

## **ETD an Effective Research Tool: University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad (UASD) Case Study**

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### **Abstract**

*The present paper highlights the ETD initiatives in University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad (UASD). It also proves an effective and comprehensive scientific research tool. Around two hundred post graduates and research students were personally interviewed by using short structured questionnaire in the class PGS 501 Library and Information Services, and the result was positive. Many students agreed that the ETD in the University of Agriculture Sciences Dharwad, Karnataka is a very effective tool in their research and writing the theses.*

**Keywords:** Electronic Theses and Dissertation

### **1. Introduction**

The University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad (UASD), electronic theses and dissertations repository holds full-text authoritative resource for information about doctoral and master's theses. This repository has been developed to capture, disseminate and preserve research theses of UASD. Theses submitted from 1986 forward include 500-word abstracts written

line, since August 2005 conduct a search or browse using website [www.uasd.edu](http://www.uasd.edu). The efforts of scanning and retrospective conversion of theses submitted since 1986 has been taken up. ETD electronic theses and dissertations repository process has been started since 2005.

### **2. Benefits of ETDs**

ETDs increase the availability of research to the academic community worldwide, increase the

exposure to potential employers, improve student understanding of electronic publishing issues and reduce the need for library space. Technical innovations are changing the way we communicate and share information around the globe. ETDs offer a new generation of theses and dissertations that can include color diagrams, color images, hypertext links, audio, video, animations, spreadsheets, databases, simulations, and virtual reality worlds. In addition to the multimedia aspects discussed above, the ETD will be given an address on the World Wide Web after it is publicly released so it can be accessible worldwide. In this way the ETD can answer other's questions and inspire further research. Through the World Wide Web, people anywhere in the world can link directly to students' ETDs or ETD collections at UASD and other universities. ETD is cost-effective for both student and university.

The student will save time and money by virtually eliminating the paper review by the advisory



committees and ETD Editor as well as the high cost of printing multiple high quality hard copies of the thesis or dissertation. By receiving them electronically, the university is allowed to fulfill its responsibilities of recording and archiving theses and dissertations more economically. This is a key responsibility of the university, which is easier and less costly (in this time of tight budgets) to fulfill when the workflow involves electronic documents.

ETDs help in accelerating workflow within the university and library systems and make theses and dissertations more quickly available to outside audiences. It also helps students to write the chapter literature survey or review of literature.

### 3. Methodology

This preliminary study concentrates on the state of the art ETD digital libraries in India. The research method used in this study is the structured short questionnaire served to two hundred post graduate and research students in the class PGS 501 Library and Information Services and content analysis of different ETD websites of India.

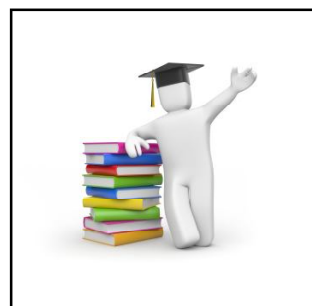
### 4. Analysis

#### 4.1 ETD Accessibility

UASD's ETDs can be accessed via the World Wide Web. People can link directly to students' ETDs or link to UASD's ETD collection at [www.uasd.edu](http://www.uasd.edu). People searching the UASD library catalog can also find the theses by department wise and can link directly to an ETD from the search results. Commercial search engines also have access to released ETDs. The thesis or dissertation may truly be accessible to everyone with internet access anywhere in the world.

UASD is a member of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (Krishi Prabha), which is at the forefront of the ETD movement. The ETD initiative is aimed at improving post graduate education by ensuring that students learn about publication issues and using digital libraries. At the same time, the ETD initiative is helping to develop an important digital library that ultimately will include millions of full-text or even hyperthermal documents. Researchers can search and browse UASD's ETD Collection, as well as the full text or abstract on pdf format. The following UASD ETD print screen looks like this.

**UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES  
DHARWAD  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**



#### Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD)

Abstracts and Full Text Theses of University Library, UAS Dharwad (August 2005 onwards)

#### Departments

- ❖ Agronomy
- ❖ Genetics and Plant Breeding
- ❖ Plant Biotechnology
- ❖ Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry
- ❖ Agricultural Entomology
- ❖ Plant Pathology
- ❖ Agricultural Microbiology

- ❖ Crop Physiology
- ❖ Horticulture
- ❖ Seed Science and Technology
- ❖ Agricultural Extension Education
- ❖ Food Science and Nutrition
- ❖ Human Development
- ❖ Extension and Communication Management
- ❖ Family Resource Management
- ❖ Textiles and Apparel Designing
- ❖ Agri Business Management
- ❖ Agricultural Economics
- ❖ Agricultural Statistics
- ❖ Biochemistry

#### 4.2 Guidelines for Submission of thesis and Abstract

Guidelines for submission of thesis and abstract in the Digital Form (CD/DVD) to the University Library, UAS, Dharwad. Post graduate and research students have to strictly follow guidelines which is already notified as well available on UASD website is as follows: So that when they submit electronic version, the standard may be followed.

##### A. Text / Running script / Body Text:

- 1) File Format: MS Word 97-2003 DOC file format.
- 2) Page size: A4.
- 3) Margin: Left: 1.5", Right: 1", Top: 1", Bottom: 1"
- 4) Line Spacing: Single space.
- 5) Font Size: Title 1: 16 Points, Normal, Title 2: 14 Points, Normal, Title 3: 12 Points, Normal Body Text: 10 Points, Normal
- 6) Font: Arial at all levels.
- 7) Font Colour: Pure Black at all levels.

- 8) Page Number: Bottom Right.
- 9) Titles Alignment: From Left Side.
- 10) Body Text Alignment: Justified (From both left and right).
- 11) Page Layout: Portrait.
- 12) Folder: A separate folder with the name TEXTS for holding all script files in it.
- 13) File Naming: Title of the chapter.
- 14) Files: Each Separate MS word files for each the chapter.
- 15) Table and Graphs: Just mention the title of the table or graph file (left aligned) in appropriate location in the script, but the actual table or graph file will be remaining in the separate folder as mentioned in (B).
- 16) Photographs and Images : Just mention the title of the photograph or Image file (left aligned) in appropriate location in the script but the actual photograph or Image file will be remaining in the separate folder as mentioned in (C).

##### B. Tables and Graphs

- 1) All parameters will remain same as text mentioned under (A) except for Font size, Page Layout, Folder, File naming, Files, Data for Graphs.
- 2) Font size: Between 8 points to 16 points of ARIAL NORMAL suitable to fitting the table or graph into A4 size.
- 3) Page Layout: Portrait or Landscape.
- 4) Folder: A separate folder with the name TABLES for holding all table files in it. OR A separate folder with the name GRAPHS for holding all graph files in it.

- 5) File naming: Title of the table or graph as the case may be.
- 6) Files: Each separate MS Office file for each of the table or graph.
- 7) Data for Graphs: All the basic data used to generate a graph must be made available in a separate MS excel file with the same file name as that of graph.

#### C) Photographs, Image, Maps, Art works, etc.

- 1) All parameters will remain same as TEXT mentioned under (A) except for Font size, Page Layout, Folder, File Naming, Files, Resolution, and Image File Format.
- 2) Font Size: Between 8 points to 16 points of ARIAL NORMAL suitable to fitting the table or graph into A4 size.
- 3) Page Layout: Portrait or Landscape.
- 4) Folder: A separate folder with the name IMAGES for holding all photograph, image, map, artwork etc. files in it.
- 5) File Naming: Title of the Photograph, Image, Map, Artwork as the case may be.
- 6) Files: Each separate file for each of the photograph, image, map, artwork, etc.
- 7) Resolution: 300 DPI.
- 8) Image File Format: TIF (Without compression).

#### 4.3 PROFORMA

- 1) Title of the Thesis:
- 2) Full name of the Student:
- 3) Name and Address of the Major Adviser:

- 4) Degree Awarded and Year:
- 5) Major Subject:
- 6) Total number of pages in thesis:
- 7) Number of words in thesis abstract:
- 8) Number of Tables:
- 9) Number of Figures:
- 10) Number of Plates:
- 11) Signature Name and Address of the Forwarding Authority:

#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that I have no objection for supplying to any scientist only one copy of any part of this thesis at a time through reprographic process, if necessary, for rendering reference services in a library or documentation Centre.

**Date: Signature of the Student**

**Place: Name**

Note: Acknowledgement will be given a day after submission of thesis and CD/DVD.

