

Empowering Research Communities: Implementing ETDs as Catalysts for Knowledge Sharing at Chitkara University Punjab

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Abstract

The present study examines the potential of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) to disseminate knowledge and improve research skills at Chitkara University in Punjab. ETDs, also known as digital theses and dissertations, affect academic collaboration and communication. This study examines their effects. This study examines how electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) affect Chitkara University dissertation organization. This study examines how electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) have helped digitally distribute intellectual content. This study evaluates the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) initiative's impact on scholarly outputs, multidisciplinary collaboration, and knowledge exchange among scholars, educators, and students. The study also analyses how electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) affect academic content diffusion, multidisciplinary collaboration, and research community progress. This study examines how electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) improve intellectual conversations, research networks, and collaborative projects at Chitkara University and other universities. This study investigation found that Chitkara University research communities' benefit from using electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs). The investigation found that electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) help spread knowledge, stimulate collaboration, and advance academic research in numerous sectors. This research analyses how electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), or e-theses and e-dissertations, may affect academic communication. It offers suggestions for increasing ETD acceptance and influence.

Keywords: Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD), interdisciplinary collaboration, Knowledge Sharing, Research Communities, research dissemination, Scholarly Communication

1. Introduction

The academic community has attributed significant importance to Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), which have brought about a revolution in the traditional methods of disseminating and retrieving scholarly output (Sivakumaren, 2015). Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are digital versions of scholarly papers that can be efficiently stored, examined, and retrieved via electronic channels. The utilization

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of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) provides a noteworthy advantage in terms of improved accessibility (Sheeja, 2011). One of the primary benefits of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) is their global accessibility through digital repositories, which contrasts with printed copies that are typically restricted to physical libraries and may pose difficulties in obtaining. The enhanced availability of research resources has facilitated wider participation in knowledge dissemination and global collaboration, encompassing scholars, researchers, and the public.

ETDs offer a practical approach for the dissemination and distribution of research findings. The advent of digital formats has facilitated the dissemination of research work among peers, mentors, and potential employers, thereby accelerating the exchange of ideas and fostering academic networking (Nazim et al., 2023). In addition, the utilization of electronic format for theses and dissertations (ETDs) allows for the incorporation of multimedia components, such as videos, images, and interactive content, which can enhance the presentation and understanding of research findings. Furthermore, electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) play a significant role in preserving and upholding scholarly research (Dhanavandan et al., 2013). The process of digitizing theses and dissertations can function as a safeguarding mechanism for academic institutions to conserve significant scholarly contributions from the risk of loss, decay, or harm (Khaparde & Ambedkar, 2014). The utilization of digital preservation methodologies ensures the perpetual availability and functionality of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) for future generations, thus enabling the persistent preservation of intellectual capital.

The development of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) has been intricately linked with the advancement of digital technology. ETDs are managed and disseminated by academic institutions and libraries through robust mechanisms that include standardized metadata, search functionalities, and digital repositories (Dhanavandan et al., 2013). The aforementioned developments have enhanced the process of acquiring and utilizing scholarly research, thereby empowering researchers and enhancing the efficacy of scholarly communication (Edminster & Moxley, 2002). The advent of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) has brought about a significant transformation in the domain of academic discourse. This is because ETDs have improved the accessibility, ease of distribution, and preservation of scholarly research. The emergence of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) has presented new prospects for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge dissemination, ultimately solidifying ETDs as an essential element of the current academic milieu.

