MRK Alignment Scoring Guidelines

Christopher Handy & Marieke Meelen

Version	Date	Changes	Contributor(s)
1.0	2 January 2020	First complete version	Chris & Marieke
2.0	27 March 2020	Added table of contents, getting started instructions and section on (new) input instructions & options	Marieke
2.1	14 April 2020	Added content for section §5 on CSV upload	Marieke
2.2	4 May 2020	Updated content on CSV upload	Marieke

Table of content

- §1 Introduction
- §2 Getting Started
- §3 Identifying & Entering Alignments
- §4 Scoring alignments
- §5 Upload CSV with alignments and scores

§1 Introduction

The aim of the Alignment Input & Scoring Tool is to facilitate the creation of training data for an automatic crosslinguistic alignment engine.

This document provides descriptions and examples of manually aligned passages in Classical Tibetan and Classical Chinese texts, including instructions for identification, input and scoring of alignments. The alignment engine developed for the Open Philology project will automatically detect bilingual aligned passages within the MRK or other text collections using training data created with this manual alignment input & scoring tool; it is important to create training data in order to increase the accuracy of the automated system. These training data consist of manually aligned passages from the MRK with a score indicating the strength of each alignment.

Note that in principle any other witnesses in any language can be added to the database, for now, all MRK Witnesses from the Derge (Tibetan) and Taisho (Chinese) collections are there and Sanskrit will follow as soon as reliable digital witnesses are available.

§2 Getting Started

To add alignments and scores to the database, you need the following:

- (reasonably) up-to-date version of the Mozilla Firefox browser
- know which Witnesses you are working with (e.g. 'Derge 75' and 'Taisho 310-31')
- open the following link with Firefox: https://engine.openphilology.eu/optools/
- obtain username and password from Christopher Handy (<u>c.a.handy@hum.leidenuniv.nl</u>)

Note that further documentation & code can be found here: https://github.com/handyc/openphilology.eu

§3 Identifying and Entering Alignments and Scores

3.1 What are cross-linguistic alignments?

Cross-linguistic alignments can in principle be identified on various levels, e.g. words, sentences, paragraphs or entire witnesses. For the purposes of creating useful training data for the Open Philology model, we consider the following parameters:

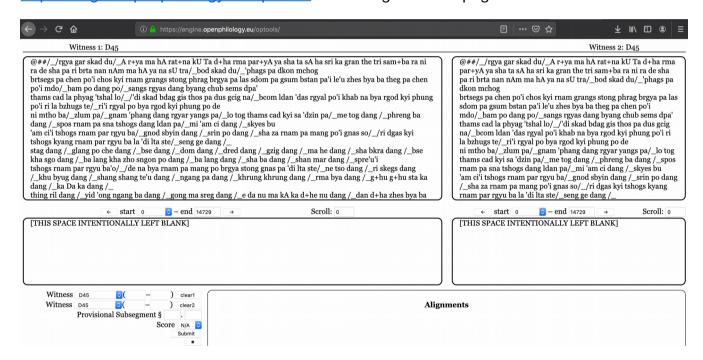
Minimum length: sentence (or clause, if preferred from a philological perspective)

Maximum length: "paragraph"

The OP source texts generally do not identify individual paragraphs. For NLP purposes, it is useful to keep alignments as short as possible, but not shorter than the sentence/clause level. "Paragraphs" are therefore indicated as minimally coherent sets of sentences. If an individual paragraph contains several sentences that could be aligned separately, these sentences should be manually marked as aligned sentences. Passages of text for which alignment can really not be determined at the sentence or clause level should be manually aligned as paragraphs. At this time, the software does not make any formal distinction between a sentence and a paragraph.

3.2 How to enter alignments and scores?

Manual alignments are added to the database using the OPTools utility https://engine.openphilology.eu/optools/ - see image of homepage below:



The current implementation of this utility is a Django app. To access the tool, please obtain a login and password from Chris Handy (c.a.handy@hum.leidenuniv.nl).

This utility connects directly to the project database, so that any manual alignments entered using the tool are instantly part of the project database.

