Discovering Invisible Scholarship of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs): A Global Scenario



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Coverage

- **≻**Introduction
- **ETD** Repositories
- **▶**Impact of Invisible ETDs
 - ➤ Cited References in Web of Science
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 - >ETDs Initiatives in India
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 - Institutional-level ETD Repositories in India and worldwide
- **≻**Summing Up

Introduction

- Theses and Dissertations are the most valuable resources of invisible scholarship.
- High quality and low visibility.
- Rich, unique and valuable sources.
- Focus on specific areas/problems to identify the novelty.
- Involves collaborative work of researchers, supervisors, experts and others.
- Results of at least three years of scientific work, accomplished within a laboratory, through a research team or an institute, university or school.
- Adds new knowledge to the pool of primary sources.
- Relatively new mode of research and scholarly communication.
- 'Next to journal articles, ETDs are the most frequent document types, found in OA repositories.

ETD Repositories

• ETD repositories have become showcases of the intellectual achievements of scholars and their institutions by making their research output available globally.

Providing easy & wider access is important to create visibility.

 Individual institutions, national and international organizations have initiated establishing ETD repositories.

Invisible Scholarship of ETDs

Invisible scholarship in ETDs refers to the valuable research and insights contained within theses and dissertations that are not readily accessible or visible to a broader audience due to various factors, such as limited indexing, restricted access, or lack of awareness.

It is important to highlight the scholarly impact created by ETDs over the period.

Objectives

The following are ways that may assist in discovering the global invisible scholarly impact of the ETDs.

- ETD cited references in research articles, conference papers chapters, etc.
- Growth and development of ETD repositories.
- ETD initiatives National, International and Institutional
- Dissemination and accessibility of ETDs through open-access sources and scholarly search engines.

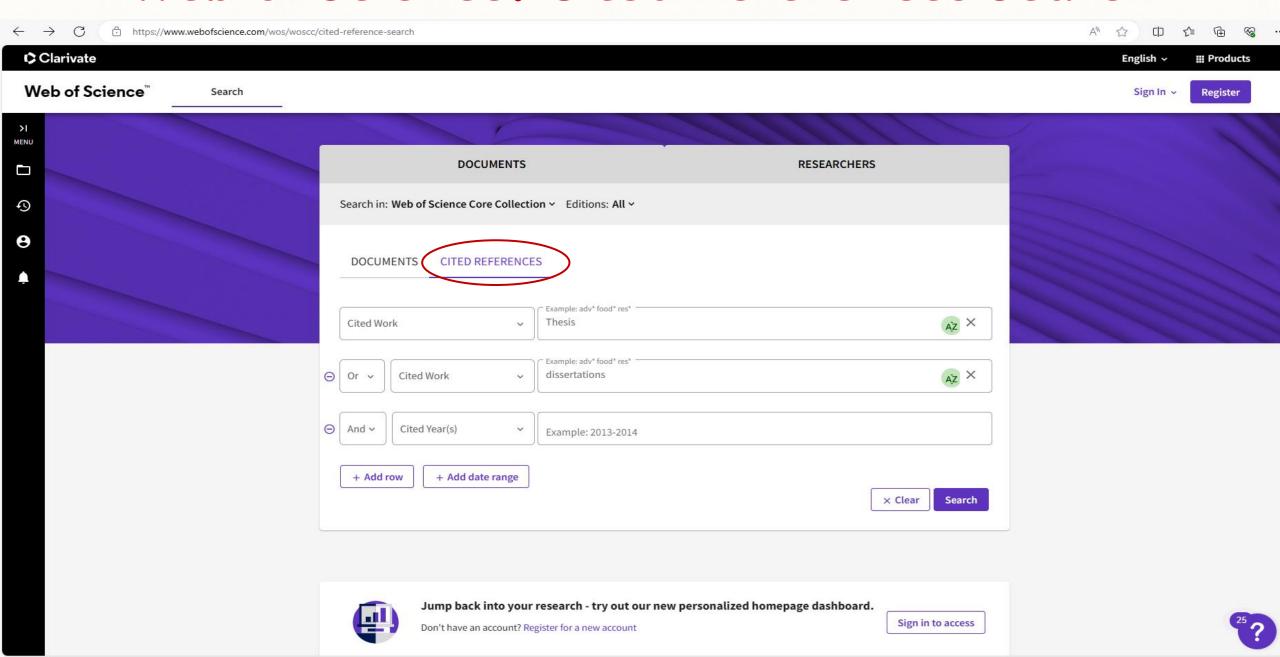
Methods & Limitations

The following multiple data sources have been used to identify the impact of invisible ETDs.

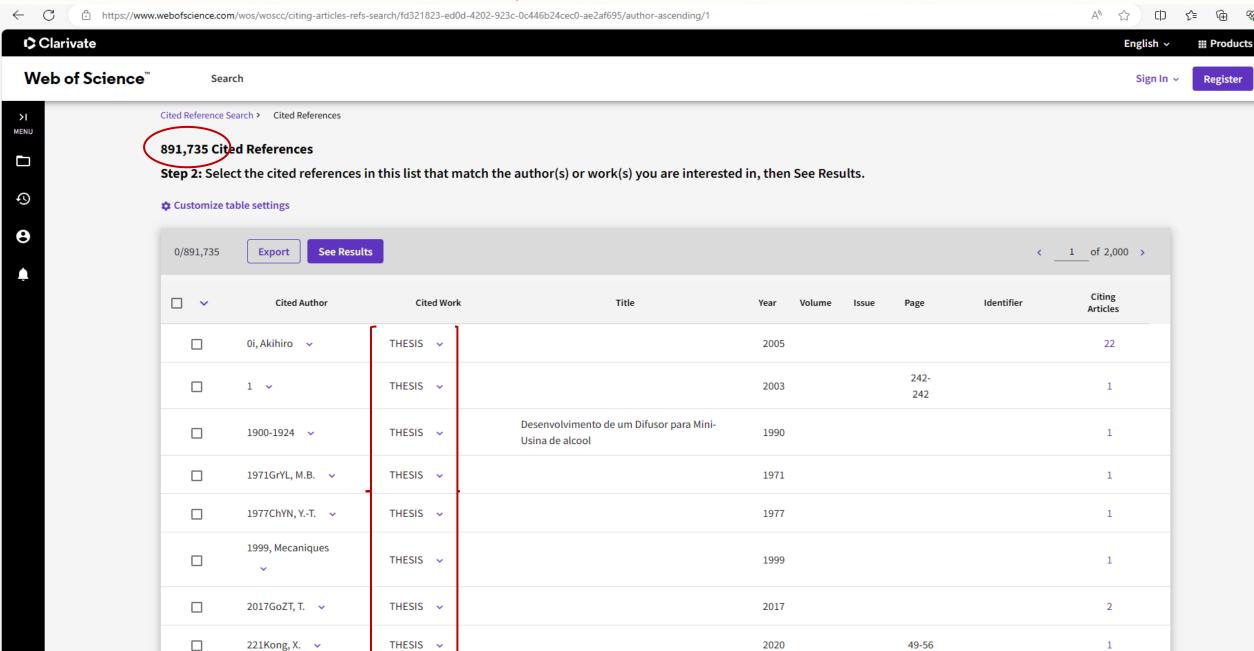
- Web of Science Cited References
- Scopus References Search
- OpenDOAR Content-Type 'Theses and Dissertations'
- Web survey of global ETD initiatives

The available data was collected as of October 16, 2023.

