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Shodhganga repository for electronic theses and dissertations of the universities in West Bengal: A study

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Abstract

This paper aimed to analysis some of the Universities from West Bengal are signed MoU in shodhganga submit of electronic theses and dissertations. Theses and Dissertation are an important part of information resources in any University. In West Bengal some Universities are creating repositories for their theses and dissertations but work on a national level project has recently begun. Higher educational institutions should have their thought contents in a place where members can access them for their reference within the institutions. The main thought contents in higher educational institutions are Theses which can be converted in to electronic format and put them in a common database. It is a great opportunity to the library professionals to implement makes the initiatives to create the MoU from Shodhganga from INFLIBNET for the purpose of submission of electronic theses and dissertations. There are 26 Universities in West Bengal out of them only 8 Universities have signed MoU and submitted electronic theses and dissertations to shodhganga.

Keywords: Shodhganga repository, benefits of IR, universities in West Bengal, ETDs

Introduction

In India access to these resources is generally limited to the university community. However some institutions here are creating repositories for their theses and dissertations. Higher education institutions of are developing institutional repositories to manage their education, research, and resources in a more effective way. Theses and dissertations are often recognized as the only source for research work. The printed and hard copies are converted into digital form and put them in databases to retrieve them for the benefit of research scholars. Due to the various benefits of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), they are gaining importance over their traditional print format. In this direction, the first planning for ETDs started at a meeting in 1987 between UMI, Virginia Tech, Arbor Text, Soft Quad, and University of Michigan. After gaining the importance of the ETD, the UGC, in India, took an initiative for developing common repositories for the theses collection alone which brought the born of the Shodhganga repository.

Shodhganga: A Brief Note

The Indian ETD repository called Shodhganga originated to facilitate open access to theses through the academic community. The word “Shodh” originates from Sanskrit and means of research and discovery. Ganga is the largest river in India. This project was intended to provide online accessibility to Indian theses, to ensure that they are easy to access and to create a place for them to be archived.

Repositories can be many shapes and sizes, from small specialist collections to national or international services. Higher Education Institutions, at departmental or institutional level, which implies a certain level of commitment and intention to embed repository use and management into everyday work. Many institutional repositories initially focused on research outputs and some still limit their collections to this type of content. Others have started to widen the original remit to include learning and teaching materials. Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source of research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. Theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary

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duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the anti-theses of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial. Shodhganga received e-INDIA Jury Choice award for the Year 2011 under Digital Learning category.

As per the Regulation, the responsibility of hosting, maintaining and making the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertation (called "Shodhganga"), accessible to all institutions and Universities, is assigned to the INFLIBNET Centre. To make Indian doctoral dissertations more accessible, the new Ahmedabad based Shodhganga@INFLIBNET Centre provides a platform for research students to deposit their theses and make them available to the scholarly community in open access. The repository has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs submitted by the researchers.

The Shodhganga Centre also offers links to other Indian (and World) repositories of ETDs, for example the digital repository of Theses and Dissertations of Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore; and the Vidyaniidhi Digital Library (hosted by the University of Mysore) which is India's premier Digital library initiative to facilitate the creation, archiving and accessing of doctoral theses.

Review of Literature

J.K. Vijayakumar and T.A.V. Murthy (2001) [4] emphasized on the need of a digital library for Indian theses and dissertations. Their paper describes the work done by INFLIBNET so far in this direction. Kristin Antelman (2004) [5] stated that scholars in diverse disciplines like philosophy, political science, electrical and electronic engineering, and mathematics are adopting open access practices since the free availability of articles have a greater research impact. Haya Asner and Tsviya Polani (2008) [6] discussed the ETD Project at the Ben-Gurion University, Negev, Israel. They described the status of Israel in the worldwide development of ETDs as reported in literature. Their study examined the attitudes of faculty and publishers towards ETDs. Jamal Al Salmi (2008) [7] through his research work, aimed to establish a framework for understanding the positive and negative factors affecting the adoption and development of electronic theses and dissertations with particular reference to the situation in the Arab Gulf States. He believed that most issues could be resolved by undertaking appropriate promotional and advocacy activities.