1.1 Benefits of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)

The adoption of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) has yielded numerous benefits that have substantially altered the landscape of research. Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) provide enhanced accessibility by offering digital platforms that enable researchers, academics, and the general public to access and retrieve scholarly content conveniently and from any location (Dissertations & Swain, n.d.). The facilitation of accessibility enables the wider spread of knowledge and broadens the research scope beyond the constraints of traditional print-oriented theses and dissertations. In addition, electronic theses

and dissertations (ETDs) facilitate the dissemination and collaboration of scholarly work on a worldwide level. Eliminating geographical barriers can improve the efficacy of researchers' connectivity and collaboration, leading to accelerated dissemination of knowledge and the potential for interdisciplinary research. In addition, electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) offer the advantage of multimedia integration, allowing scholars to incorporate audio, video, and interactive elements to enhance their academic work. The implementation of a dynamic and interactive methodology amplifies the comprehensiveness and quality of research outcomes, leading to heightened involvement and influence. In addition, electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) play a significant role in preserving and upholding scholarly work. Digital repositories are essential for ensuring the long-term accessibility and preservation of research, thereby safeguarding valuable contributions for future generations. Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) present opportunities for innovative research methodologies and experimental formats. The utilization of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) in digital format presents a unique opportunity to explore innovative methods such as data visualization, simulations, and interactive presentations, thereby broadening the range of traditional research formats.

Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) have significantly transformed research methodologies by offering improved accessibility, streamlined sharing mechanisms, collaborative opportunities, multimedia integration, preservation, and the potential for innovative research techniques (Sivakumaren, 2015). The advantages have facilitated the establishment of a highly interconnected and vibrant research community, promoting the dissemination of knowledge and expediting the progress of scholarly pursuits.

Issues to be resolved before implementing an ETD program.

The successful implementation of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) necessitates the resolution of various crucial concerns to facilitate a seamless transition from conventional print-based formats. The challenges associated with electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) encompass various domains such as administrative, technical, legal, and ethical. It is imperative to exercise caution and prudence in addressing these challenges to optimize the advantages of ETDs while minimizing their potential drawbacks (K. Gupta & Gupta, 2014).

Efficient processing of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) requires optimization of both administrative and technical workflows to ensure smooth submission, review, and approval procedures. The implementation of well-defined protocols, uniform formats, and streamlined mechanisms for managing digital submissions and monitoring the advancement of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) across different phases is encompassed within this framework.

The protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) is a crucial matter that necessitates the implementation of policies aimed at preserving the rights of authors and the institution alike. It is imperative to establish unambiguous directives pertaining to the ownership, licensing, and utilization privileges of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) to adhere to copyright laws and safeguard the authors' intellectual contributions.

Ensuring academic integrity necessitates the resolution of plagiarism. The implementation of effective plagiarism detection mechanisms and the provision of education to students regarding appropriate citation practices and research ethics can serve as viable measures to mitigate and resolve plagiarism concerns in Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs).

It is imperative to establish security protocols to ensure the preservation of confidentiality and integrity pertaining to Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs). This pertains to the protection against unauthorized access and data breaches, as well as the assurance of secure backup and storage of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs).

The paramount importance of ensuring equitable access to electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) for all users, including those with disabilities, necessitates the consideration of accessibility as a critical factor. The implementation of accessibility standards and the availability of assistive technologies possess the capability to alleviate obstacles to access and foster inclusiveness.

It is crucial to implement archiving and preservation strategies to ensure the enduring accessibility and integrity of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) for a prolonged duration. The utilization of suitable metadata standards, digital preservation methodologies, and archival regulations is of utmost importance in ensuring the protection and preservation of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) for future generations.

Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) may pose unique difficulties for students, reviewers, faculty members, and academic departments. It is imperative to provide sufficient support, training, and resources to effectively tackle technical challenges, streamline review procedures, and guarantee the participation and commitment of faculty members.

Institutions can effectively manage the transition to electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) by addressing critical aspects such as administrative and technical workflows, intellectual property rights, plagiarism, security, accessibility, archiving, and preservation. Additionally, institutions should consider specific concerns for students, reviewers, faculty, and departments to ensure a seamless and successful implementation of ETDs, thereby maximizing the benefits of this innovative scholarly communication platform.