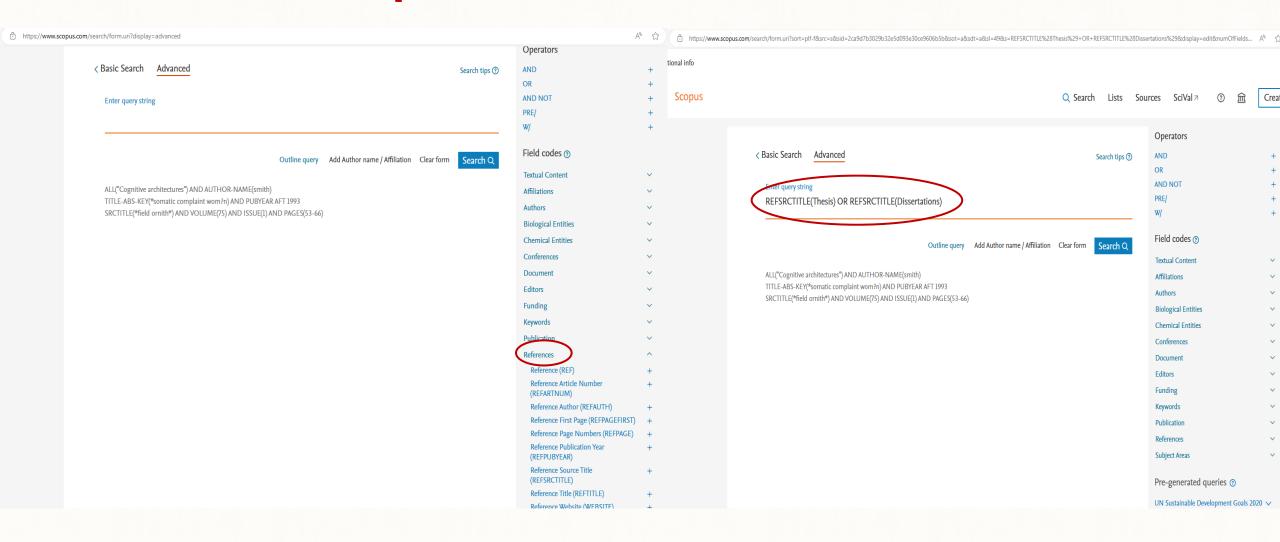
Web of Science: Cited References Search



Web of Science: Cited References Search

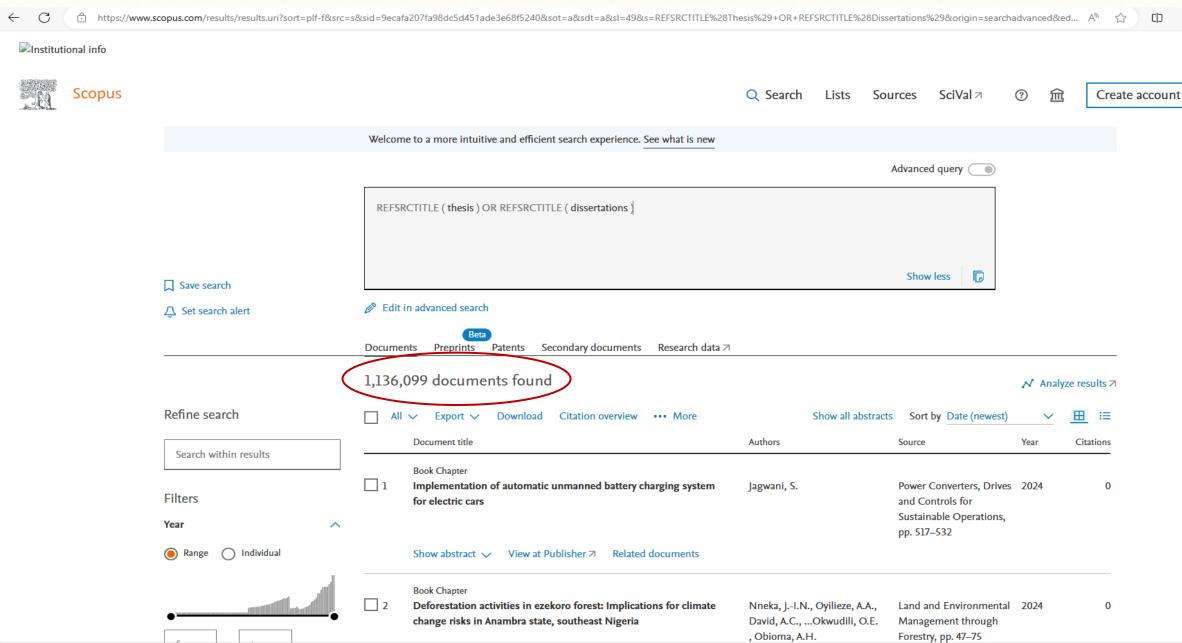


Scopus: References Search



Scopus: References Search

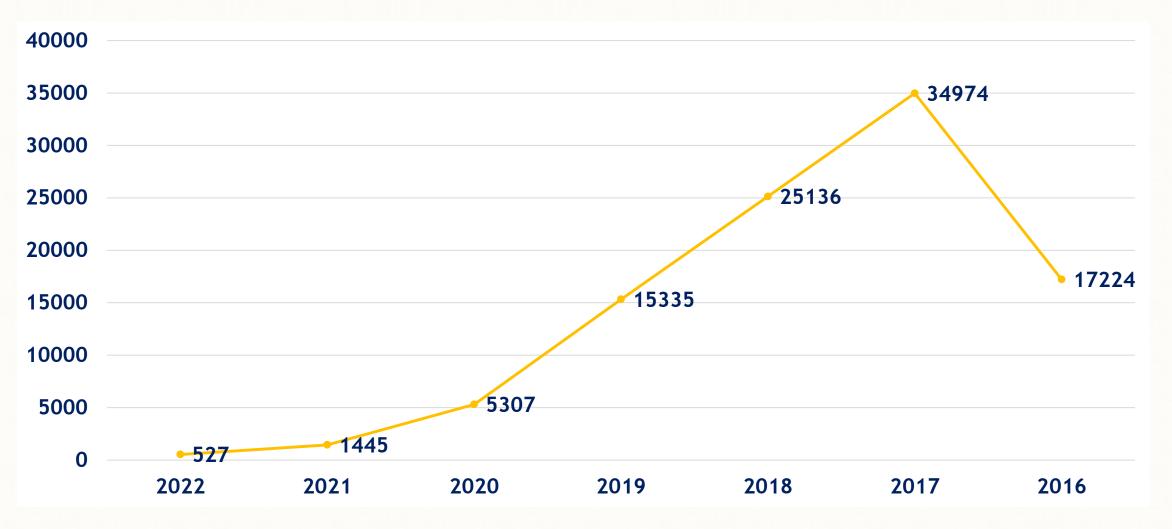
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ETDs as Cited References in Scopus & Web of Science

