

# **An Evaluation of the Use of ETDs by the PhD Students in Library of Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka**

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# Coverage

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- Data Analysis
- Goals
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# Introduction

- ETDs beat traditional paper based theses environment
- Still there are limitations to ETD's implementation
- ETDs
  - Can play a significant role in repositories
  - Improve data skills of research scholars
  - Provide accurate data sets to fulfill the information gap
  - Support to accomplish novel research

# Problem Statement

- ETDs are playing major role in institutional repositories in academic sector.
- But, still there is a gap of awareness and accessing relevant PhD thesis for students' research purposes.
- Focused to
  - evaluate PhD students' awareness, frequency and expectations and
  - to eliminate those gaps, if any
  - to facilitate in providing effective ETDs to research scholars

# Purpose of the Study

- To discover the usage of ETDs
- To examine the **motivational factors** that influence use of the ETDs
- To identify most frequently used ETDs
- To ensure the standard, performance, reliability, appearance, and commitment to delivery time of the required information

# Methodology – Data Collection

- Method - Survey questionnaire
- Study population – PhD students 2014 -2015

# Literature Review

- ETDs are
  - Playing dynamic role in academic sector
  - Adding value to the students' CV
  - Boosting research knowledge in greater scale
- RCSS ETD Repository
  - Used open access websites to buildup the ETDs
  - Preserved as PDF documents
  - Born digital/converted to digital (Perera, 2015)
- According to Fox (2004)
  - ETDs prepare the next generation of scholars to function effectively as knowledge workers

# Literature Review contd.

- Importance of ETDs in academic sector
  - Topic identification
  - Comprehensive review
  - Literature review
  - Currency
  - Methodology/Theory Development
  - Future research
  - Test and measurement instruments
  - Unique topic area exploration
  - Writing styles
  - Formatting ideas (Gaur and McLean, 2015)