Yasar Tonta (2008) [8] reviewed the current situation of institutional repositories in Europe and chronicled the development of institutional repositories in Turkey. The researcher has recommended that awareness of faculty members towards Open Access and IRs should be increased. Research grants offered should enforce open access for research papers funded by taxpayers. The contents of those repositories should be organized according to the established standards (e.g., OAI-PMH and Open URL) so that they can be harvestable by search engine crawlers, thereby increasing the overall visibility of research carried out by the Turkish scholars.

Zahid Ashraf Wani, Sumeer Gul and Javeed Ahmad Rah (2009) [9] studied the growth and development of open repositories registered with the Open DOAR database. The study delved deep into the Asian contributions and brought to light detailed profiles of Asia. Maitrayee Ghosh (2009) [10] examined the developments of Ph.D. dissertation

repositories in India. He discussed the current state of ETD repository development in the academic sector and analyzed the subject coverage, access policy, and value added services. The survey revealed that digital preservation of theses and dissertation is already in progress, though some of them are still in a preliminary stage. N.K. Sheeja and S. Cherukodan (2011) [11] examined the ETD Project of Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) and Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) in India. They found that both institutions have promoted ETDs by organizing workshops, adopting open source software for ETDs, and training library staff. Rabindra K. Maharana; Ashok Kumar Das and Subrat Pati (2013) [12] evaluated the awareness and usage of UGC-Infonet by the faculty members of Odisha's state Universities. UGC-Infonet consortium is one of the land mark achievement in the field of higher education in India. It is only the possible solution to the ever growing demand for information and ever decreasing the budget to the Universities. UGC-Infonet is the E-journal consortium; the users can access the scientific and research articles on 7×24 hour basis on their desk top. Presently it includes 20 full text database, 10 bibliographic and open access databases. K. Elavazhagan and M.S. Udayakumar (2013) [13] examined examine the exposure and measure the extent use of e-resources by the faculty members and research scholars of BITS, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus with questionnaire based survey. Various statistical methods have been used for data analysis. The study confirmed that there is a great amount of awareness among both faculty and research scholars on the e-resources and various types of e-Resources, e-Database, and e-Journals.

Objectives of the Study

- 1 To identify the MoU signed to Shodhganga in West Bengal Universities.
- 2 To analysis the year wise registration in Shodhganga,
- 3 To find out the status of submitting their theses in West Bengal Universities.
- 4 To identify the level of Universities of West Bengal to Shodhganga

Methodology

This paper discuss status of the West Bengal Universities are signed MoU to Shodhganga to submit the electronic theses and dissertations. And, how many Universities have signed from West Bengal and it analyzed the submission of the theses. The ranking method is only used for the analysis.

Current Problems of Shodhganga Projects

The Shodhganga repository at INFLIBNET replicates structure of each university in terms of Departments each university has. This structure facilitates researchers from each university to deposit their theses in the respective Department. While online submission of electronic theses by researchers / supervisor or university coordinator under university's mandate is preferred, the INFLIBNET encourages individual researchers to submit their theses and dissertations either online or off-line (through E-mail or CD / DVD) on voluntary basis till Universities adopt and implement UGC Notification, 2009. Universities are required to sign a MoU with the INFLIBNET Centre to participate in the Shodhganga project. This MoU spells out the responsibilities of Universities and INFLIBNET Centre related to Shodhganga.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Shodhganga signed between Universities and INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. Once full-text of these is published in the INFLIBNET's ETD repository, all stakeholders including researcher, guide and the university will be informed through email which will be triggered automatically by the ETD repository. RSS Feed technology will be used to

disseminate and deliver new content added to the ETD repository to the users.