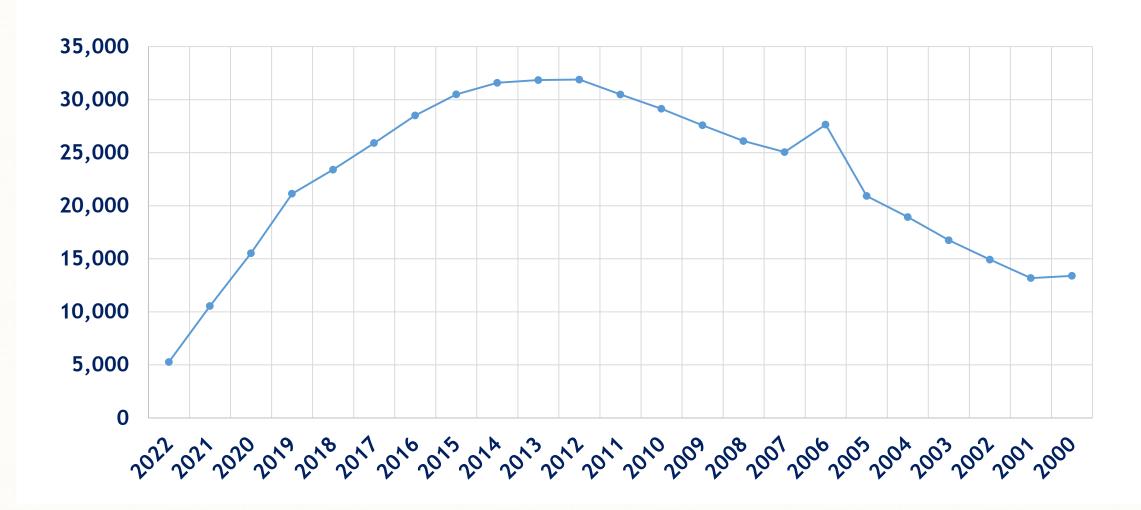
- Next to research articles, ETDs are the most frequently cited documents.
- Web of Science covers over 8,91,735 cited references of ETD documents since 1938.
- Scopus covers 1,136,099 ETDs' cited references in its published documents.
- Ph.D. theses (2,42,606) as most cited references as per Scopus
- 2017 year's (34,974) theses are the most cited references as per Web of Science.
- Citations of ETDs are constantly growing year by year.

Growth of ETD as Cited References in Web of Science



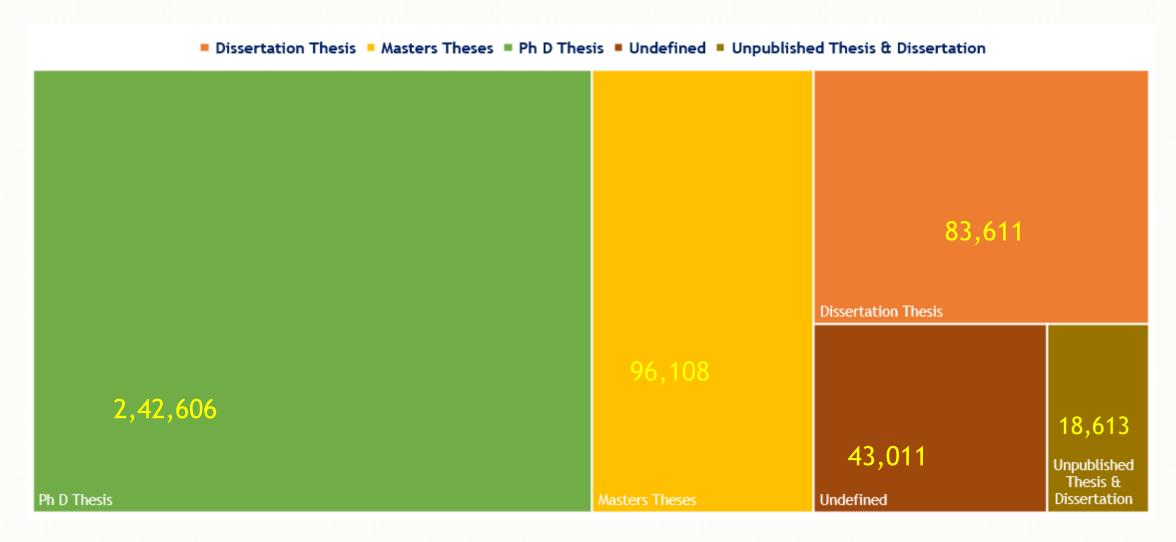
Last Five-years' theses and dissertations cited in the Web of Science