1.2 Implementing an Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) System

The successful implementation of an electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) system necessitates meticulous deliberation of diverse prerequisites, encompassing hardware, software, human resources, and financial considerations (Sheeja, 2012). The evaluation of the necessary infrastructure to sustain the ETD system is encompassed within the hardware requirements. The aforementioned components, namely servers, storage devices, backup systems, and networking equipment, are imperative in guaranteeing secure and dependable entry to the ETD repository (Lihitkar & Lihitkar, 2014). Adequate computational resources ought to be assigned to manage the anticipated quantity of electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) submissions and user traffic.

The process of software requirements entails the careful consideration and selection of a suitable Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) management system or platform. They may encompass software applications designed for the purpose of facilitating the submission, storage, retrieval, and management of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), alongside supplementary modules intended for the detection of plagiarism, management of metadata, and control of access. It may be imperative to integrate with pre-existing institutional systems, such as the library catalogue or student information system (Vijayakumar et al., 2007b).

The determination of personnel accountable for overseeing and providing assistance to the ETD system constitutes the aspect of manpower requirements. Possible academic rewrite: The aforementioned roles may encompass individuals such as system administrators, librarians, technical support personnel, and trainers (Ghosh, 2009). It is imperative to allocate sufficient staffing resources to manage system maintenance, user support, training, and the continuous development of the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) system.

The financial requirements pertain to the expenses related to hardware, software licenses, and remuneration of personnel, training, upkeep, and continuous improvements to the system (Adetoro Salau et al., 2020). The development of a budget that takes into account the initial setup costs as well as the long-term sustainability of the ETD system is of utmost importance. This is to ensure that there is adequate funding available to support the system throughout its lifecycle.

Furthermore, it is crucial to take into account the scalability and potential for future expansion of the electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) system. As the volume of submissions and users increases, it is imperative that the hardware, software, human resources, and financial resources are flexible enough to accommodate the heightened demands (Panda, 2016). Through a meticulous assessment and resolution of the hardware, software, personnel, and financial prerequisites, organizations can proficiently execute an electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) system that caters to the demands of interested parties, furnishes an uninterrupted user interface, and sustains the enduring administration and availability of ETDs (Vijayakumar et al., 2007a).

1.3 The specific goals and objectives of our research related to ETD implementation and hosting at Chitkara University are as follows

- ❖ The objective of this study is to assess the present implementation of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) at Chitkara University, encompassing the procedures, technological framework, and end-user satisfaction. Through a comprehensive evaluation, our aim is to pinpoint opportunities for advancement and propose tactics to optimize the overall execution of ETD.
- ❖ The objective of this study is to investigate various hosting alternatives for electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) at Chitkara University. The exploration of cloud-based solutions, institutional repositories, or other platforms that meet the institution's criteria and offer strong hosting capabilities, scalability, and enduring preservation is part of the investigation.

- ❖ The objective of this study is to identify strategies for optimizing the electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) workflow at Chitkara University. The task involves the analysis of administrative and technical workflows, the detection of impediments, and the presentation of remedies to augment efficacy, cooperation, and compliance with time constraints.
- ❖ The objective of the study is to concentrate on enhancing the user experience of stakeholders involved in Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD), which encompasses students, faculty, and administrators. The process involves analyzing user feedback, performing usability testing, and applying user-centric design principles to develop a smooth and user-friendly electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) submission and access system.
- ❖ The objective of the study is to recognize and endorse optimal methods in the implementation of ETD, management of metadata, and preservation of data. The process entails an examination of established norms, protocols, and nascent developments within the industry to guarantee that Chitkara University adheres to current best practices for effective electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) implementation.