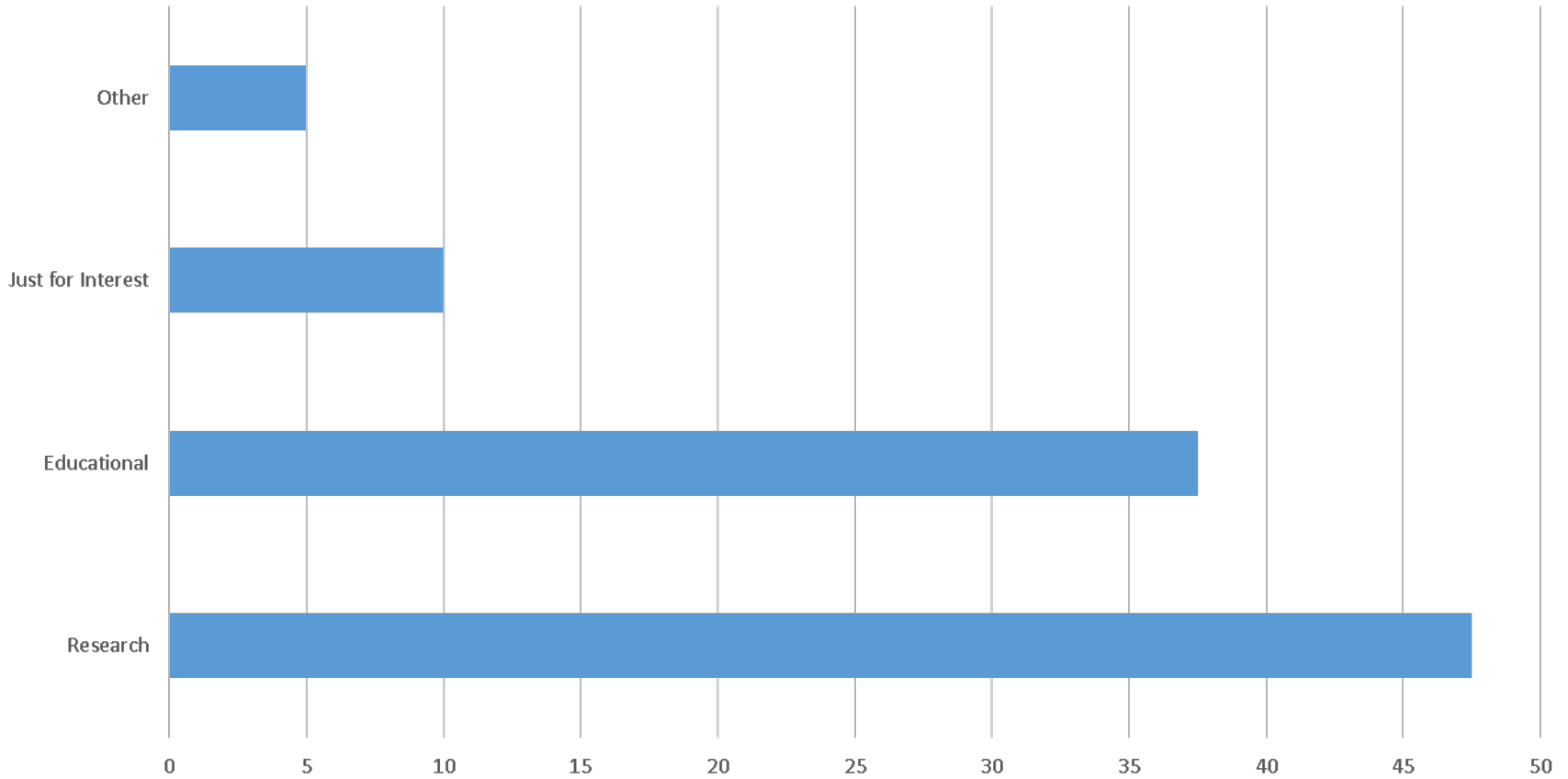


# Literature Review contd.

- Similarly Copeland and Penman (2004) stated
  - Improved access to the research findings
  - Improved levels of use of research material
  - Promote research profiles of universities/institutions
- How libraries benefit from ETDs?
  - Save storage space
  - Save staff time
  - Reduces no. of inter library loans
  - Easy collection of usage statistics
  - Improve the customer satisfaction