#### 5. Major ETD Initiatives in India

The Indian libraries have witnessed a great impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in last three decades. The development can be traced in three phases viz.

- ❖ First Phase: 1980s: Automation of House-keeping operations
- ❖ Second Phase: 1990s: Networking of Libraries
- ❖ Third Phase: 2001 onwards: Digitization initiatives; E-content creation; Digital Repositories and Library 2.0

## 5.1 DOAR and ROAR

There are 47 digital repository initiatives from India have been reported in Directory of Open Access Repositories (DOAR) and 59 Indian initiatives have been reported in Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR). (As on 17th May 2011)

(Open DOAR and ROAR, 2011)

Table No. 1 provides the details of 6 ETD initiatives at National Level.

Name of Repository	URL	Software Collection	Theses
Vidyanidhi	<a href="http://dspace.vidyanidhi.org.in:8080/dspace/">http://dspace.vidyanidhi.org.in:8080/dspace/</a>	Dspace	5496 full-text 100000
Indian National Theses	<a href="http://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in/indcat/">http://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in/indcat/</a>	Database (Bibliographic)	2,32,599 Shodhganga
<a href="http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/">http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/</a> CSIR Explorations	<a href="http://csirexplorations.com/">http://csirexplorations.com/</a>	Dspace In-House Software	1727 Full Text 659 Metadata
Krishi Prabha: Indian Agricultural Doctoral Dissertation Repository	<a href="http://202.141.47.8:8080/equesthesis/">http://202.141.47.8:8080/equesthesis/</a>	---	6000 Full text
DELNET	<a href="http://delnet.nic.in/">http://delnet.nic.in/</a>	In-House Software	48621

**Table 1. ETD Initiatives at National Level**

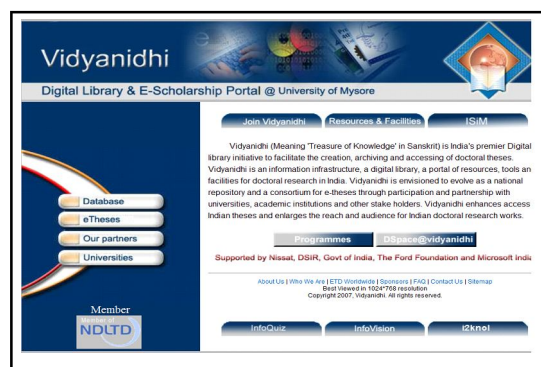
## 6. ETD Initiatives at National Level

### 6.1 Vidyanidhi

This is a digital library initiative to facilitate the creation, archiving and accessing of doctoral theses. Under this initiative, in addition to having created 'Indian Theses Database' (Bibliographical) a separate database 'Vidyanidhi Digital Library of Indian Doctoral Dissertations' providing access to 5496 full-text doctoral theses.

The ETD initiatives in India can be broadly grouped into two categories.

- ❖ ETD initiatives at National Level
- ❖ ETD initiatives at Institutional Level



Indian Theses Database provides access to more than 1,00,000 Indian theses metadata. Being Unicode compliant, it includes 1500 records in Kannada (for Kannada Theses) and 4000 records in Hindi Language (for theses in Hindi). . Vidyanidhi is registered with Open DOAR and the metadata is harvested by OAIster and Cross Archive Search Services for Indian Repositories (CASSIR) and also by Google Scholar (Vidyanidhi, 2009, Urs, 2009). This project got underway in the year 2000 at the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysore, sponsored by the National Information System for Science and Technology, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Indian National Theses Database @INFLIBNET Union database of Theses covers the bibliographic Metadata of Doctoral Theses submitted to 238 Universities/Institutes in India. It has over 2,32,599 unique records from all subject areas. This Data is contributed by participating Universities. (as on 18th May 2011).

## 6.2 Shodhganga

UGC 2005 regulations are issued to all universities in India, essentially to facilitate the systematic creation, collection, organization of metadata as well as full text of doctoral theses. INFLIBNET, being an organ of UGC, has been spear heading this gigantic task of creating Indian National Theses Database (INTED) in full text by coordinating with all universities in India. The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is set-up using Dspace. Shodhganga@INFLIBNET provides a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. The repository

has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs submitted by the researchers. 20 Universities started contributing and 23 Universities have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This repository has 1727 full text theses. It is now expected that this repository will grow rapidly if the universities implement the recommendations of UGC Regulations 2009.