There are two ways to submit and alignments and scores with the tool:

Option 1. By selecting and scoring alignments using the main window (see §3.3 below)

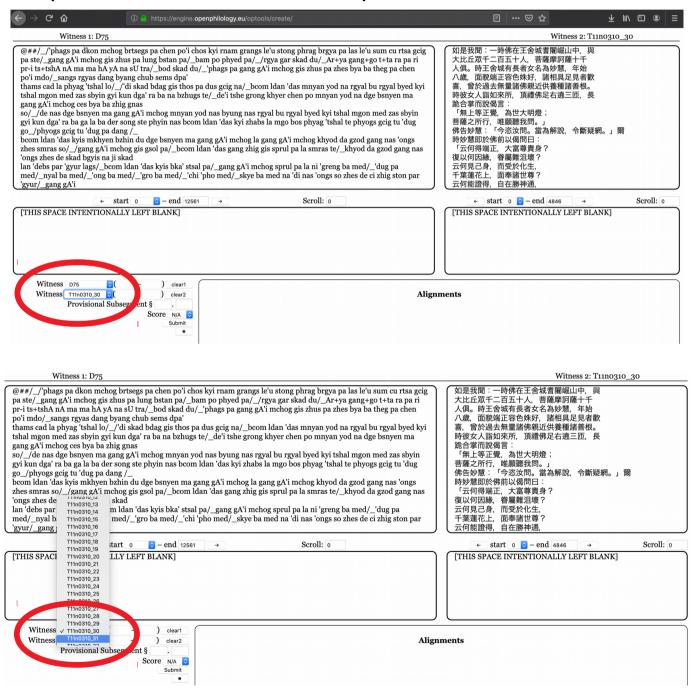
Option 2. By uploading a CSV file (see section §5 below)

3.3 Selecting & Scoring alignments with the tool ('Option 1')

Option 1 for submitting alignments and scores uses the tool with the following 5 steps:

- 1. Choose two witnesses from the drop-down menus
- 2. Highlight the text to be aligned within each witness by selecting it
- 3. Check if the correct parts are selected in the selection windows
- 4. Score the alignment with the dropdown list of scores
- 5. Submit the alignment to the database with the submit button

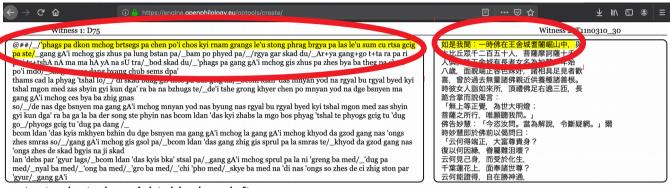
Step 1 - Choose two witnesses from the drop-down menus



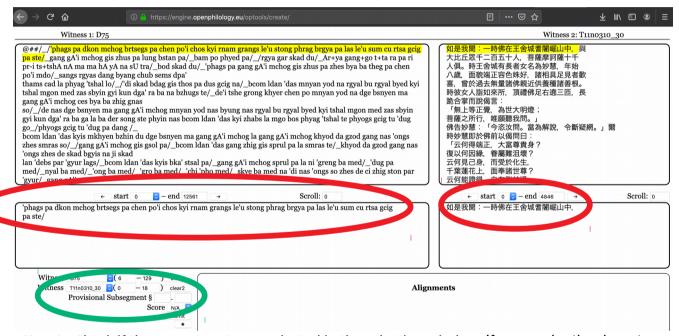
Step 2 - Highlight the text to be aligned within each witness by selecting it

A passage in one witness with no corresponding passage in the other witness (e.g., a phrase in a Tibetan witness does not appear in the equivalent Chinese witness) should be left blank where it does not appear. There are thus three types of allowed alignments that can be submitted to the database:

- text selected on left, text selected on right
- text selected on left, blank on right OR