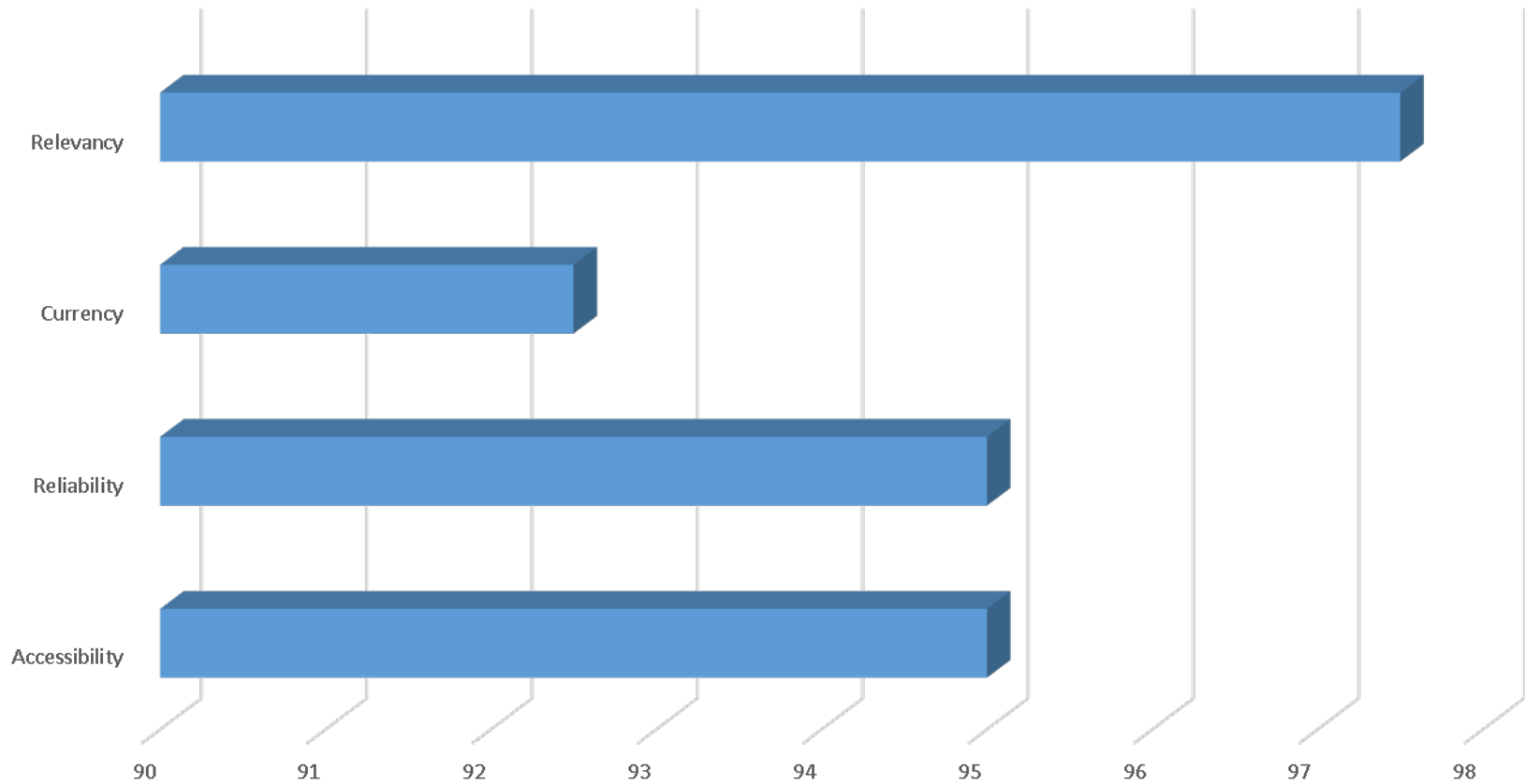
# Data Analysis

Purpose of using ETDs @ RCSS



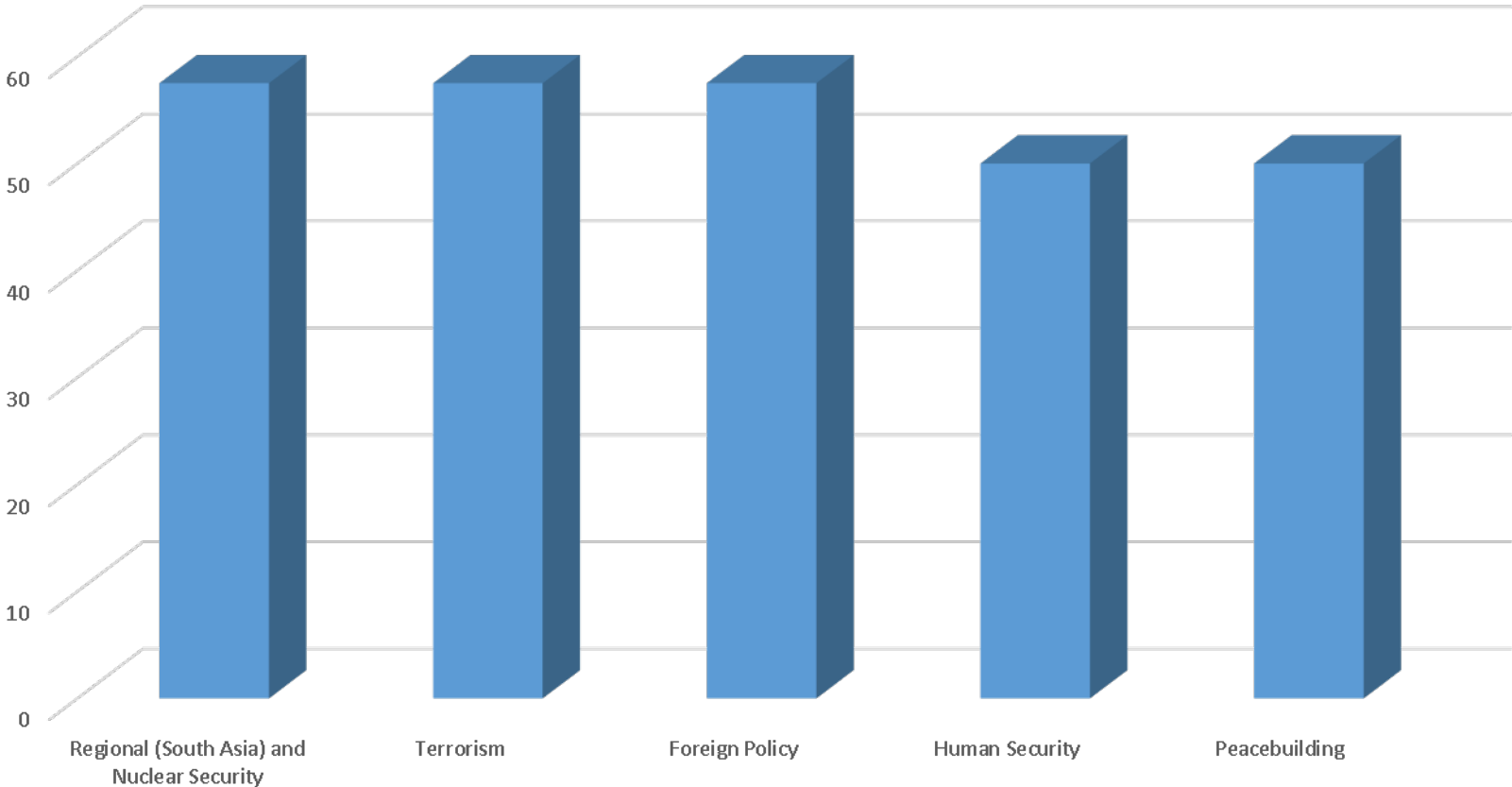
# Data Analysis

Motivational Factors of using ETDs @ RCSS



# Data Analysis

Frequently Used ETDs @ RCSS



# Goals

RCSS Workshops on  
Writing Skills for  
Research/Dissertations



The students of the workshops are encouraged to refer the ETD repository @ RCSS

- Students are advised
  - To avoid plagiarism (paraphrasing, summarizing and citing the original work)
  - To discuss their own experience, challenges, successes, failures of their research study



# Conclusion

- This research study has proved
  - ETD repository at RCSS for research and education
  - PhD students are motivated to use ETDs at RCSS due to its
    - » Relevancy
    - » Reliability
    - » Accessibility
    - » Currency
- And it is very important to do annual evaluations to find out the successes and failures to provide effective ETD services to the RCSS scholars.

*Thank  
you*