Growth of ETD as Cited References in Scopus



Since 2000> Theses and Dissertations cited as references in Scopus

Growth of ETDs as Cited References in Scopus

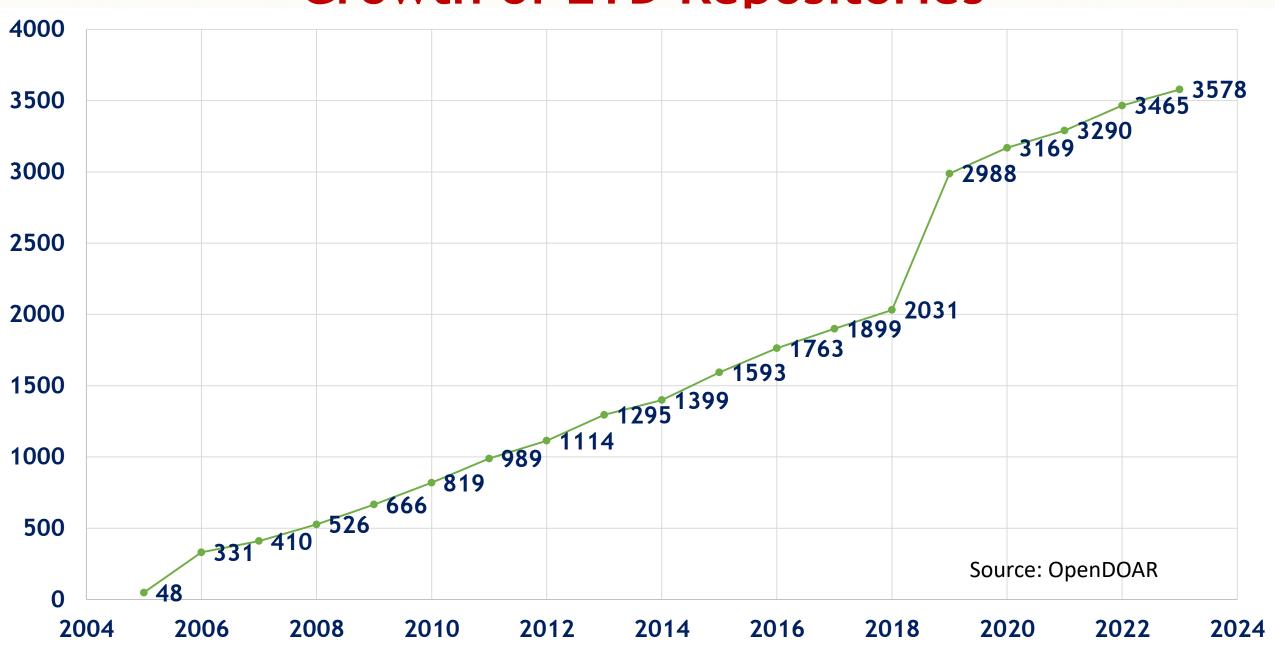


Content-wise theses and dissertations cited as references in Scopus

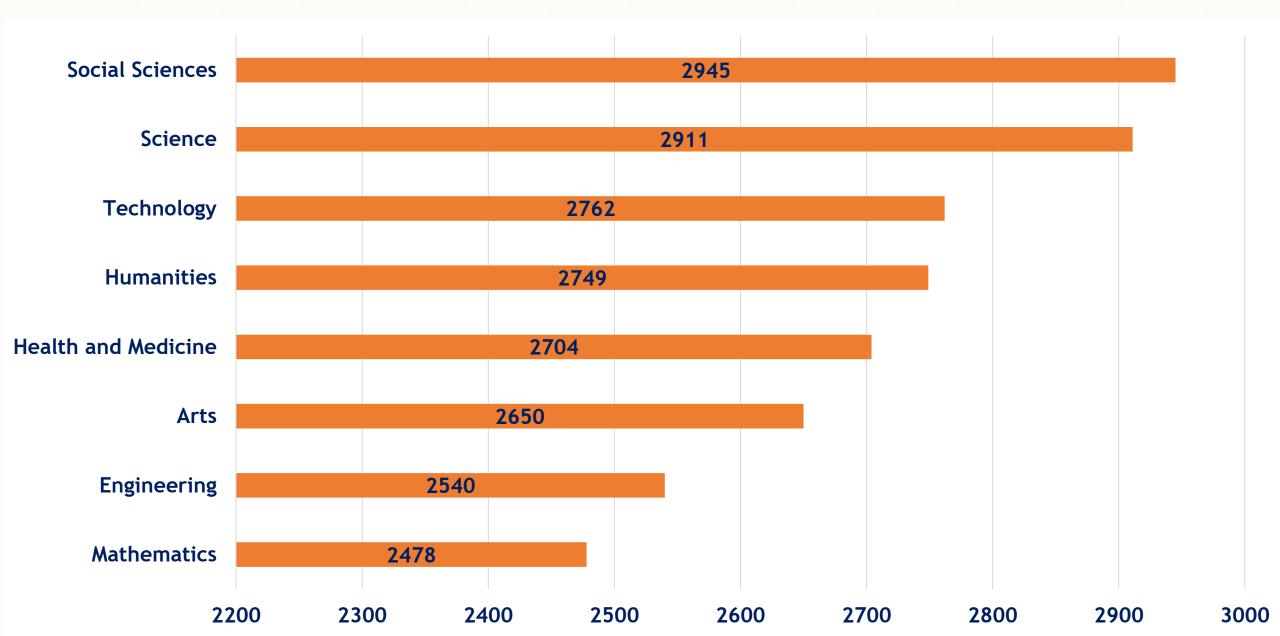
Growth of ETD Repositories

- Over 3578 repositories have been indexed in OpenDOAR which covers the content of Theses and Dissertations.
- These repositories cover over 2,58,21,500 ETD records.
- The maximum growth of ETD repositories found in 2019 (957), followed by 2015 (194), 2013 (184), and 2022 (175).
- The maximum of theses, covers social sciences, science, and technology, humanities and medicine disciplines.
- Over 121 countries have contributed to the development of ETD repositories.
- USA, Japan, and Germany are the top countries. India has 59 ETD repositories.
- Over 95.27% are institutional, 2.34% are disciplinary, 1.56% are aggregating and 0.81 governmental ETD repositories.

Growth of ETD Repositories



Growth of ETD Repositories: Subjects Coverage



ETD Initiatives - National, International and Institutional

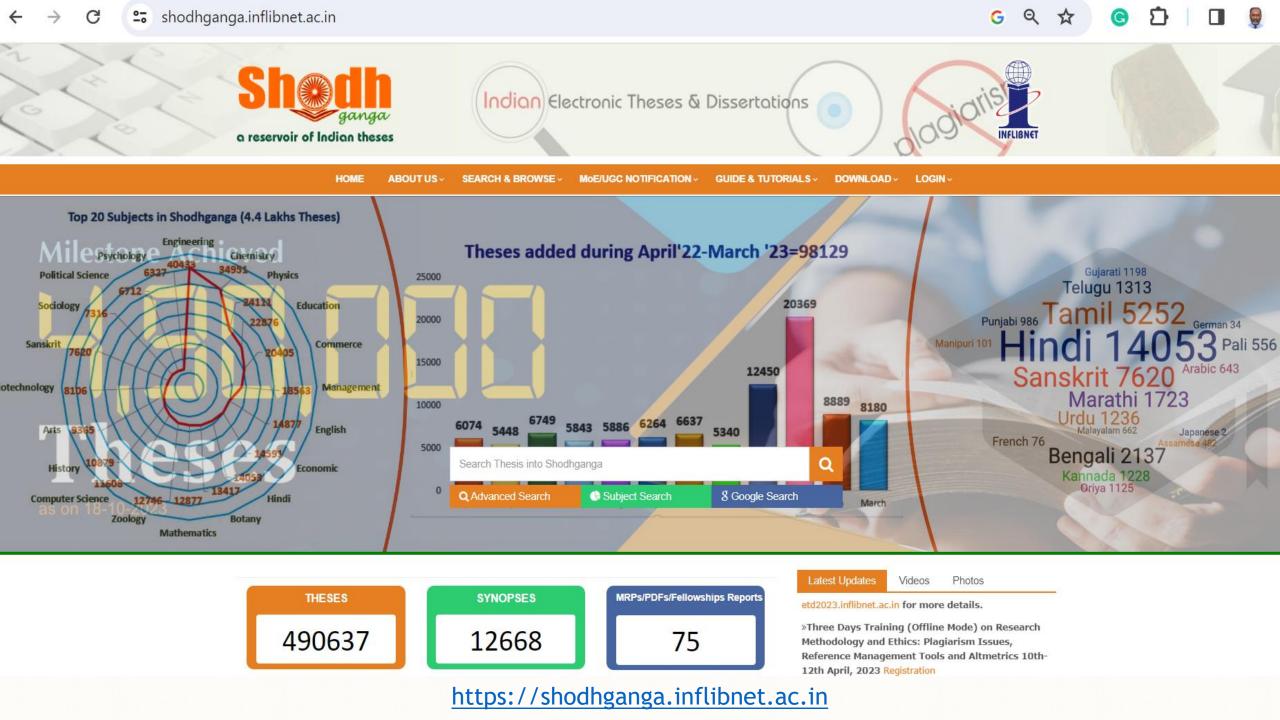
- The emergence of electronic sources, developments in open access (OA) and the creation of digital repositories all make possible the best use of scholarly information sources including theses and dissertations.
- Academic institutions, professional associations and networking bodies have been involved in creating and developing ETDs to disseminate and create the visibilities of hidden ETD contents.
- Access ETDs have the most significant advantages in collaboration, ensuring quick information retrieval, promoting resource sharing and helping in avoiding duplication in research work.
- ETDs growing part of available open content in the institutions' repositories, where it contributes to the institutions' overall impact and ranking.