- text selected on right, blank on left

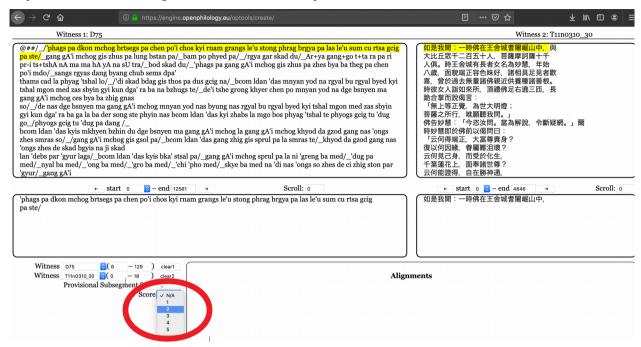


Step 3 - Check if the correct parts are selected in the selection windowslf your selection is not correct, simply go back to Step 2 and make a new selection. Your old selection highlighted in yellow will disappear once you click again in the text field of the witness. Your new selection will be highlighted instead and it will be displayed in the box with the red circle so you can check again if necessary.

Adding provisional subsegment labels (optional).

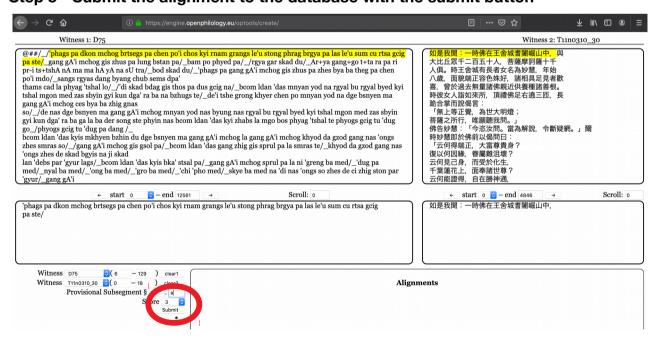
If you want to add a provisional subsegment label, you can enter a number + letter in the boxes circled in green. Adding provisional subsegment labels in entirely optional, but it may benefit philologists in the longer run when they start editing their alignments in the philological editing environment (currently being developed by Bruno Laine).

Step 4 - Score the alignment with the dropdown list of scores



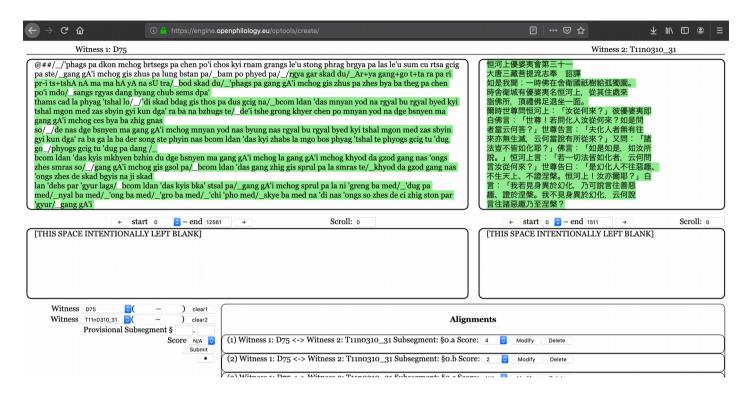
When a Tibetan or Chinese clause/sentence does not correspond to anything, you can keep one of the languages blank. In the selection check box you will see the message 'THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK'. These alignments with one of the two boxes blank cannot be scored and the score is just left as 'not applicable' (n/a). Note that when you are scoring alignments that are manually inserting, your score can never be '1' (see guidelines on scoring in section §4 below). Scores can be added at the time of the alignment submission, or at a later time (see below).

