ETDs and Its Uses: A Case Study of Gauhati University

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Abstract

This paper explores the use of ETDs among research scholars of various departments of Gauhati University, from Arts, Science, Commerce, Engineering, Medicine and Law. For data collection, questionnaire method and random sample survey have been used. Further, for clear reflection the collected data have been analyzed by simple tabulations and figures with percentage method. This paper points out the significance of ETDs for research purpose, where it has been found that about 87% of research scholars were satisfied by using the ETDS and they admitted the fact that Shodhganga which plays a vital role for research and development in India is also playing an important role in Gauhati University. Finally at the end of the paper some suggestions have been highlighted which we have gathered at the time of the collection of data as well as interview with the research scholars and faculty members of Gauhati University.

Keywords: Electronic Theses, Electronic Dissertation, Researchers, Shodhganga, Repositories, ETD, INFLIBNET

1. Introduction

The impact of modern IT has a great pressure in the development of a knowledge industry. The preservation of new intellectual knowledge becomes possible through the provision of Electronic Theses and Dissertation. The libraries and information centers are coming to the front to store this knowledge in various depositories. During the last few decades, developments in ICT have changed the educational institutions in the form of the most essential pillar of educational institutes i.e. libraries. The libraries have evolved a lot from mere "Storehouse of books" to "Digital Libraries" which may be considered as an ocean of knowledge moving ahead of the physical boundaries of the institute.

Gauhati University occupies the 4th rank among the state universities of India and the 22nd position among all the Universities in India rated by the MHRD during 2016 . The University completed almost 250 research projects with various agencies during the last five years. A total number of 10000 publications, including articles in leading research journals and books, were published. 3800 articles have been published in leading periodicals across the world out of which 1210 were cited in Scopus, which is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. An effort has been made by the University of Grants Commission in India to improve the quality of research and higher education by a mandated June 1, 2009.

Gauhati University was established in the year 1948 for the purpose of academics and research. It has more than667 Ph.D research scholars, 1600 M.Phil students and 349 faculty members. Every year more

than 240 student are awarded M.Phil/Ph.D degree by the university.

As of 14th August, 2016, KKH Library, Gauhati Unviersity has over 3704 nos. of thesis. At the same time, the library actively organizes programmes and training session to support the students/ researchers.

2. Methodology

Questionnaire based study have been used to find out the awareness and usage of the ETDs among the Research Scholars and Faculty members from different disciplines/subjects of Gauhati University. 125 questionnaire were circulated for getting insight into awareness, training on ETDs, purpose of the use, places of use ,factors that influence, satisfaction of uses of ETD and so on. 100 filled questionnaires were considered for analysis. It seems that where the respondent were not certain about some questions then that was no response. Random sampling applied for data collection. The data was collected from participants in the survey belonging to various subjects.

3. Review Literature

Various sources has been reviewed for preparing the paper.

Maitrayee Gosh described the developments in ETDs repository in particular to Ph D theses repositories in India. This study raised questions about the policies strategies of national higher education, research-funding and policy making bodies. Authors looked at the current state f development of ETDs repository in the academic sector and discusses the subject coverage, number of items, access policy, browse/search option and value added services.

Khaparde and Ambedkar, (2014) urged that "Electronic These and Dissertation (ETDs) are relatively new mode of research and scholarly communication. They have clearly described the importance of ETDs for research work and what scholars get from ETDs cannot be found in any other source of information.

4. Objectives

The main objectives of the paper are :

i. Use of ETDs for improved research and development;

ii. Where ETDs are mostly used;

iii. How frequently are ETDs used;

iv. To provide an overview of the uses of ETDs in the KKH Library;

v. To find the factors that influence theuses of ETDs;

vi. To study the satisfaction level of ETDs.

5. ETD Repository in Gauhati University

The UGC Regulation "Minimum standards & procedure for award of M.Phil/Ph.D degree, 1st June 2009" provides mandated for all universities that electronic version of all doctoral theses in various Indian universities to be submitted within thirty days of the announcement of the award of Ph.D Degree to INFLIBNET. The repository Shodhganga was set-up in January 2010 for uploading of electronic version of theses by research scholars.

