



A Study on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) Repositories of Gujarat University

Sarita Das
Librarian, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic & Social Research (SPIESR)
Email: saritaranga09@gmail.com

Dr. Yogesh Parekh
Librarian, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad-380054
Email: yogeshparekh34@yahoo.co.in

Abstract

Nowadays Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) is being seen as regular addition to any library's online access system. The present study is based on ETDs repository at INFLIBNET Shodhganga by Gujarat University. The available relevant data on ETD contribution from the INFLIBNET website was analysed department wise, year wise, language wise and subject-wise. It is found that total 3230 theses were deposited by various disciplines of University as on February 2018 and from the available data it is found that the top five departments have contributed 3145 theses in the repository. The relevant data have been presented in tables and graphs form. Later on the result, major problems and findings have been discussed.

Key words: Electronic Thesis and Dissertations, ETD, INFLIBNET, Gujarat University.

1. Introduction

The ICT developments and availability of technologies have changed our daily life, simultaneously it has changed the demand and expectations of library users. Earlier the grey literatures were not available easily, but now through open access it has been easy to access it any digital information in any format. Theses and dissertations they play an important role in any research area and hence it is needed to be digitized. This makes easily online accessibility for further research work and to avoid duplication of research. The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009) dated 1st June 2009 mandates submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations to the academic community across the world. 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. The main objective of Shodhganga@INFLIBNET Centre is to provide a platform for research students to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>). On February 24, 2018 total 1,81,715 full text thesis, 3900



synopses were contributed by 310 universities and 365 universities have signed MOU (as per website on 24th Feb., 2018). From the total 365 universities according to INFLIBNET top ten universities were – University of Calcutta (11025), Savitibhai Phule Pune University (9040), V. B. S. Puravanchal University (7616), Aligarh Muslim University (7140), Panjab University (6730), Anna University (6036), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (5027), Jawaharlal Nehru University (4716), Gauhati University (4366), Karnatak University (4108).

2. About Gujarat University

The Gujarat University was conceived in the nineteen twenties in the minds of revolutionary freedom fighter men like Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Acharya Anandshankar B. Dhruva, Dada Saheb Mavlankar, Kasturbhai Lalbhai and many others. However, the University could come into existence only after the achievement of independence. In 1949, the University was incorporated under the Gujarat University Act of the State Government 'as a teaching and affiliating University.' This was done as a measure of decentralisation and reorganization of University education in the then Province of Bombay. It was established on 23rd November, 1949.

During the course of its life of more than five decades, the University has seen the establishment of seven more Universities which were carved out of the jurisdiction of the Gujarat University, viz., Sardar Patel University, Saurashtra University, Bhavnagar University, South Gujarat University, Gujarat Ayurveda University, Gujarat Agricultural University and North Gujarat University. Even then, the Gujarat University is the largest university in the state catering to the needs of higher education of more than four lakh students scattered over 286 colleges, 22 recognised institutions and 24 approved institutions. There are 36 Post-Graduate University departments and 221 P.G. Centres. Now 140250 students are enrolled at under graduate level and PG level in academic year 2016-17. Gujarat University is an affiliating University at the under-graduate level, while it is a teaching one at the post-graduate level. An important feature of this University is the system of external examinations in the Faculties of Arts and Commerce, both at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. The external examinations were introduced with a view to enabling working students and the others who could not afford the high cost of university education to realize their dream. Gujarat University has developed phenomenally in the last 67 years to be recognized as a premier University in the country today. It provides education in one of the widest range of disciplines to about two lakh students.



3. Gujarat University Library

Gujarat university library started along with its parent body it moved to its newly constructed building in May 1967. The Library has more than 3,50,457 books, 11,600 E-Books and 7,500 E-Journals. The Library adds about 5000 books every year and subscribes to about 250 Printed periodicals in various subjects. This library caters to the needs of the students and teachers of the University at large. In addition to this, it has separate department libraries, which offers texts and reference books regarding their respective courses being offered. The collection in the department libraries are provided from the Central Library on long-term basis to them. The department and school libraries offer books and reading-room facilities to their students and faculty members apart from the Central Library. In the central library it can accommodate 600 readers at a time. For those students who find the Central Library away from their residence, nearer centres are provided by the university in the Ahmedabad city, such as centers at Hajipur, Saraspur and Khokhra-Mehemdabad.