Step 5 - Submit the alignment to the database with the submit button

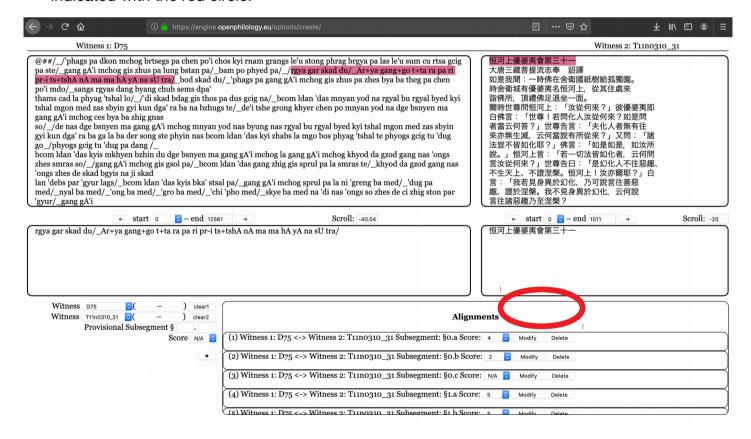


Check if the selections, provisional subsegments (optional) and score (optional – can be done later, see below) are correct and then submit the alignment & score to the database clicking the 'Submit' button.3.4 Adding and/or changing scores separately

Scores can be added at the time of the alignment submission, or at a later time. Alignments already in the system for any particular choice of witness pairs are visible in a list at the lower right portion of the screen and highlighted in green in the text boxes.



When clicking on an alignment in the bottom right 'Alignment box', that alignment will be highlighted in pink and displayed in the check boxes. The score for each alignment can be added/modified or deleted using the 'modify' and 'delete' buttons on its item in the list indicated with the red circle.



§4 Scoring Alignments

Our alignment scoring system adapts best practices from Machine Translator Evaluation in which human annotators evaluate automatically translated sentences produced by a machine. Since 'Fluency' is not a relevant parameter when it comes to judging alignments, we focus on the 'Adequacy' parameter only. 'Adequacy' of a translation, or in our case 'alignment', refers to how well content is preserved between two passages. The following brief descriptions for each of the scores and included examples are intended to help guide philologists in scoring their manually aligned witnesses. When in doubt between two scores, use the higher score. Brief descriptions of each score:

- 1 no match
- 2 content is somewhat similar, major differences in word choice
- content is the same, significant differences in word choice 3
- 4 content is the same, one or two differences in word choice
- 5 meaning is exactly the same with no differences

Cases for which there is not a Tibetan/Chinese equivalent to a sentence/paragraph of a witness should be indicated with the "intentionally left blank" selection in the alignment tool (the default selection before text is highlighted). In such cases, no score is needed and a score of 'not applicable' (N/A) should be selected from the drop-down list in the alignment input tool. A complete manual alignment of two witnesses should therefore account for every phrase in both witnesses (there should be no cases that have no match between the Tibetan and Chinese). It is however possible for the computer to select two sentences that have no matching content, so we reserve the score of '1' for these cases. Human users of the software should not ever select a score of '1' for any purpose.

Score 1 - No match

This score can only apply to alignments produced automatically by the machine: there is absolutely no match in content or wording between the Tibetan and Chinese. Note that this score concerns only the content of the core proposition. For example, if the passage in question is a dialogue between two characters, and the only common feature shared by the Tibetan and Chinese phrases is "X said/asked", while the internal content of the question/statement remains markedly different, the alignment can still be scored as 1.

1 Tibetan Chinese

de nas bcom ldan 'das la tshe dang ldan pa kun dga' bos 'di skad ces gsol to II bcom Idan 'das chos kyi rnam grangs 'di'i ming ci lags l 'di ji ltar bzung bar bgyi 養, 種諸善根。」

是人已曾無量佛所親近、供

Then the Venerable Ananda asked the Blessed One: "Blessed One, what is the name of this exposition of the teaching? How should we hold it in mind?"

"This person previously brought herself close to innumerable buddhas, worshipped them and planted roots of virtue."

2 Tibetan Chinese

des pas bltas nas smras pa/

爾時菩薩以無染眼觀彼諸 女,告之言曰:

Score 2 - content is somewhat similar, major differences in word choice

Score 2 is distinguishable from score 1 because examples with score 2 have at least some overlap in content. For score 2, however, there can still be major differences in word choice.