After singing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with INFLIBNET centre, Gandhinagar on 27/06/2011. Gauhati University was able to receive a grants of Rs.19,20,000 during 2013 for-

i. Digitization of all old Ph D Theses;

ii. Setting up an ETD Laboratory; and

iii. Access to anti-plagiarism software**.**

Accordingly, an ETD Laboratory was set-up at KKHL Gauhati University. This ETD Repository in KKH Library, Gauhati University was inaugurated by Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre on 17th December, 2014.

The steps in the process are shown below-

Receiving> Unbinding> Preparing Document> Scanning> (singlepage TIFF)> QualityControp> Copyediting>Clearing>Rechecking>OCR> Conversion to searchable PDF format>Final Output>Rebinding> Shelf to users

A total number of 3114 theses spanned across 38 subject fields have been digitized till date.

6. Data analysis and Interpretation

The use of ETD, the information collected from the researcher in the Gauhati University has been analyzed in the following tables and figures. Data analysis has been done with simple tabulation and percentage based method.

6.1 Purpose and Frequency of using ETD

Table 1: Purpose of using ETD

Purpose	Percentage(%)
For Research	82
For publishing articles	5
Educational/Academic	10
Seeking information's about already published works	3
Total	100

It is noted from the Table4 that 82% respondent are using the ETDs for their research purpose. 5% are of the opinion that they use ETDs for publishing articles and 10% have used the ETD for academic purpose.This research survey clearly proves the importance of ETD Repository for research and development. From the study it is found that all the researchers uses ETDs for their research work

6.2 Factors influencing in using ETD

Table 2: Factors that influenced in using ETDs

Factors that influenced in using ETDs	Percentage(%)
Up to date	17
Readily availability	16
Easy search	5
Relevant information	22
Comprehensiveness	2
N/R	12
Up to date/ reading availability/ Easy search/ relevant information.	26
Total	100

It is evident from the Table 6 that 17% of total respondent are attracted on up-to-date information. While 16% use ETD forits readily availability of information and 22% use for relevant information and 12% of total respondent are found indifferent about ETDs.

Frequently used ETDs and ranked by Researchers:

We asked to the respondent about different ETDs that they are using (Shodhganga, OATD, PQDT and NDLTD). The Shodhganga occupies the highest rank by the scholars for their research work.We found that about 87 % of total respondent expressed their opinion that they have accessed the

Shodhganga for their research work of which only 51% are highly satisfied with it.

Some problems are pointed out by the scholars while using ETDs which are presented in the table and diagram below. These are the suggested drawbacks which acts as the barriers for the scholars from getting the service with full satisfaction

Table 3: Problems in Using the ETDs

Problems in using ETDs (in %)

Problems	Frequency
Lack of guidance	29
Connectivity problem	32
Search difficulty	8
Unfamiliarity	4
Not Respond	18
All the first four	9

7. Finding and Summary

1. The responses of the research survey shows that the ETD Repository in Gauhati University is mostly used for research and development by the research scholars. According to the survey, about 87% of total respondent highly use the ETDs for their research purpose.

2. Due to development of ETDs the scholarly outcomes of university have been exposed globally, which have been used by a large scale of users.

3. Majority of research scholars as well as faculty members of Gauhati Universityare found to be satisfied with the useful information retrieval of information through Shodhganga.

4. According to the survey, ETDs are mostly used on demands only for research purpose rather than academic or for seeking information.

8. Suggestions

In the survey maximum respondent suggested that Some awareness raising programme can be taken up so that the entire academic community of the university become frequent users of these services. The co-ordinator and technical co-ordinator of Shodhganga haveto play a vital role in providing orientation on how to access as well as upload theses into Shodhganga repositories.

9. Conclusion

This research paper studied the opinion of 100 research Scholars and faculty of Gauhati University, relating to the awareness, use, factors that influence of retrieval, satisfaction problems and so on. It is found that personal factor have significant role on the awareness and use of ETDs. Here the co-ordinators have to play a vital role in providing orientation for ETDs.It is a growing repository. The growth of research in the university highly depends on the quality outcome of the research. As discussed in the paper, ETDs enhances its accessibility and usage and uplift the new generation in exploring the unreserved areas of research. The primary concern will be the satisfaction of the users.

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