3.1 Services provided by the library

- ❖ Document Circulation Service
- ❖ Reference Service
- ❖ Reprographic Services
- ❖ Inter Library Loan Service
- ❖ Internet Service
- ❖ Reading Services
- ❖ Current Awareness Service
- ❖ Referral Service
- ❖ Literature Search Service
- ❖ Online Services
- ❖ OPAC and WEBOPAC
- ❖ Syllabus Service
- ❖ Bibliographic Service
- ❖ User Orientation Service

Gujarat University Library signed Memorandum of Understanding on “SODHGANGA” A Repository of Indian Electronic Theses and dissertation with, Director, INFLIBNET Centre on 4th June 2012 in presence of Shri Ramanbhai Vora, Hon’ble Education Minister of Gujarat. According to INFLIBNET website Gujarat university has deposited total 3230 thesis in the repository by this time (February 2018). Gujarat University Library is in the last stage of automation. Students, Research Scholars and faculty members can access the 3,14,097 Bibliographical databases, various Electronic Resources like E-Books, E-Journals etc.

4. Literature review

For the present study below presented literatures were reviewed, this includes some national level studies. ETD in India was started with the Vidyanidhi project by University of Mysore, sponsored by National



Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT). Pathak, Nitya Nanda and Malakar (2016) reports that the purpose of the study was to analyse the growth and development of ETDs among university libraries of Assam. The study concluded that the university libraries needs special training programme and increase in financial assistant to ensure the better growth and development of ETD repositories in the university libraries of Assam. Krishnamoorthy, Bharanidharan, and Rajasekar (2016) highlights the history of initiation and development of Shodhganga project in Anna University starting with MOU with Shodhganga and fund availability. Then it also deals with the present scenario of thesis submission from the various department of the University. According to study, nearly 995 thesis were uploaded in Shodhganga project as on Sept. 2016. The financial assistance was provided by UGC in two phase, a sum of Rs. 18,95,000/- . Further plans towards fastening process is to set up ETD labs with necessary infrastructure and well trained staff to complete the task. Sivakumaren (2015) examines the Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) repository at INFLIBNET by various Indian universities. The study considered the contributions of ETDs in Shodhganga project by top five departments of the respective universities during February 2015. The study finds that the ETDs are an important sources of research for any academic work, when it is available on open access platform and most importantly it avoids duplication of research. The study also highlights to create awareness on ETD repository. Ranga (2015) presents an overview of the Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) repository at INFLIBNET by various State universities of Gujarat. The study was done on the ETD contribution made by top universities of Gujarat. The data was collected from INFLIBNET till July 27, 2015, it included the top five departments of the respective universities for the study. The study indicates that State University ETD initiatives are still in developmental phase where more action plans are needed.

5. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this paper is to articulate the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) implementation and management process at Gujarat University Library. It describes the development of a collaborative partnership between the INFLIBNET and the University Library that advances open access to the scholarly communication and in turn it leads to improved academic standards. Most importantly it helps to avoid duplication of research in respective subject areas. The objectives of the study are –

- To analysis the contributions of various department in ETDs repositories.
- To study present scenario towards the contribution of ETD repositories.



6. Scope and limitations

The present study refers to the contribution of ETD repositories by the Gujarat university. And by the various departments in ETDs submission. The study is limited to the Gujarat university only it does not cover the other universities of Gujarat.

7. Metadata

INFLIBNET recommends that ETD repositories in member universities use OAI-PMH compliant software, which DSpace supports. As well as maintaining Shodhganga, INFLIBNET has also established a central server to harvest the metadata from all ETD repositories located in universities with an aim to provide unified access to these through its harvesting server. The repository permits the submitter to create metadata for his/her thesis. Before ETD publication, INFLIBNET staff verifies the metadata for its completeness and correctness. Shodhganga obtains content in two ways: either by entering into an agreement (signed MoU) with a university to obtain any digital theses that have already been archived there; or theses are submitted by individual scholars. A research scholar or supervisor, or a representative of the university under the university's mandate can submit a digital thesis directly to Shodhganga with permission from INFLIBNET.