State Wise Distribution of Universities Signed MoU in Shodhganga

Table 1

S. No	State	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	Rank
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	4	2	1	3	12	7
2	Arunachal Pradesh			1			1	16
3	Assam		2		2		4	13
4	Bihar		1				1	16
5	Chhattisgarh		1			1	2	15
6	Goa	1					1	16
7	Gujarat	4	6	1	7	5	23	3
8	Haryana	1	2	2	2	4	11	8
9	Himachal Pradesh	3	3	1	2	5	14	6
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1		1	2	5	12
11	Jharkhand		1			3	4	13
12	Karnataka	4	4	2	7	1	18	5
13	Kerala	2			1		3	14
14	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	1	3	3	11	8
15	Maharashtra	5	7	3	6	3	24	2
16	Manipur						0	17
17	Meghalaya					2	2	15
18	Mizoram		1				1	16
19	Nagaland				1		1	16
20	Odisha	1		1	3	2	7	10
21	Punjab	2		1	3		6	11
22	Rajasthan	5	4	4	7	5	25	1
23	Sikkim	1					1	16
24	Tamil Nadu	8	7	6	4		25	1
25	Telangana					1	1	16
26	Tripura		1				1	16
27	Uttar Pradesh	4	5	3	5	5	22	4
28	Uttarakhand	2	1		2	3	8	9
29	West Bengal	1		1	2	1	5	12

Source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in> Retrieved 09-01-2017

Table 1 shows the Universities are signed MoU to INFLIBNET for ETD repository in Shodhganga. Nearly twenty nine states are contributed their theses to Shodhganga. In the year 2012 signed MoU to Shodhganga 49 Universities, 2013 signed MoU to Shodhganga 53 Universities, 2014 signed MoU to Shodhganga 29 Universities, 2015 signed MoU to Shodhganga 56 Universities and 2016 signed MoU to Shodhganga 49

Universities and to contribute their theses. It concludes that every year increased number of Universities signed in MoU to Shodhganga. In this year 2012 to 2016 Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan the first position each state 25 Universities to signed MoU to Shodhganga. In the second position Maharashtra signed 24 Universities and third position Gujarat signed 23 Universities. In the twelve positions West Bengal 5 Universities have signed MoU to Shodhganga.

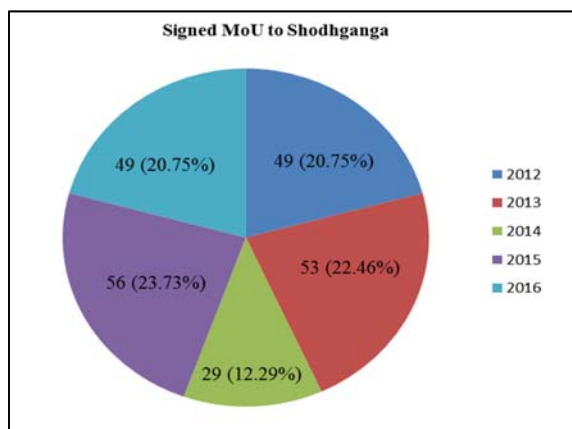


Fig 1: State Wise Distribution of Universities Signed MoU to Shodhganga

Top 10 of Theses updated in Shodhganga in Indian Universities (Up to 2016)

Table 2

S. No	Universities	No. of Theses updated	Rank
1	Panjab University	6452	1
2	Aligarh Muslim University	6376	2
3	Jawaharlal Nehru University	4611	3
4	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	4102	4
5	Karnatak University	4017	5
6	Anna University	3978	6
7	Gauhati University	3957	7
8	Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda	3468	8
9	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	3301	9
10	Maharshi Dayanand University	3272	10

Source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in> Retrieved 09-01-2017

The table 2 shows that the number of Ph.D theses are uploaded or submitted in Shodhganga for the purpose institutional repository. 300 Universities have signed MoU in India, the Panjab University occupy the first position i e it submitted 6452 number of theses to the Shodhganga. The Aligarh Muslim University has taken place the second position to contribute 6376 number of theses to the

shodhganga. The Jawaharlal Nehru University has occupied the third position contributing to the shodhganga and the sl no from 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 to 10 Universities are position of the rank respectively.

