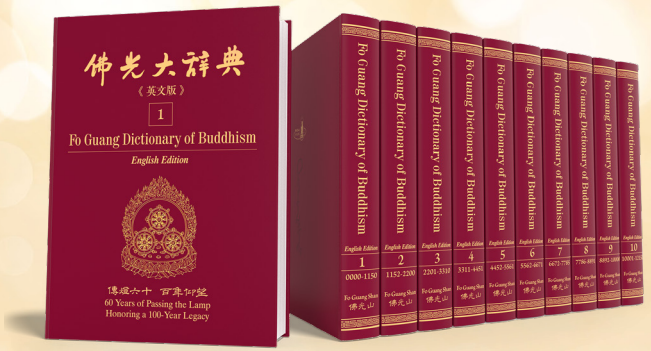
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Compiling the first edition by hand. Every entry in the Fo Guang Dictionary of Buddhism is researched, cross-referenced, and typeset manually over the course of a decade. c. 1980s.

Anatomy of an Entry: Designed for Study and Research

Headword	Chinese term with English technical equivalent
Language Equivalents	Sanskrit, Pāli, and other transliterations
Definition	Concise definition, followed by detailed explanations across relevant schools and traditions
Canonical Citation	Includes Taishō numbers (volume, page, column, line), verified against original texts
Cross-References	Related entries are listed as "See also" for comparative study
Source References	Lists sūtras, treatises, and scholarly works consulted

History

Venerable Master Hsing Yun believed that the richness of the Chinese Buddhist canon should not remain the domain of specialists alone. He envisioned a reference work that maintained scholarly rigor preesented in vernacular language.

Over thirty monastics and scholars, led primarily by bhiksunis at Fo Guang Shan, spent more than a decade compiling the Chinese edition. Decades later, a global team of 160+ contributors undertook the English translation, bringing this treasury of knowledge to the world.

Timeline of the Chinese & English Editions

- 1970s **The idea takes root.** Lay Buddhists and monastics recognize the need for a comprehensive, readable dictionary.
- 1977 **Compilation begins.** The Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Canon Committee is established.
- 1988 **First Chinese edition published.** 22,608 entries, 7 million Chinese characters, across eight volumes.
- 1989 **Golden Tripod Award.** The dictionary receives the highest distinction for publishing in Taiwan.
- 2014 **Expanded Chinese edition.** Expanded to 32,000+ entries, 10 million Chinese characters across ten volumes.
- 2015 **English translation project launched.** 26,000+ pages of reference material compiled and digitized.
- 2026 **English edition published.** The complete dictionary, available to the world for the first time.
- 2026- **FoGuangAI.** The dictionary dataset will be intergrated into FoGuangAI, a domain-specific model trained on Chinese Buddhist texts and the works of Venerable Master Hsing Yun.