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a reservoir of Indian theses

<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>

Shodhganga

Repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Introduction

Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source for research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. However, theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the antithesis of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial.

The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009) dated 1st June 2009 provides for submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertation to the academic community world-wide. Online availability of electronic theses through centrally maintained digital repositories, will not only ensure easy access and archiving of Indian doctoral theses but will also help in raising the standard and quality of research. This would overcome serious problem of duplication of research and poor quality resulting from the "poor visibility" and the "unseen" factor in research output. As per the Regulation, the responsibility of setting-up, hosting and maintaining the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertation and making it accessible to all institutions and universities, is assigned to the INFLIBNET Centre. "Shodhganga" is the name coined for the repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations set-up by the INFLIBNET Centre.

The word "Shodh" originates from Sanskrit and stands for research and discovery. The 'Ganga' is the holiest, longest and largest river in Indian subcontinent which has held heart of its people captive and drawn millions of people to its banks since the dawn of history. The Ganga is the symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization, ever changing, ever flowing, ever loved and revered by its people. "Shodhganga", a repository of theses and dissertations submitted to Indian universities, is expected to keep growing to a formidable size as more and more researchers from India submit their research works to this ever growing reservoir.

Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET

The Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET is set-up using DSpace, an open source digital repository software, initially developed by MIT and HP, now it is under stewardship of DuraSpace, a non-profit organisation. The DSpace uses internationally recognized protocols and interoperability standards. The 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.

DSpace supports "Open Archives Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting" (OAI-PMH) and uses a qualified version of the Dublin Core schema. The INFLIBNET Centre promotes setting-up of institutional and ETD repositories in member universities using OAI-PMH compliant software. A number of member universities have already set-up their institutional and ETD repositories using either DSpace or other OAI-PMH compliant Institutional Repository software leading to a scenario where in it

The screenshot shows the Shodhganga@INFLIBNET website. The header includes the Shodhganga logo and the INFLIBNET logo. The main content area is titled "Indian ETD Repository @ INFLIBNET" and contains a welcome message: "Welcome to Shodhganga@INFLIBNET Centre". Below this, there is a section titled "Communities in Shodhganga" which lists several universities and their respective counts: Bharathiar University [1], Bharath University [20], Jawaharlal Nehru University [1], Mahatma Gandhi University [464], Mangalore University [2], and University of Madras [1]. The right sidebar contains links for "UGC Notification", "More@Shodhganga", and "Helps@Shodhganga".

would be possible for universities having sufficient network and computing infrastructure to maintain their own ETD repositories wherein their research scholars could deposit e-versions of their theses and dissertations, and INFLIBNET Centre, besides maintaining the Central ETD Repository (Shodhganga) would also deploy a central server to harvest the metadata from all such ETD repositories distributed in universities with an aim to provide unified access to theses and dissertations through its harvesting server.

Shodhganga Repository at INFLIBNET replicates academic structure of each university in terms of Departments / Centres and Schools each university has. This structure facilitates research scholars from universities to deposit their theses in the respective Department / Centre.

Why Should Universities Join Shodhganga?

The UGC vide its Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009) dated 1st June 2009 provides for submission of electronic version of theses and dissertation in the ETD Repository (called Shodhganga) maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre. Universities that sign the MoU with the INFLIBNET Centre and mandate submission of electronic version of their theses and dissertation to the "Shodhganga" may get financial assistance from the UGC for digitizing their back-files of theses. Besides, UGC may also provide financial support for subscription to software tools that detects plagiarized portion of theses and dissertations.

In time, ETDs would become more commonplace, grant-giving agencies and accreditation bodies like NAAC and AICTE would make judgements regarding innovative universities by taking note of their initiatives such as ETDs and IRs.

How do Universities Join Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET?

Universities can join the "Shodhganga" by signing an MoU with the INFLIBNET Centre. This MoU spells out the responsibilities of universities and INFLIBNET Centre related to "Shodhganga". Please visit Shodhganga web site for details on responsibilities of research scholar, universities and INFLIBNET Centre (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/moredetails/responsibility.html>). Universities signing the MoU would be required to adopt UGC Regulations, 2009 and mandate submission of electronic version of theses into "Shodhganga" set-up by the INFLIBNET Centre. Based on the agreement, the INFLIBNET Centre would recommend to the UGC to release the grant earmarked for implementation of ETD project during XI Plan Period. Copy of the MoU to be signed between universities and INFLIBNET Centre is available at <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>

Who can Submit Theses to the Shodhganga Repository?

Any research student from any university or deemed-to-be university in India can submit his / her thesis to the Shodhganga on voluntary basis even if it is not mandated by their respective university in the format prescribed by INFLIBNET as available on <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/moredetails/dataformat.html>. While all universities covered under 12B / 2(F) Section of the UGC Act are listed in "Shodhganga", provision is made to add other universities / deemed to be universities desirous of submitting their theses and dissertations. Thesis can be submitted into the Repository either by student himself, his supervisor or representative of the university. While online submission of electronic theses by researchers / supervisor or university's representative as mandated by the university, would be preferred, however, individual researchers are encouraged to submit their theses and dissertations either online or off-line (through E-mail or CD / DVD) on voluntary basis till their respective university(ies) adopt and implement UGC Notification, 2009.

Submission Process: How to Submit?

The process of submission of theses in "Shodhganga" consists of the following six steps:

- ➔ **Registration / Login:** Submitter (student, his / her research supervisor or the authorized representative of the university) is required to register himself / herself at the "Shodhganga" Website <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>



- **Validation of Account:** As soon as a submitter registers himself / herself, an e-mail alerts INFLIBNET Staff to validate the registered user and allow him / her to submit his / her thesis. Once submitter's account is validated, an email is sent to the submitter with a web link prompting him / her to submit his / her thesis. Submitter may send scanned copy of the certificate of award of PhD or any other valid document related to PhD which would speed up the validation process.
- **Submission of Content / Metadata by Registered User:** After validation of account, submitter is prompted to create metadata for his / her thesis and upload the content of his / her thesis chapter-wise using naming convention as elaborated in the responsibilities of universities and students. In case if user sends his / her thesis via e-mail / CD, the INFLIBNET staff creates the metadata and upload the theses on behalf of the submitter.
- **Verification of Submitted Metadata and Content:** The metadata created and chapter uploaded by the submitter is verified for its completeness and correctness, preferably by the research supervisor or university representative, or alternatively by the INFLIBNET Staff.
- **Publish on ETD Repository:** Once the metadata and uploaded content are verified for its completeness and correctness, the INFLIBNET's staff publishes the thesis in the ETD repository. While the metadata of thesis would be made available on submission, the full-text of thesis would be published only after receiving confirmation of award of degree by the University through notification / e-mail confirmation.
- **Intimation to Stakeholders:** Once full-text of theses is published in the Shodhganga, all stakeholders including researcher, guide(s) and the university will be informed through e-mail. RSS Feed technology is also used to disseminate and deliver new content added to the ETD repository to the users.

Type of Access

All theses and dissertations submitted to the Shodhganga is available in open access to the academic community world-wide. However, it is possible to impose restrictions on access as a special case, if so desired by the university / research scholar.

For further information please contact

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