3 Tibetan

'di Itar grong khyer mnyan yod na I dge bsnyen ma 'di Ita bu gnas la I de de bzhin gshegs pa dang Ihan cig smra yang I de'i lus ngal bar yang mi 'gyur ba dang I

"In the town of Śrāvastī lives such a female lay disciple who, even though she spoke together with the Tathāgata, did not experience physical exhaustion.*

Chinese

「此優婆夷甚爲希有,能 與如來 共相詶對,得無所 畏。

"This female lay disciple is exceedingly wonderful; she is able to engage in question and answer together with the Tathāgata, without being afraid.*

4 Tibetan

/mthong nas 'di snyam du sems te/ ci grong khyer gyi dbul po 'di yi dam la brtan nam mi brtan bdag gis brtag go snyam mo/

Chinese

便自念言:「今此善順於 諸梵行曾不懈息,將不為 求帝釋處耶?或貪王位及 欲樂耶?」

5 Tibetan

/de nas lha'i dbang po brgya byin gyis dus gzhan zhig na mi gzhan zhig sprul to/

Chinese

爾時天帝復自親試持俱胝 金.

6 Tibetan

/smras pa/ de bas na gnas brtan nyid la yongs su dris khyod kyis ji ltar bzod pa bzhin du lan thob shig

Chinese

文殊師利言:「須菩提! 於意云何?若有醫人將護 病者,不與辛酸苦澁等 藥。而彼醫人於彼病者, 為與其差?為與死耶?」

Score 3 - content is the same, significant differences in word choice

Examples with score 3 have the same content, but there can be significant differences in word choice or in the way the content is presented (i.e. in a different order).

7 Tibetan

de nas bcom Idan 'das kyi zhal gyi sgo nas 'od zer kha dog sna tshogs kha dog du ma 'di Ita ste I sngon po dang I ser po dang I dmar po dang I dkar po dang I btsod ka dang I shel dang I dngul gyi kha dog Ita bu dag byung nas I de dag gis 'jig rten gyi khams mtha' yas mu med pa dag snang bar byas te I 'od kyis khyab par byas nas I tshangs pa'i 'jig rten gyi bar du mngon bar byung ste I slar log nas bcom Idan 'das kyi zhal gyi sgor nub bo II

Chinese

從其面門放種種光,青、 黄、赤、白、紅、頗梨色。其 光普照無量國界,上至梵世,還從如來頂上而入。

Many variously colored rays of light—such as blue, yellow, red, white, vermillion, crystal and silver*—came out of the Blessed One's mouth, and illuminated the endless, boundless worlds of the universe. The light penetrated the worlds, ascended to the world of Brahmā, and returned to disappear back into the Blessed One's mouth.

All kinds of rays of light radiated from his mouth—blue, yellow, red, white, purple and crystal colored.* Those rays of light shone throughout immeasurable realms, ascending to the world of Brahmā, returning and entering from the crown of the Tathāgata's head.

8 Tibetan

/rgyal pos smras pa/ bu mo de dag ni nga dang mtshungs pa ma yin no/

Chinese

王語女言:「彼非我類, 我云何迎?」

9 Tibetan

bcom Idan 'das 'di Itar nyon mongs pa rnams kyi rang bzhin gang lags pa de nyid sangs rgyas kyi yul gyi rang bzhin lags te/ de'i slad du de bzhin gshegs pas chos thams cad mnyam pa nyid du mngon par rdzogs par sangs rgyas so zhes ston lags so/ Chinese

以煩惱性即佛界性故,說 如來住平等性。」

Score 4 - content is the same, one or two differences in word choice

Examples with score 4 also have the same content, but they can be differentiated from those with score 3 because only one or two words are different. It is expected that many of the manually aligned sentences/paragraphs will fall into this category.

10 Tibetan

de'i tshe grong khyer chen po mnyan vod na I dge bsnyen ma gang ga'i mchog ces bya ba zhig gnas so IÍ

At that time, in the great town of Śrāvastī there lived At that time in Śrāvastī there a female lay disciple named Gangottarā.

Chinese

時舍衛城有優婆夷、名恒 河上。

was a female lay disciple called Gangottarā.