The research aims to enhance the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) practices at Chitkara University by identifying areas that require improvement, exploring hosting options, streamlining workflows, improving the user experience, and promoting best practices. The primary objective is to establish a resilient and efficient Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) system. Chitkara University – Central Library

Chitkara University Punjab is a notable educational establishment located in the vibrant state of Punjab, India. The organization is committed to advancing scholarly excellence and holistic development. Chitkara University has emerged as a hub for the creation and distribution of knowledge in the field, with a notable focus on innovation, research, and industry-centric curricula. The Chitkara University's central library functions as a dynamic and resourceful center that meets the information needs of students, faculty, and researchers. It is strategically located at the heart of the university's academic ecosystem. The central library plays a crucial role in providing access to a wide range of scholarly resources, promoting an environment that encourages academic inquiry, and empowering the university community.

The central library of Chitkara University houses an extensive collection of resources, comprising books, periodicals, research journals, and electronic materials that are tailored to meet the diverse needs of various academic disciplines. The library fosters an environment that is conducive to learning, research, and collaborative exploration through its utilization of advanced technologies and state-of-the-art infrastructure. In addition to its tangible holdings, the main library employs technological advancements to augment availability and expedite the spread of information. The utilization of online catalogues, digital repositories, and electronic databases facilitates uninterrupted entry to a plethora of scholarly resources, thereby enhancing research eminence and encouraging interdisciplinary involvement.

In addition, the central library proactively fosters information literacy among students, providing them with essential competencies to effectively navigate the extensive array of information resources available. The

academic institution's library provides various opportunities such as workshops, training programs, and personalized consultations to augment the research skills, critical thinking, and efficient utilization of information among students. This research paper explores the importance of Chitkara University Punjab and its central library in facilitating education, research, and the dissemination of knowledge. The present study delves into the various resources, services, and technological advancements offered by the library, highlighting its crucial function in promoting academic excellence and enabling the university community. Through an analysis of the influence of the central library on learning experiences, research outcomes, and the general intellectual development of Chitkara University Punjab, valuable insights can be gleaned regarding the library's significant contributions to fostering a dynamic and knowledge-oriented academic milieu.

The Chitkara University, situated in India, considers the provision of library services as a fundamental aspect of its educational system (Chitkara University, 2023). The aim of our library services is to promote the creation of new knowledge through the procurement, arrangement, and dissemination of informational resources.

The University Libraries provide a heterogeneous assortment of resources in multiple mediums, encompassing conventional print and periodical literature, multimedia content, and internationally sourced networked data. Professionals with advanced qualifications are at the disposal of students to aid them in accessing nearby collections and identifying information pertaining to topics. Libraries serve as educational spaces that facilitate scholarly inquiry and innovation among students. Libraries serve as casual work environments where individuals convene to participate in communal discourse and introspection.

The library possesses a collection of 36,816 titles that encompasses a diverse array of subjects. Notably, the collection features a significant number of reference volumes, such as atlases, biographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, manuals, and yearbooks. The library contains a total of 117,353 books. Chitkara University's library offers a comprehensive collection of print and electronic resources to its users. The library's annual subscription provides access to a wide range of approximately 222 national and international print journals. Additionally, the library offers an extensive collection of electronic resources, including 2,86,942 e-journals, 30,740 e-magazines, 69,87,168 e-books, and 2,29,512 audio eBooks. Currently, the central library has acquired a cumulative sum of 909 dissertations from scholars who have successfully fulfilled their graduate-level academic requirements. The Shodhganga platform is subject to periodic updates to integrate contemporary electronic versions of doctoral dissertations.

1.4 ETDs at Chitkara University, Central Library

The archiving of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) at Chitkara University is characterized by a high degree of efficiency and timeliness. Chitkara University expeditiously ensures the upload of all Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) to distinguished platforms such as Shodhganga and DSpace within a month of conferring the Ph.D. degree. The institution's dedication to promoting open access and scholarly communication is demonstrated through its commitment to promptly disseminate and preserve research

outputs. Chitkara University ensures optimal visibility and accessibility of the research conducted by its Ph.D. graduates by uploading their Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) to Shodhganga, a well-known digital repository for research theses in India. Shodhganga functions as a central repository for scholars, researchers, and institutions to explore and obtain Indian research theses across diverse fields of study. The integration enables Chitkara University’s research to be readily accessible and promotes knowledge dissemination at a national level.