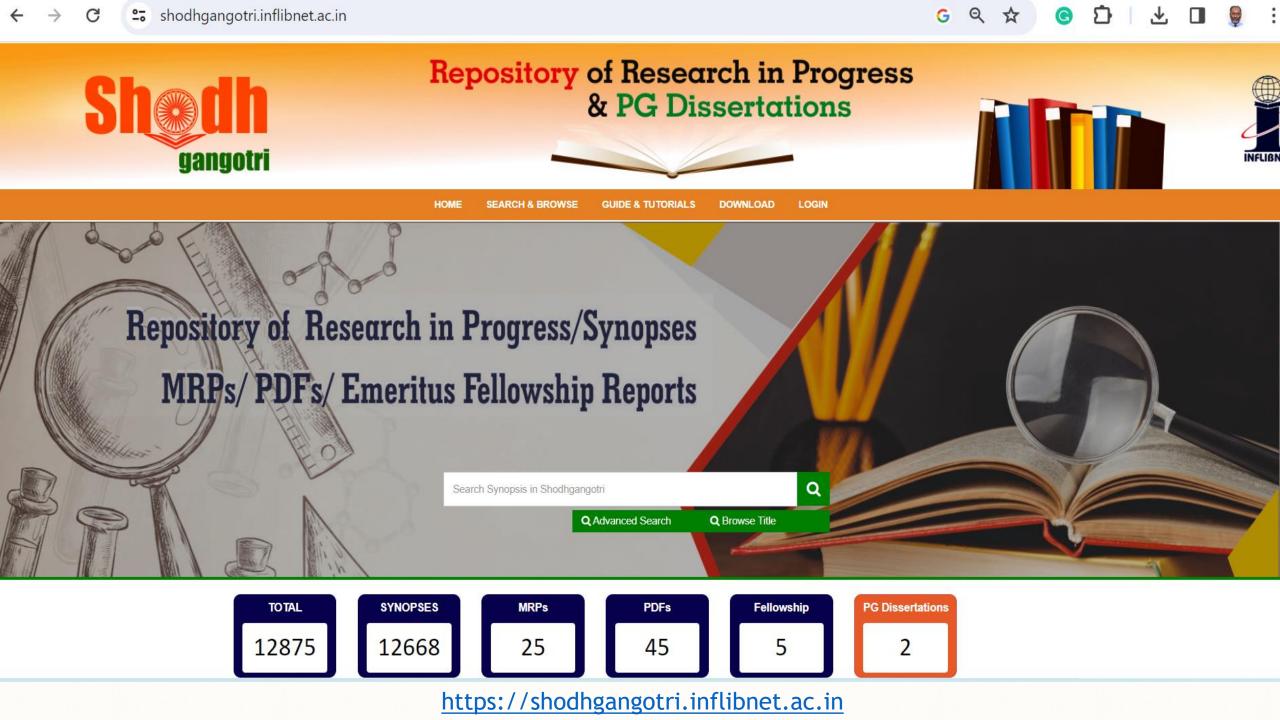
ETD Initiatives in India

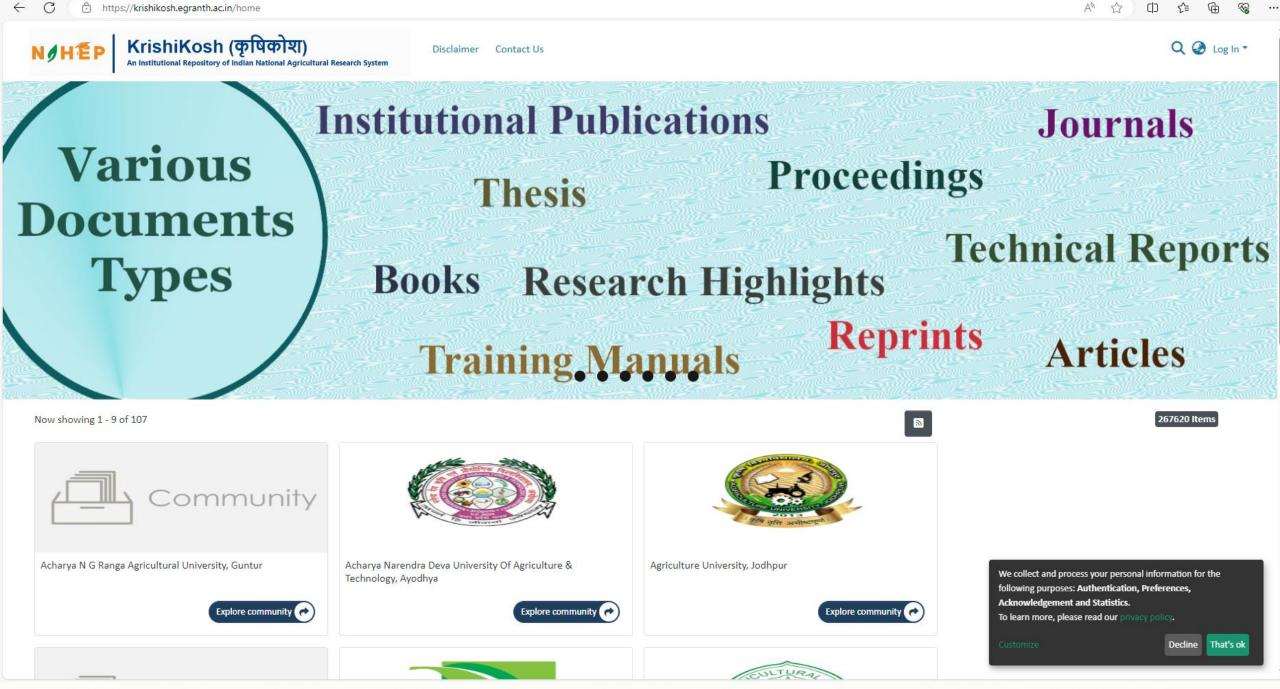
- India is at the forefront in ETD initiatives.
- India has over 59 ETD repositories.
- INFLIBNET is leading the efforts at the national level to provide access to Ph.D. theses, awarded in the Universities, S&T Institutions including CFTIs through Shodhganga.
- The recent developments from the ministry (MoE) have encouraged CFTI institutions to deposit their Ph.D. theses to Shodhganga repository. Accordingly:
 - 21 IITs have contributed over 10000+ theses, 10 IIMs have contributed over 400+ theses, IISc has contributed over 1216+ theses and 4 IISERs have contributed over 850+ theses.
- ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute has hosted the institutional repository of National Agricultural Research System in India (Krishikosh) which covers the 1,50,000 theses and dissertations.

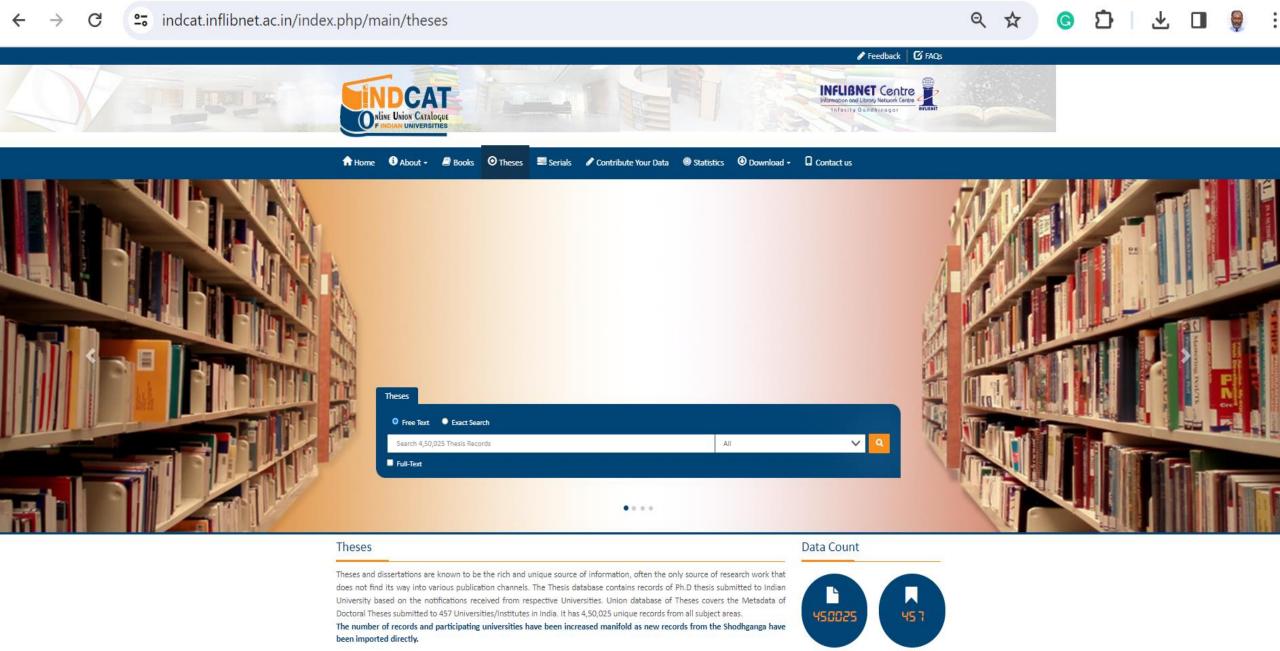
ETD Initiatives - In India

Metadata Sources	No. of Records
ShodhGanga	4,90,637
Shodhgangotri (Research in Progress/Synopses)	12,875
KrishiKosh	1,50,000
IndCat: Online Catalogue of Theses (Metadata)	4,50,025
Database of Theses and Dissertations - DELNET (Metadata)	1,40,195









https://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in/index.php/main/theses

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Union Catalogue of Books

DELNET maintains an online union catalogue of books available in its member-libraries. This union catalogue is continuously updated and is growing in size. The information can be retrieved by author, title, subject, conference, series, etc. It has 3,85,30,225 bibliographic records. The request for inter-library loan can be placed through the online system.