8. Methodology

For the above study purpose the data were collected from INFLIBNET website shodhganga@inflibnet (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/3846>). Till February 2018 total 1,81,715 full text thesis, were deposited from 365 universities. Among it the present study is conducted on Gujarat University. The data shown in the study was collected on 24th February, 2018 and as per website record the Gujarat University has submitted total 3230 theses by this time.

9. Data analysis

To analyse relevant data simple calculation methods were applied, the available results presented in the tables and figures below

Various departments of Gujarat University towards ETD Contribution:

Table-1
Department wise ETD Contribution

Department of Gujarat University	Submitted Thesis
Department of Arts	1
Department of Biochemistry	8
Department of Botany	173
Department of Chemistry	384
Department of Computer Science	13
Department of Economics	147
Department of Education	198
Department of Engineering	15
Department of English	59
Department of Forensic Science	2
Department of Gujarati	266
Department of Hindi	183
Department of History	109
Department of Indian Culture	4
Department of Journalism	10
Department of Library and Information Science	1
Department of Life Science	47
Department of Management	41
Department of Mathematics	46
Department of Medicine	4
Department of Microbiology	49
Department of Nursing	1
Department of Pharmacology	144
Department of Philosophy	2
Department of Philosophy	40
Department of Physical Education	20
Department of Physics	293
Department of Physiotherapy	2
Department of Prakrut	8
Department of Psychology	129
Department of Sociology	58
Department of Zoology	139



Dept of Sanskrit	201
Medical Department	25
School of Commerce	115
School of Education, Philosophy & Psychology	46
School of Languages	33
School of Law	19
School of Science	162
School of Social Sciences	32
SOC	1
Total thesis	3230

Table-1 represents the total repository in Sodhganga by Gujarat University. The table shows that the contribution of Gujarat University is about 1.78% that of total contribution in Sodhganga. The above table also defines department wise contribution of Gujarat university.

Table2
Top five departments

Title	Thesis
Department of Chemistry	384
Department of Gujarati	266
Department of Botany	173
Department of Economics	147
Department of History	109

The top five repository department of Gujarat university, is shown in the above table

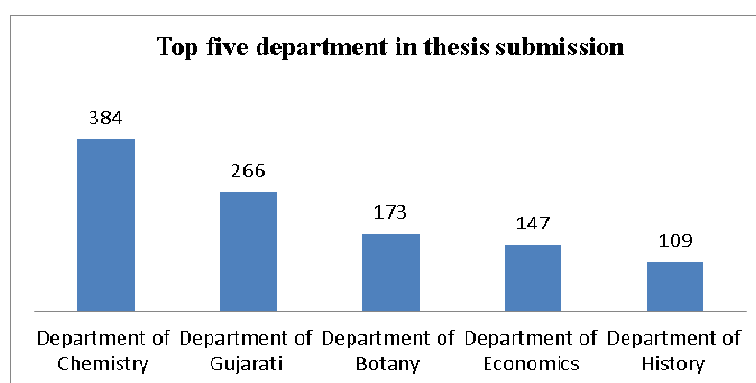


Figure1

Among all department of University Chemistry department is highest in theses contribution with 11.89% that of from total Gujarat University's contribution, following to that Gujarati department secures second



with 8.24%, on the third position Department of Botany with 5.36%, following with Department of Economics (4.55%) and Department of History (3.37%).