11 Tibetan

'di skad bdag gis thos pa dus gcig na I bcom Idan 'das vul barga na chu srin byis pa gsod Ita bu'i ri 'jigs su rung ba'i nags ri dags kyi nags na

Thus I heard at one time: the Blessed One dwelt in the state of Bhaggas, in the mountain that looked like a child-killing water-monster (susumāragiri), in the Bhesakalā Forest, at the Deer's Grove,

Chinese

聞如是: 一時佛遊於披 祇國妙華山中恐懼樹間鹿 所聚處,

Thus I heard: at one time, the Buddha travelled in the state of Bagi, in the Marvelous Flower Mountain, in the Bhesakalā Grove, at the Deer's Haunts.

12 Tibetan

gzhan yang de bzhin gshegs pa zhal phyir phyogs pa mthong ba dang/

Chinese

復次夢見如來背坐:

Furthermore, he sees the tathāgata facing backwards;

13 **Tibetan**

bcom Idan 'das kyis bka' stsal pa I gang ga'i mchog sprul pa ni ngan song du mi 'gro I mtho ris su mi 'gro I yongs su mya ngan las 'das par mi 'gro na I ci gang ga'i mchog kyang ngan song du mi 'gro I mtho ris su mi 'gro I yongs su mya ngan las 'das par mi 'gro 'am l

The Blessed One said: "Gangottara, if an artificial creation does not go to evil destinies, does not go to heaven, does not go to parinirvana, do not you, Gangottarā, also not go to evil destinies, not go to heaven, not go to parinirvana?"

Chinese

世尊告曰: 「是幻化人不 往惡趣,不生天上,不證 涅槃。恒河上,汝亦爾 耶。」

The Blessed One said: "This illusorily artificial person does not go to evil destinies, is not born in heaven, does not attain nirvāņa. Gangottarā, are you also like this?"

14 Tibetan Chinese

/bcom Idan 'das yul khyad par ma mchis pa ni 世尊!非境界是佛境界。sangs rgyas kyi yul lags te/

15 Tibetan Chinese

bcom Idan 'das kyïs bka' stsal pa II cï khyod mya ngan las 'da's pa'ï dbyings la gzhol bar myï byed dam II

The Blessed One said: "Are you not applying yourself toward the realm of nirvāṇa?"

佛言:「汝豈不趣涅槃界 耶。」

The Buddha said: "Is it not, certainly, the case that you are headed toward the realm of nirvāṇa?"

16 Tibetan Chinese

sngon ma mthong ba'i dge slong chos smra ba dag 又見未曾見法師; mthong ba dang/

17 Tibetan Chinese

maud gal gyi bus smras pa/ bu mo de ni mi shes 目連答言:「不能知也。」so/

Score 5 - meaning is exactly the same with no differences

Score 5 should be given to perfect alignments, i.e. passages that match completely as in the case of an ideal translation, accounting for every single word with the same style and content. In theory this could also apply to texts that are not translated from each other directly, though it is likely to occur less often in those.

18 Tibetan

gang ga'ï mchog gïs gsol pa' l gal te de ltar na l cï ltar byang cub kyï ched du dge ba'ï rtsa ba stsogs par bgyïd lags ll

Gangottarā asked: "If that is the way it is, how did you collect roots of virtue for the sake of awakening?"

19 Tibetan

tha na dgra la yang khro bar mi byed pa dang /

20 Tibetan

bcom Idan 'das gang zhig gis sprul pa la smras te l khyod da gzod gang nas 'ongs shes de skad bgyis na l ji skad lan 'debs par 'gyur lags l

"Blessed One, if someone were to say to an artificial creation,* 'Where have you come from just now?' how should he answer?"

Chinese

恒河上言: 「若如是者, 云 何爲 菩提故, 積集善根。」

Gangottarā said: "If that is the way it is, how did you collect roots of virtue for the sake of awakening?"