Union List of Current Periodicals

DELNET has created union lists of current periodicals in science and technology, social sciences and humanities. This database is available online to DELNET users. It now lists 1,10,507 periodicals and is regularly updated and new titles are added annually. It is a major resource for Document Delivery Services.

Union Catalogue of Periodicals

DELNET maintains a union catalogue of periodicals, which contains full holdings data of the libraries. At present, the database contains 28,543 records.

Union List of Video Recordings

This is a database of video cassettes available in DELNET member-libraries and has about 6,000 listings.

Union List of Sound Recordings

This union list consists of audio cassette records available in memberlibraries. This database has 1.025 records.

Database of Theses and Dissertations

A database of Theses and Dissertations submitted to Indian Universities has been started, which covers various subjects. The database has 1,40,195 records

Union List of Newspapers

The database has 70 records and contains information about the newspapers including title, name of the editor, published from, E-mail address and also the Web address of the INTERNET edition if available on the WWW.

https://delnet.in/delnet-databases.html

National Level Initiatives of ETDs - Worldwide

- Gateway to ETD collections of the nation.
- The individual nation/country has an ETD repository at the national level.
- Provides a single-point access to theses, submitted to most higher education institutions (in both full text and metadata levels).
- These initiatives are aimed at improving the accessibility and visibility of academic research.
- Most of the repositories allow harvesting of metadata by harvesters compliant with the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH).
- National-level repositories have also contributed to the metadata to the global-level repository (NDLTD global search).
- Supported by national-level foundations/networking bodies/government & other agencies

ETD Initiatives - National Level

ETDs	Country Name	No. of Records
	•	
BDTD: Brazilian Digital Theses & Dissertations	Brasil	5,60,000
China Doctoral Dissertations Full-Text Database	China	4,50,000
CiNii Dissertations	Japan	6,00,000
Diss Online	German Universities	2,84,000
Dissertations.se	Sweden	84,004
eLABa ETD	Lithuania	5,78,510
Ethos: Electronic Theses Online Service	United Kingdom	6,00,000
HKU Theses Online	Hong Kong	31,279
Japanese Institutional Repositories Online (JAIRO)	Japan	16,00,000
National Digital Library of Theses & Dissertations in Taiwan	Taiwan	46,997
NZresearch.org.nz	New Zealand	2,50,000
OhioLINK Electronic Theses & Dissertations (ETD) Center	USA	1,20,720
RCAAP - Repositório Científico de Acesso Aberto de Portugal	Portugal	28,78,748
RENATI	Peru	2,57,818
Shodhganga	India	4,89,508
TESEO	Spain	2,92,265
TesiOnline	Italy	3,972
Tesis Doctorales en Red	Spain	40,173
Tez Merkezi	Turkey	8,07,657
Theses	Canada	3,00,000
Theses France	France	5,27,339
Theseus: theses and publications of the Universities of Applied Sciences of 16th October 2023	Finland	2,59,437

















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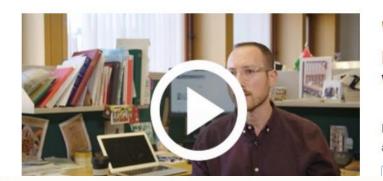


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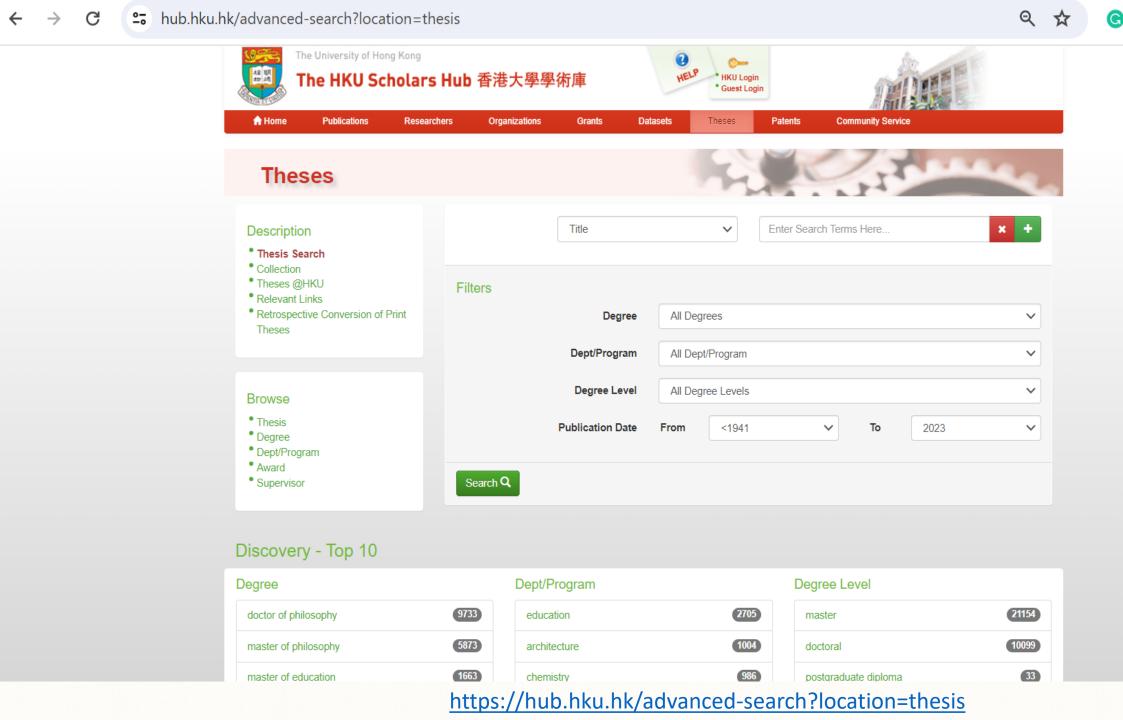
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https://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do



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Thesis (Doctoral)

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Thesis (Masters)

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Thesis (Undergraduate)

Moving image















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Recent Additions

Donberg, Ryan "Transference Interpretations, Defensive Functioning, and Immediate Client Outcomes in Psychoanalysis." Electronic Thesis or Dissertation, Xavier University, 2024.

Docilait, Naomi "Navigating Opportunities to Improve Youth Outcomes in a Least Developed Country: An Action Research Study ." Electronic Thesis or Dissertation. Antioch University, 2023.

Watson, Austin "Numerical Model of Explosive Boiling for Laser Ablation of Boron." Electronic Thesis or Dissertation. University of Akron, 2023.

Ma, Yifan "Cellular Poration-based Massive Production of Therapeutic Extracellular Vesicles for Targeting Tumor Lesions and Regenerative Medicines." Electronic Thesis or Dissertation. Ohio State University, no year provided.