Furthermore, Chitkara University employs DSpace, open-source software for digital repositories, to store and safeguard ETDs. DSpace guarantees the enduring accessibility and availability of theses and dissertations, preserving the intellectual contributions of Ph.D. graduates and furnishing a dependable platform for subsequent reference and citation. Chitkara University’s expeditious dissemination of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) on both Shodhganga and DSpace not only amplifies the prominence and influence of its research but also enriches the broader academic community by disseminating valuable knowledge and perspectives. The university’s dedication to expeditious electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) archiving is indicative of its prioritization of advancing research dissemination, upholding open access principles, and enabling the exchange of ideas among researchers and scholars. Chitkara University’s commitment to the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination and preservation of research outputs is demonstrated by its practice of uploading Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) to Shodhganga and DSpace within a month of conferring the Ph.D. degree.

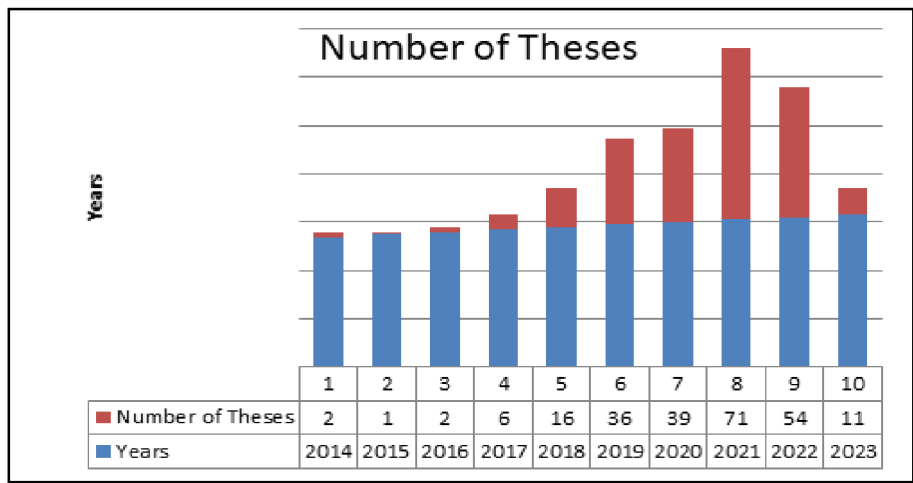


Figure 1: Number of Theses

The central library at Chitkara University holds a crucial position in maintaining academic honesty and safeguarding the authenticity of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs). The central library adheres to the 2018 regulations on preventing plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) by utilizing the Turnitin software to verify the authenticity of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs). Chitkara University possesses the ability to effectively detect and deter instances of plagiarism in electronic theses and

dissertations (ETDs) through the utilization of Turnitin software. Turnitin utilizes advanced algorithms to compare the content of electronically submitted theses and dissertations (ETDs) with a vast collection of academic sources, publications, and online materials. By means of this extensive comparison, the software can detect possible similarities or matches, emphasizing any segments that may necessitate additional scrutiny.

The pivotal function of plagiarism detection is facilitated by the central library in collaboration with Turnitin. To uphold academic integrity, a comprehensive assessment is conducted on all electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) submitted by students and researchers. Chitkara University upholds the values of authenticity and intellectual integrity by performing plagiarism assessments, thereby fostering a climate of ethical scholarship and research practices. The employment of Turnitin software by the central library is indicative of Chitkara University's dedication to maintaining the utmost levels of academic probity and guaranteeing the genuineness and novelty of the research generated by its scholars and students. The university's implementation of a comprehensive plagiarism detection system is indicative of its commitment to upholding the principles of academic integrity and cultivating a culture of scholarly distinction.