Chinese

一者,於惡友所不起瞋 心;

Chinese

「世尊, 若 問化人『汝從何來』, 如是問者, 當云何答。」

"Blessed One, if one were to ask an artificially created person,* 'Where have you come from?' how should he answer such a question?"*

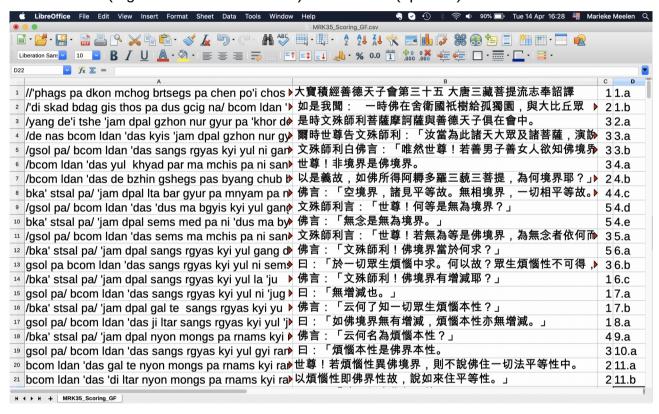
§5 CSV upload

Alignments and scores can also be added to the database by uploading a CSV file ('Option 2'). This sections explains how this is done.

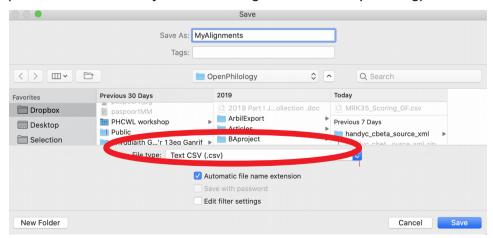
Step 1 – Prepare a CSV file with alignments (and optional scores)

Use any software application you prefer (e.g. MS Excel, LibreOffice/OpenOffice Calc, Mac Numbers, etc.) to create a CSV file with the following specifications:

- UTF-8 encoding
- Text from Witness 1 in column A & Text from Witness 2 in column B (note that either A or B could be blank if there is not Tibetan/Chinese corresponding to a sentence)
- Score (n/a, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in column C (optional)
- Subsegment label, e.g. '1.a' in column D (optional)
- Other notes (e.g. 'not found in Chinese') in column E (optional)

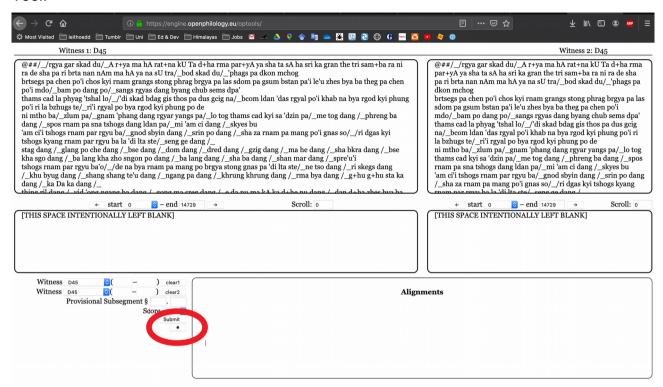


When using spreadsheet software like Excel, Calc, Numbers etc. make sure you save the file as .csv (this will automatically render the right format for uploading).

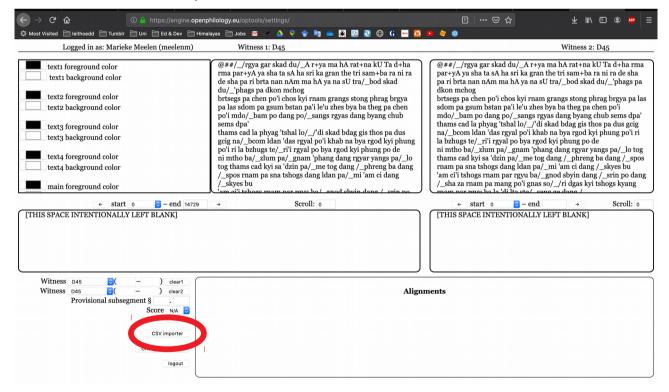


Step 2 - Navigate to the CSV upload function in the tool

Click on the settings/dharma wheel in the home screen of the Alignment Input & Scoring Tool.



This will make the 'CSV importer' button appear – click on that to access the part of the tool that allows for CSV uploads.