## 6.3 CSIR Explorations

The CSIR Explorations is a digital library of electronic dissertations, theses and research reports of the fellowships supported by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Govt. of India. Under this fellowship program, at the time of submission of PhD thesis to an Indian University, the CSIR Fellow submits an electronic copy on CD-ROM to CSIR's Unit for Research and Development of Information Products (URDIP) along with a descriptive set of metadata for inclusion in the CSIR Explorations 'e-Theses database'. This has been initiated recently and currently, the e-theses database has 659 theses and serves as a valuable source of information about doctoral theses submitted to Indian universities. Currently, access is restricted only to metadata level and proposed to scale up with full text of these as it has already been collecting full text of the theses

in e- form. Unfortunately, this database has been created and hosted using home grown software and does not follow any sets of metadata standards (CSIR, 2011).

#### **6.4 Krishi Prabha: Indian Agricultural Doctoral Dissertation Repository**

KrishiPrabha is a full-text database of Indian Agricultural Doctoral Dissertations submitted by research scholars to the 45 State/Deemed Agricultural Universities during the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2007. This database, listing about 7500 Doctoral Dissertations with a full text of about 6000 Dissertations, has been created by Nehru Library, Ch. Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar with financial support from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi under its National Agricultural Innovation Project. (Krishi Prabha, 2011).

#### **6.5 DELNET (Developing Library Network)**

DELNET was started at the India International Centre Library in January 1988 and was registered as a society in 1992. It was initially supported by the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India. It was subsequently supported by the National Informatics Centre, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India and The Ministry of Culture, Government of India. DELNET has been established with the prime objective of promoting resource sharing among the libraries through the development of a network of libraries. It aims to collect, store, and disseminate information besides offering computerized services to users, to coordinate efforts for suitable collection

development and also to reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible. Along with union catalogues of books and periodicals, DELNET has also created Database of Theses and Dissertations submitted to Indian Universities, which covers various subjects. The database presently has 48,621 records (Bibliographic).

#### **7. Analysis of Short Questionnaire**

A short questionnaire was designed to prove ETD an effective and comprehensive scientific research tool. Around two hundred post graduates and research students were personally interviewed by using short structured questionnaire in the class PGS 501 Library and Information Services, and the result was positive. More than hundred and fifty post graduate and research students agreed that the ETD in the University of Agriculture Sciences Dharwad, Karnataka is a very effective tool in their research and writing the theses. Twenty students are not taking help of ETD. Rests of them are using some other open source and different search engines. Majority of them are in an opinion that ETD repositories of UASD help them to avoid duplicate research work. They agreed that ETD saves lots of their valuable time.

#### **8. Conclusion**

The greatest advantages of ETDs are avoiding duplication in research work, ensuring quick retrieval of information, promoting resource sharing, and providing a permanent solution to the problem of space. There is no system of theses and dissertations legal deposit in India and universities/institutions are not under the jurisdiction of the archiving organizations, so the collecting work is not very smooth and some theses and dissertations are simply lost or accumulate dust. There is need for

concerted effort by all ETD stakeholders to integrate theses and dissertations produced in India in a unified database to be coordinated by a central agency of Government of India. INFLIBNET is now taking steps in this direction. It has started developing a complete national union catalogue of ETDs in India.

ETD Awareness programme/ promotional activities- an improved understanding of the issues and options can encourage cooperation among institutions that are planning or have implemented ETD programmes. There is a need to sensitize all the stakeholders about the need and issues involved in the creation of ETDs. Workshops and training programs for both students and faculty need to be conducted on issues of copyright, choice of access, and encourage researcher to submit theses online. The compulsory non credited course should be introduced to postgraduate, M.Phil and research students in all the Universities and institutions.

Many ETD repositories have the problem regarding copyright issues and fear of plagiarism, unwillingness of faculty and researchers for submission of their materials, lack of policy to safeguard the long term preservation of the deposited materials, lack of skilled human resource etc. which can be disastrous for ETD policies. Thus people and institutional interest must be constant and effective. UGC Regulations will play a vital role in developing ETD repositories in India in near future by making it mandatory to deposit a soft copy of thesis to its database.

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