Table3
Department with lowest contribution in ETD

Title	Thesis
Department of Arts	1
Department of Library and Information Science	1
Department of Nursing	1
SOC	1
Department of Physiotherapy	2
Department of Forensic Science	2
Department of Philosophy	2
Department of Indian Culture	4
Department of Medicine	4
Department of Biochemistry	8
Department of Prakrut	8
Department of Journalism	10

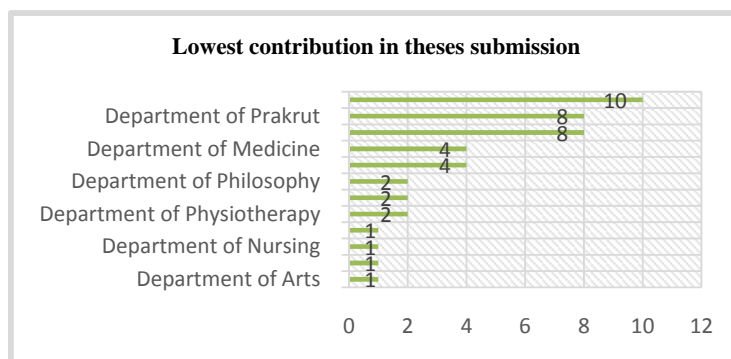


Figure 2

The above table and figure shows the lowest repository in Sodhganga by Gujarat University. The reason may be new course introduction by department. The above submission of theses compared to other department is very lower. It's 0.03% submission from the Department of Arts, Library and Information Science and Nursing with that of total contribution of university. The second lowest department is from Physiotherapy, Forensic Science and Philosophy with 0.06% following the third lowest department in thesis contribution is Indian Culture and Medicine with 0.12%. On the fourth position is department of Biochemistry and Prakrut with 0.25% and on fifth its Department of Journalism with 0.30%.



Table4
Year wise ETD Contribution

Year	Thesis
2010 - 2017	164
2000 - 2009	29
1990 - 1999	41
1980 - 1989	30
1970 - 1979	12
1960 - 1969	4
1950 - 1959	23
1949 - 1949	1
	304

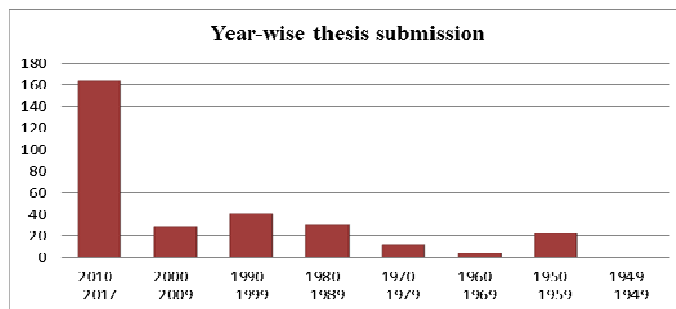


Figure3

The above Table and figure shows the year wise contribution of ETD. From it we could found that the highest submission is done during last seven years and between 1990 to 1999. As per the present submission data current year (2018) is not yet highlighted in the Shodhganga repository.

Table5
Language wise ETD Contributions

Sr. No.	Language	Thesis
1.	English	3030
2.	Gujarati	100
3.	Other	97
4.	Hindi	3
Total		3230

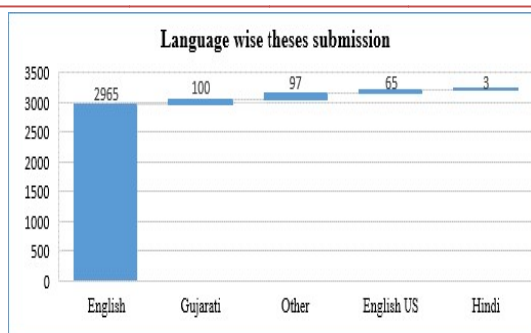


Figure4

The above table and figure shows the contribution of ETD according to languages. From the above data we could say that the majority of thesis submission is done in English language with 93.80% followed by Gujarati (3.10%), Other languages (3%) and Hindi (0.09%).

10. Conclusion and Recommendations

Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) it's an important resource for any researcher for doing research. Hence it should be available in open access platform, which could widely be accessible for further research. Most importantly it avoids the duplication of work and research could identify the appropriate tools and techniques for the current research. The University should organise training program/workshops for Thesis and Dissertation submission on regular intervals. The university affiliated colleges should also submit their scholar work in the Shodhganga repositories.

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