Chapter 3
Status of Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) in India

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ABSTRACT

INFLIBNET (information library network) has gradually emerged as the backbone of the higher education sector of India. The remarkable initiatives taken by the INFLIBNET strive for strengthening and supporting information needs of the students, scholars, teachers, scientists, and peers. Scholars all around the world would be thankful to the INFLIBNET for their marvelous and ambitious project in the direction of bringing millions of theses and dissertation under the umbrella of OA. With 166,675 full-text ETD items and growing, it qualifies to be called a massive digital library (MDL). This chapter discusses the salient features, significance, and implications of the Shodhganga. It also discusses Shodhgangotri, a database consisting of approved research proposal submitted by the research scholars. The chapter concludes with discussion on the evaluation report of the Shodhganga website with the web-analyzer software Nibbler.

INTRODUCTION

The term "Electronic Theses and Dissertations" (ETD) is used primarily to differentiate between analogue theses and dissertations (paper, microfilm) and their digital counterparts (digital objects). However, "ETDs" may also be digitized or born digital. (Hartsock & Alemneh, 2018). Of all the ETD initiatives operating in the world, Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD), established in 1996, is one of the largest such repositories with the global presence.

Its members include universities around the world, as well as partner organizations, including - Adobe, the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), the Joint Information Services Committee (JISC), Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), Proquest/UMI, and Theses Canada. This partnership is based on the common goal of unlocking the benefits of shared knowledge for all. NDLTD celebrated its 20th Anniversary on August 2, 2017.

Another initiative which is equally doing great work in promoting Open Access scholarly communication in the field of ETD is Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD). It provides access to over 3.5 million ETDs (as of August 2017, indexes 3,987,722 ETDs) which are free to download and excludes closed-access and embargoed ETDs. It aims to be the best possible resource for finding open access graduate theses and dissertations published around the world. The ETD metadata comes from over 1100 colleges, universities, and research institutions.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Institutional repositories are a concept gaining movement today. India is moving ahead in this direction and major education and research institutes have already created their own institutional repositories. In analysis and findings, a detailed report of the analysis of data collection and its subsequent interpretations are given (Lihitkar & Lihitkar, 2014). Besides UGC-recognised universities, other private/ deemed universities, IITs, NITs and IISERs should also be welcomed for voluntarily deposit their theses in the Shodhganga central repository, and one of the fastest ways to make progress is to let students upload their works directly (Panda, 2016)

A growing realization has emerged among those working on ETDs in Iran that it is critically important that libraries remain not just involved, but centrally positioned in the development of the national information infrastructure. The future of E-theses and of archiving and searching, in general, depends on institutions being able to deliver top quality services, with a high degree of interoperability. Systems must continue to be developed and they must be able to handle many different types of digital objects. As we prepare students for scholarship in the twenty-first century, Iran 1400, for example, it is imperative that librarians consider how to manage these important new forms of writing. (Ardalan & Feyzbaksh, 2011). Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) provide opportunities to enhance and expand student research in terms of access, content and impact. While printed theses and dissertations are most often restricted to a smaller readership and limited to simple text and images, authors of ETDs may include video clips, audio files, colour, and embedded software within the research documents published electronically. Because ETDs are published and

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