Theses Submitted in Shodhganga Universities from West Bengal (2012-2016)

Table 3

S. No	Universities	Theses					Total	Rank
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
1	Jadavpur University	0	0	1	0	2	3	5
2	Netaji Subhas Open University	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
3	West Bengal University Of Technology	0	5	0	2	0	7	4
4	University Of Kalyani	1	0	0	42	203	246	2
5	The University Of Burdwan	0	0	96	737	1012	1845	1
6	University Of Calcutta	0	0	0	0	1	1	6
7	University Of North Bengal	0	1	2	52	102	157	3
8	Vidyasagar University	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
Total		1	6	99	834	1320	2260	

Source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in> Retrieved 09-01-2017

Table 3 shows the Universities are signed from West Bengal to Shodhganga for submitting the Electronic Theses for the institutional repository purposes. Out of 8 Universities from West Bengal signed MoU to Shodhganga and Ph.D theses are uploaded or submitted to Shodhganga for the purpose of institutional Repository. Out of 8 Universities from West Bengal The University of Burdwan is in the first position

and it has submitted 1845 the electronic theses to Shodhganga. The University of Kalyani has taken place the second position submitting 246 theses and 157 theses are submitted by University of North Bengal to stand the third position. But, University of Calcutta and Vidyasagar University have submitted only one thesis to shodhganga.

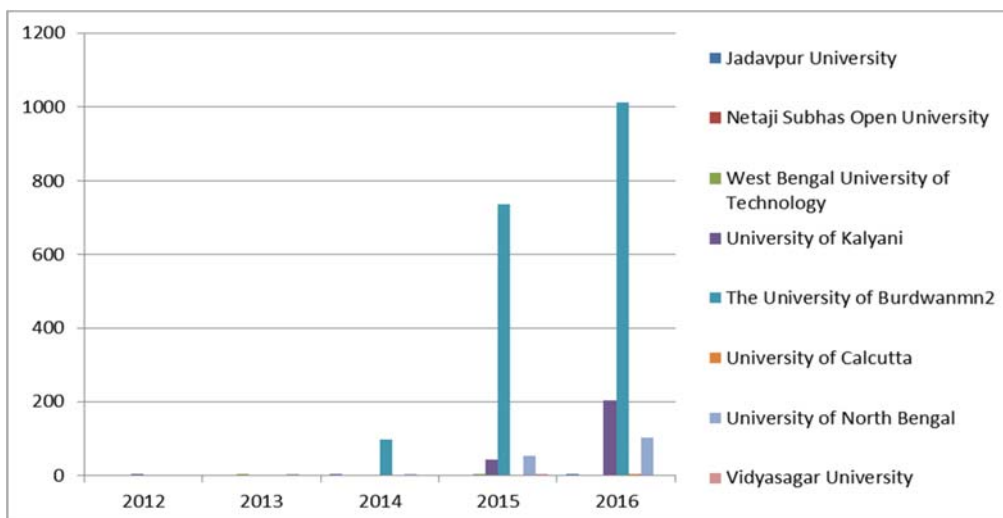


Fig 2: Theses Submitted in Shodhganga Universities from West Bengal (2012-2016)

Benefits of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD)

The following are some of the possible benefits for different groups:

- Maintaining and building on institutional reputations nationally & globally;
- Attracting new staff and students to institutions;
- Increased transparency and quality of learning materials;
- Shares expertise efficiently within institutions;
- Supports storage, management, preservation, attribution and retrieval of student content;
- Supports the altruistic notion that sharing knowledge is in line with academic traditions and a good thing to do;
- Supports preservation of learning resources;
- Facilitates presentation of resources for accreditation bodies;
- Enhancing connections with external stakeholders by making resources visible;
- Repository content is readily searchable both locally and globally;
- Allows an institution to manage their intellectual property by raising awareness of copyright issues and facilitating the recording of relevant rights information;
- A repository that contains high quality content could be used as 'shop window' or marketing tool to entice staff, students and funding;
- Repositories can store other types of content that isn't necessarily published, sometimes known as 'grey literature';
- A repository may be an important tool in managing an institution's research assessment or quality assessment submission;
- Repositories could provide cost savings in the long run provided that a significant amount of content is deposited in them;
- Offers greater flexibility over websites with better security and preservation of various kinds of digital materials through the collection of standardized metadata about each item.

Conclusion

In India, it is an infant stage for developing institutional repositories. Though many institutions have been developing the repositories, Government has made some efforts through UGC-Shodhganga project which provides a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. Theses and makes it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. As library professionals we have to make the initiatives to create access and awareness of ETD to user community.

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