An Analytical Study of Awareness and Perception of Faculty Members and Research Scholars towards National ETD Repository of India

Dinesh K. Gupta, Professor, Dept. of Lib. & Inf. Sc., Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, INDIA | dkg.kuk@gmail.com

Abstract: ETD Repositories help in disseminating the latest research information to a wider range of Researchers, avoiding the duplication of research as also checking the use of increasing plagiarism in research work. In order to improve the ETD system in India, INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) has established Shodhganga Research-in-Progress and Shodhganga National ETD repository and made it compulsory for all the Indian Universities to submit a softcopy Synopsis of Research Programme of Ph. D. and of all the Ph. D. theses by signing MOU with INFLIBNET. However, the success of the ETDs repository solely depends upon the commitment of the universities and active participation of Library Professionals, Faculty, and Research Scholars in implementation of the USC directions on the subject. As a result, a large no. of universities have signed the MOU with INFLIBNET, the others are in the process of signing the same. The major objective of the present study is to investigate the attitudes and perception of the Faculty Members and Researchers towards their role and responsibility in the contribution to the national ETD Repositories and to highlight the obstacles encountered by the Faculty and Researchers in adoption of the National ETD Repository and give suggestions to expedite promotion of submission and usage of National ETD Repository.

Keywords: ETDs, Universities, ETD Initiatives, Shodhganga, Thesis

Introduction

Higher Education in India

- No. & Types of Universities in India: 754
- No. & Types of Universities in Haryana State: 30

Objectives

1. The primary objective of the study was to gain an initial understanding of the awareness and use of ETDs among Faculty and Research Scholars.
2. To examine the attitude of the Faculty Members and Research Scholars towards embargo of ETDs.
3. To identify and analyze the specific factors that promote or hinder the use of ETDs.
4. To suggest measures for improving the ETD repository promotion and usage.

Related Works

The literature survey showed largely studies report the availability of ETDs. Creation of ETDs is a necessary step in the design of a modern ETD repository in India. However, only a few studies were found regarding the survey on awareness and usage of ETDs.

Methodology

Questionnaire based Survey Method is used to achieve the objectives of the study. A well-structured Questionnaire was designed and pre-tested before using it for the survey. Questionnaires were distributed personally to the respondents.

Scope

The study was limited to Faculty Members and Research Scholars of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, INDIA.

Sample Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Members</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholars</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey

Figure 1: Awareness about Concept of ETDs

Figure 2: Support Online Access of Ph. D. Theses

Figure 3: Extent of ETD Accessibility Support

Figure 4: ETD submission by University Mandatory or not

Figure 5: Awareness about National Guidelines for ETD submission

Figure 6: University Evolved Any Copyright Policy for ETD Submission

Figure 7: Library Set up ETD Repository to Facilitate E-submission

Figure 8: Library uploaded ETD submission Guidelines Templates on University Website

Figure 9: Awareness about INFLIBNET

Figure 10: Awareness about SHODHIGANGA, National ETD Repository

Figure 11: Awareness about SHODHGANGOTRI

ETDs Repositories in India

As per DGAR there are 16 ETD Repositories in India. 10 Major ETD Repositories

Findings

- Faculty Members and majority of the Research Scholars are aware of ETDs and most of the respondents in both the categories favor the Online and Global access of ETDs.
- ETD submission is mandatory in the University, however, a large number of respondents are not aware of the UGC Guidelines for ETD submission.
- The University has not yet defined a complete set of ETD submission and Copyright Policy for determination of ETD submission and Plagiarism check before Ph. D. Theses submission.
- The Library has neither any facilities of ETD creation/s submission nor uploaded any Guidelines in this regard on university portal.

Conclusion

Results show that even though most of the respondents are aware of ETDs, yet they are not availing ETDs to its fullest potential in the absence of proper ETD creation facilities and guidance in the library. The reason found from the study is the deficiency of professional staff in the university library and indefinite of the administration on signing of the MOU with INFLIBNET, lack of facilities for Plagiarism Checking, uploading/publishing ETDs to Shodhganga, etc.

Suggestions

- UGC should ensure the strict compliance of the UGC Regulations of 2009 for the award of Ph.D. degree and also provide for uploading of Synopsis and Theses on the ‘Shodhganga’ and ‘Shodhganga’ respectively.
- UGC has made it compulsory for the universities to sign the MOU with INFLIBNET and uploading of the Ph. D. theses on ‘Shodhganga’, yet it should ensure that universities upload a time-bound manner and those which don’t sign the MOU should be provided any development grant by UGC.
- The universities should regularly implement the ETD policy keeping with the directions of the UGC.
- The degrees of such research scholars whose Ph. D. synopsis and Theses are not uploaded on Repositories of INFLIBNET should not be recognised by the UGC.
- Still many universities are awarding Ph. D. degrees without plagiarism checking, Plagiarism check of the research work for Ph. D. should be made mandatory as a precondition for submission of Ph. D. Theses.
- User Awareness/Training programmes for the Faculty and Research Scholars should be organised to popularise the concepts of ETDs, ETD Repositories, Copyright and Plagiarism check, uploading of Synopsis and Theses of Research Work.
- Proper provision for helping researchers creating ETDs should be made in the libraries.

References