Abbott, Mark "Neurophobia in Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Education: Prevalence, Contributing Factors, and Mitigation Through Supplemental E-Learning Modules." Electronic Thesis or Dissertation. Ohio State University, 2023.

Teng, James "Stability and Variability in Neural Correlates of Sustained Attention Over the Adult Lifespan." Electronic Thesis or Dissertation. Ohio State University, 2023.

Bizzarro, Melanie "Compassion Fatigue and Burnout in Animal Shelter Employees." Electronic Thesis or Dissertation. Ohio State University, 2023.

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External Resources

An A-Z list of External Resources which are available through your Reader's Ticket

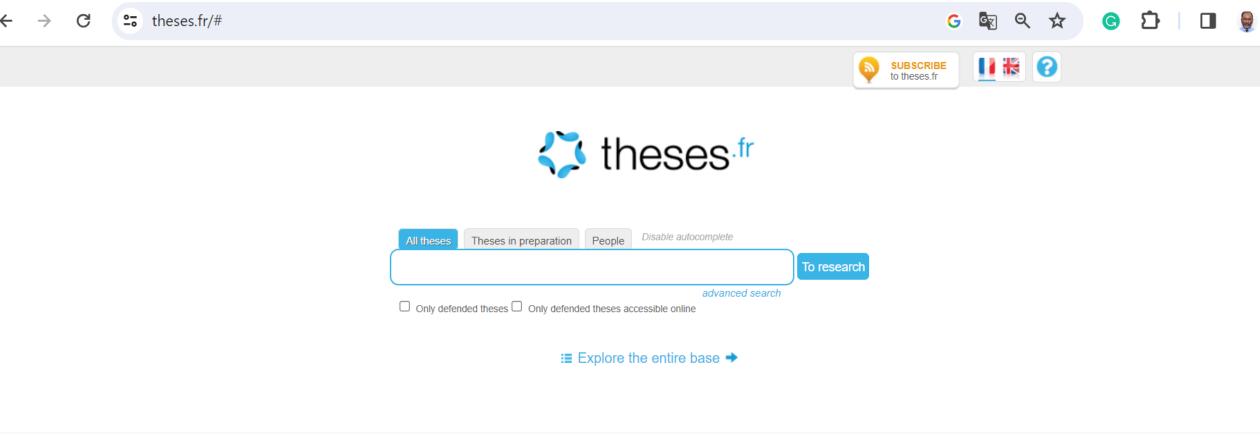
Archives and Manuscripts Just the NLW archival and manuscripts collections

Library Resources A list of websites and forms to search specific collections (eg Wills, Welsh Newspapers) 180

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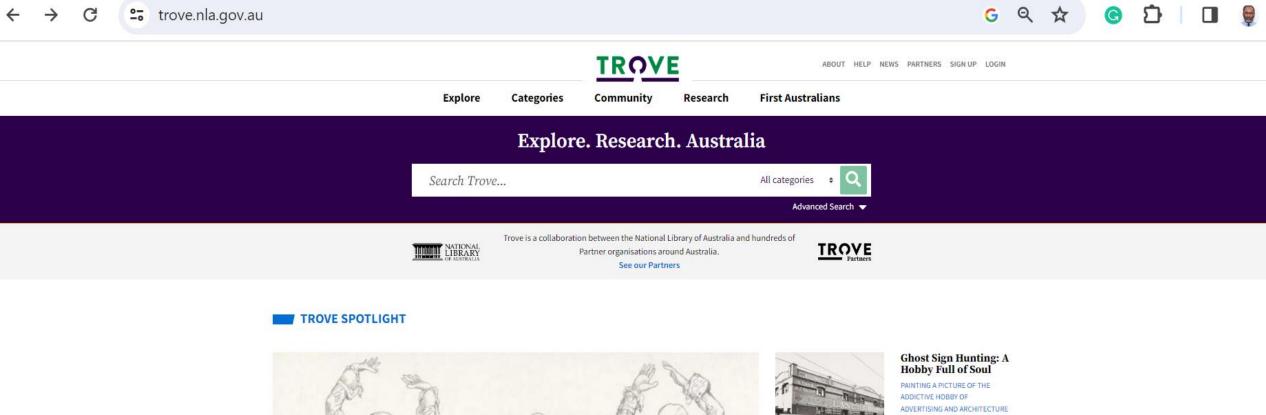


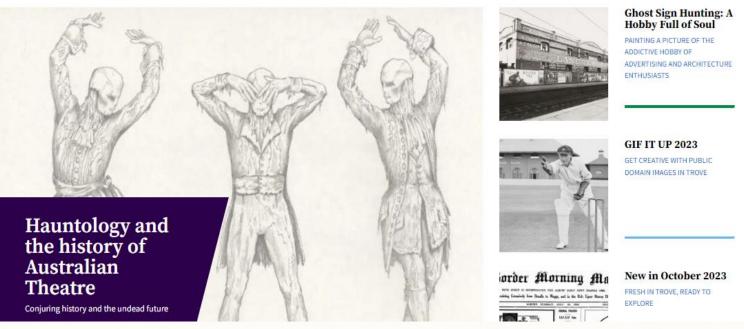


The theses.fr database is constantly evolving.
All doctoral theses defended in France since 1985 are reported.