Step 3 - Select Witnesses and Browse to upload your CSV file

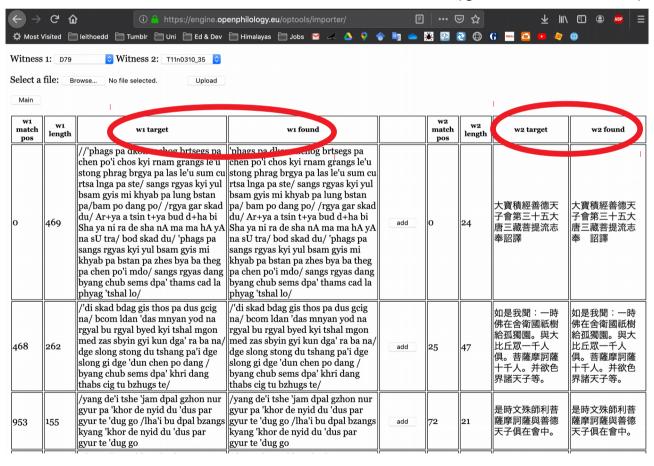
Choose your Witness 1 corresponding to your Column A in the CSV file from the dropdown list and Witness 2 for Column B. Then upload your CSV file choosing the file from your computer with the Browse button.



Please note that uploading the file may take a while (depending on the size of your file) and the cursor does not change shape to a 'wait cursor' in the process.

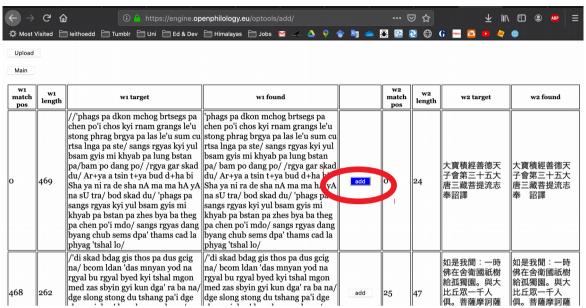
Step 4 - Check and add alignments and scores to the database

Once the CSV file is uploaded, you will see a table with 'Witness 1 target', 'Witness 2 found', a score and an 'Add' button and the same for Witness 2 (ignore the other columns).



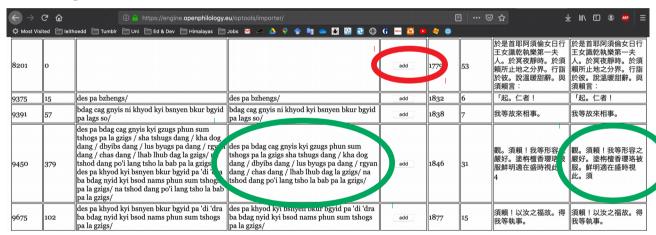
Thee column 'w1 target' shows the input from your CSV file and the 'w2 found' shows the whichever part of that witness in database forms the closest match with what you have in your CSV file. The same goes for the 'target' and 'found' columns of the second witness.

Check if the matches in the 'found' columns are close to what you intended. They don't have to match perfectly: sometimes there may be some slight differences in punctuation for instance or a word may be added or missing. Even if some punctuation or a word or two differs, this will still be useful training data. So click the 'Add' button to add the alignment and score to the database.



Once you click 'Add', the button will turn blue to indicate this alignment & score has been added to the database so you can keep track of your work.

If there are blank cells in one of the witnesses, still add the alignment (especially if you have added subsegment labels, this may be useful for you when you are editing your texts in the longer run.



If an entire clause is missing in the 'found' column, compare both 'found' columns (indicate with green circles) and decide whether these could also work as alignments (even though they differ from what you had in your CSV). If they are fine, add them too. If not, skip them.

After checking and adding the first ten alignments, click on the 'next' button at the bottom of the page to check and add the following ten alignments of your text.

Once you've checked/add all alignments you're done! If you want to edit modify alignments or scores, or add subsegment labels, use the main tool window as described in Section §3.3. Thank you for adding & scoring alignments!