1.5 Implementing an Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) System at the Central Library Entails Various Best Practices, Challenges, and Future

Optimal methods entail the establishment of unambiguous policies and guidelines pertaining to the submission of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), management of metadata, and control of access. It is imperative to offer all-encompassing instruction and assistance to students, faculty, and staff regarding the preparation of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), submission protocols, and adherence to copyright regulations. The seamless integration and support for the ETD system can be ensured by collaborating with stakeholders across the institution, including the IT department and academic departments.

The implementation of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) may encounter various challenges, such as resistance to change, limitations in technical infrastructure, and the need to ensure the security and integrity of sensitive research content. To surmount these obstacles, it is imperative to employ proficient communication strategies, engage with stakeholders, and implement resilient technological remedies. The implementation process can be improved using continuous monitoring, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms, which aid in identifying and resolving any issues that may arise.

The forthcoming strategies for ETD implementation center on augmenting user experience, broadening accessibility, and investigating novel technologies. The process may entail the incorporation of multimedia elements, such as interactive features or videos, to amplify the delivery and efficacy of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs). Engaging in collaborative efforts with other institutions and taking part in consortia can facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and the consolidation of resources, thereby cultivating a more expansive research community.

Furthermore, the adoption of novel technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning has the potential to optimize various procedures, including but not limited to plagiarism identification, metadata retrieval, and data representation in electronic theses and dissertations. The central library endeavors to stay at the forefront of innovative practices by continuously researching and evaluating the evolving trends and standards in ETD management. Through adherence to established protocols, resolution of obstacles, and adoption of prospective strategies, the primary library can effectively execute an Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) framework that bolsters academic discourse, amplifies research exposure, and streamlines information propagation both internally and externally.

2. The main findings of our research on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) at Chitkara University, Punjab revealed several key trends and insights

The adoption of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) has been met with a favorable response from a significant number of students and faculty members. They acknowledge the advantages of electronic submission, improved accessibility, and preservation of research outputs.

The implementation of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) at Chitkara University was deemed successful, albeit with some technical challenges. These challenges pertained to file formats, storage capacity, and compatibility with various devices.

The study identified a requirement for enhanced metadata standards and guidelines to augment the discoverability and interoperability of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) both within the institution and across academic platforms.

The significance of user-friendly interfaces, clear submission guidelines, and timely technical support in ensuring a positive and seamless experience for students, faculty, and staff involved in the ETD process was emphasized by user feedback on user experience.

The study's results underscored the significance of ongoing evaluation, technical assistance, and standardization of metadata in enhancing the execution and user-friendliness of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) at Chitkara University.

3. Conclusion

The present study investigates the utilization of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) as drivers for knowledge dissemination and empowerment among the research communities at Chitkara University, Punjab. The study assesses the efficacy of the ETD initiative in enhancing the discoverability and dissemination of research outcomes, promoting cross-disciplinary cooperation, and cultivating a climate of knowledge exchange. The text examines the impact of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) on research communities, specifically in terms of their ability to facilitate the presentation of novel research, broaden the reach of scholarly work, and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration. Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) have garnered considerable attention within the academic community due to their transformative impact on

the traditional methods of disseminating and retrieving scholarly research. The utilization of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) has resulted in a substantial shift within the realm of research, offering numerous benefits. The benefits encompass improved accessibility, streamlined sharing, prospects for collaborative efforts, and incorporation of multimedia components, conservation, and the possibility of pioneering research methodologies.

The effective adoption of an electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) system requires a thorough assessment of various requirements, including hardware, software, personnel, and financial factors. Chitkara University Punjab is a notable educational establishment located in the vibrant state of Punjab, India. The institution is committed to fostering scholarly excellence and holistic development. The central library of Chitkara University offers a wide range of resources in various formats, including traditional literature and serialized works, multimedia, and globally sourced networked information. Apart from serving as a primary knowledge repository, the library offers additional services such as workshops, training programs, and personalized assistance to enhance students' research skills, critical thinking abilities, and effective utilization of information.

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