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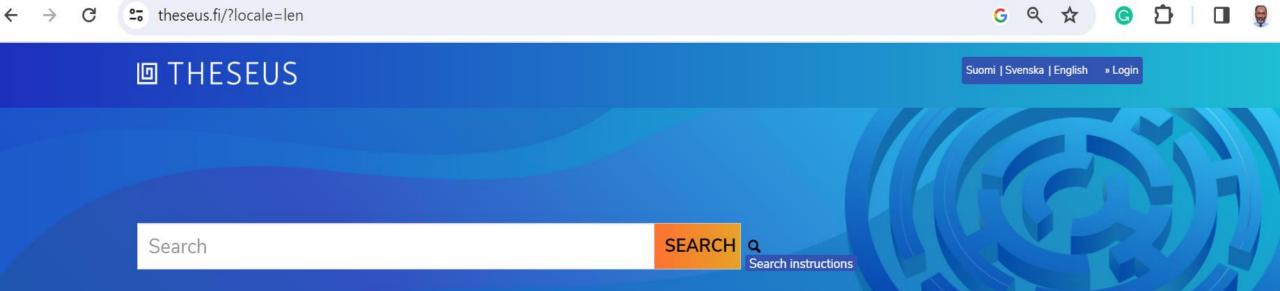
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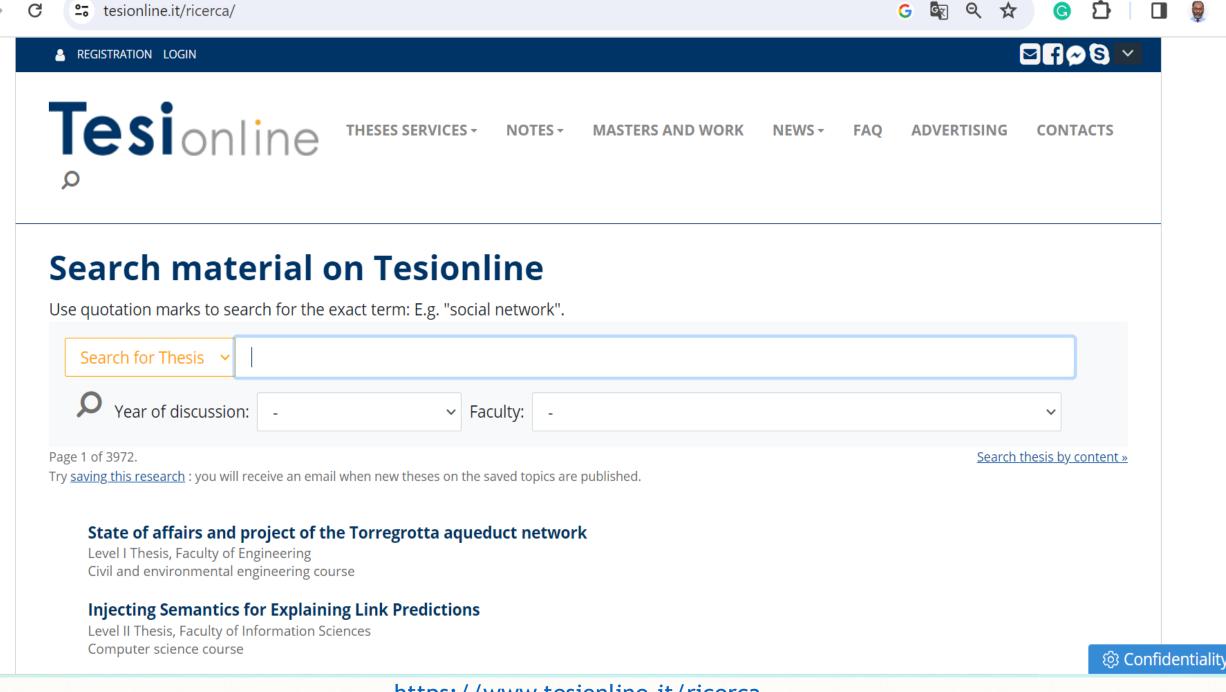
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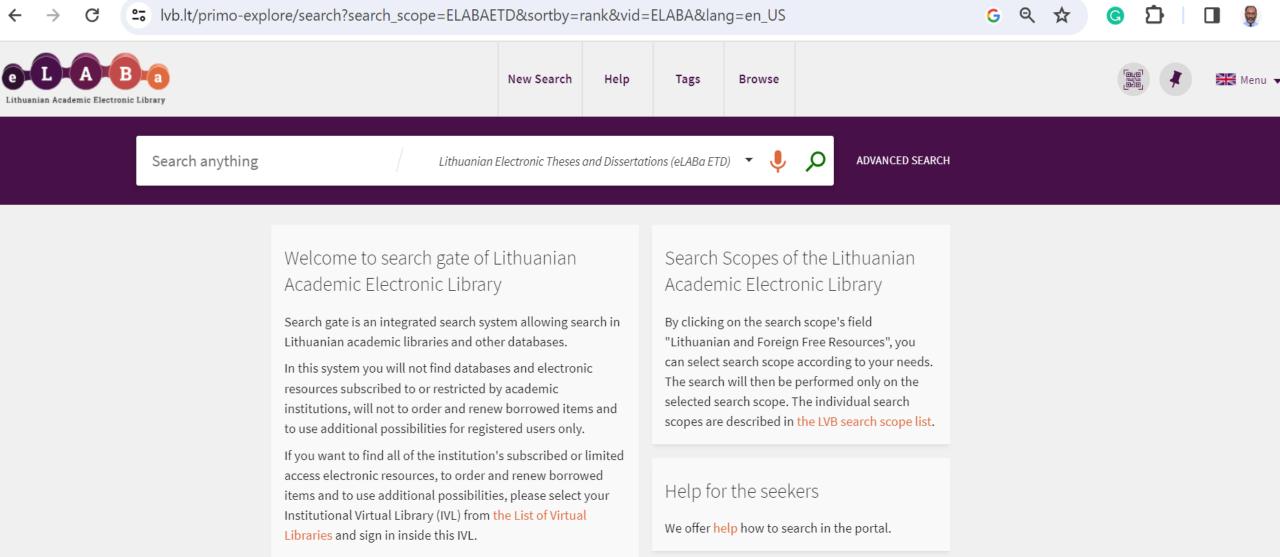


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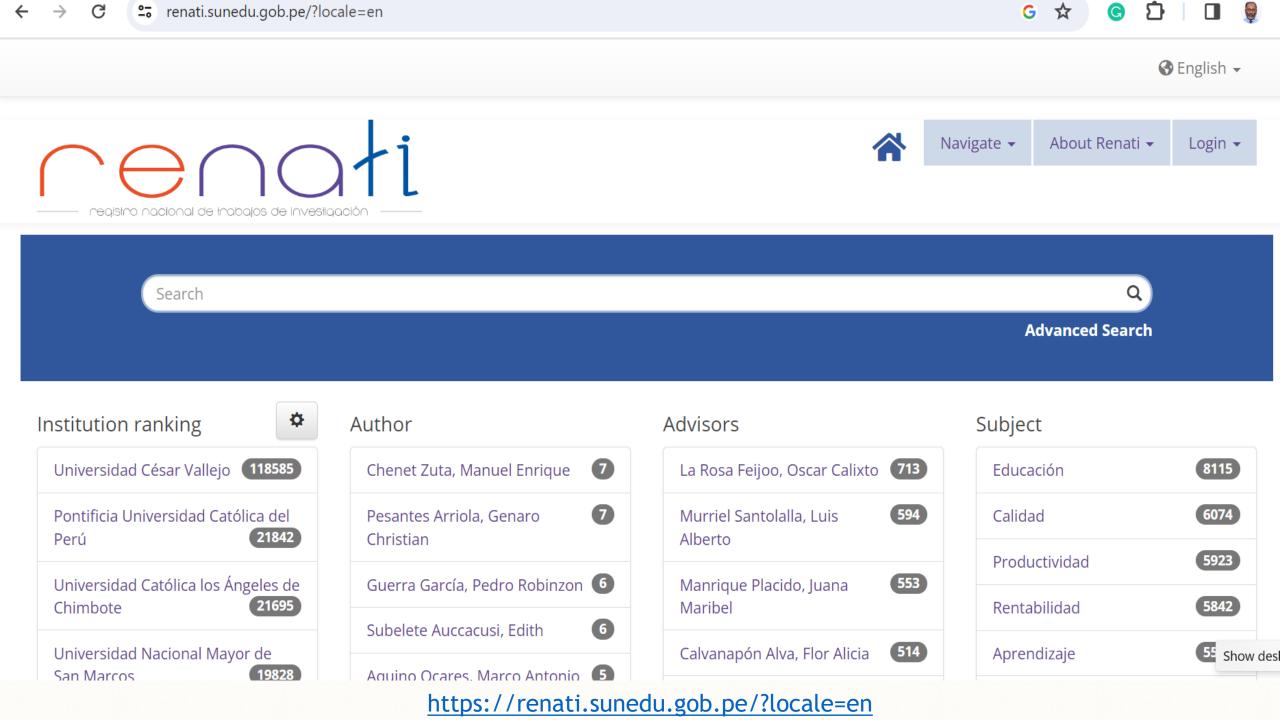
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Chinese Doctoral

Dissertations Fulltext Database (CDFD)

The database has collected dissertations covering science, engineering technologies, basic agriculture, medical science, philosophy, humanity, social sciences, and so on. As of 2022, the database has collected more than 500,000 doctoral dissertations from more than 500 institutions. (For remote access users, please log into the NLC Reader Portal to access to the resources)



Chinese Master's

Theses Full-text

Database (CMFD)

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text Database

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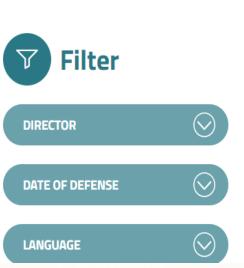
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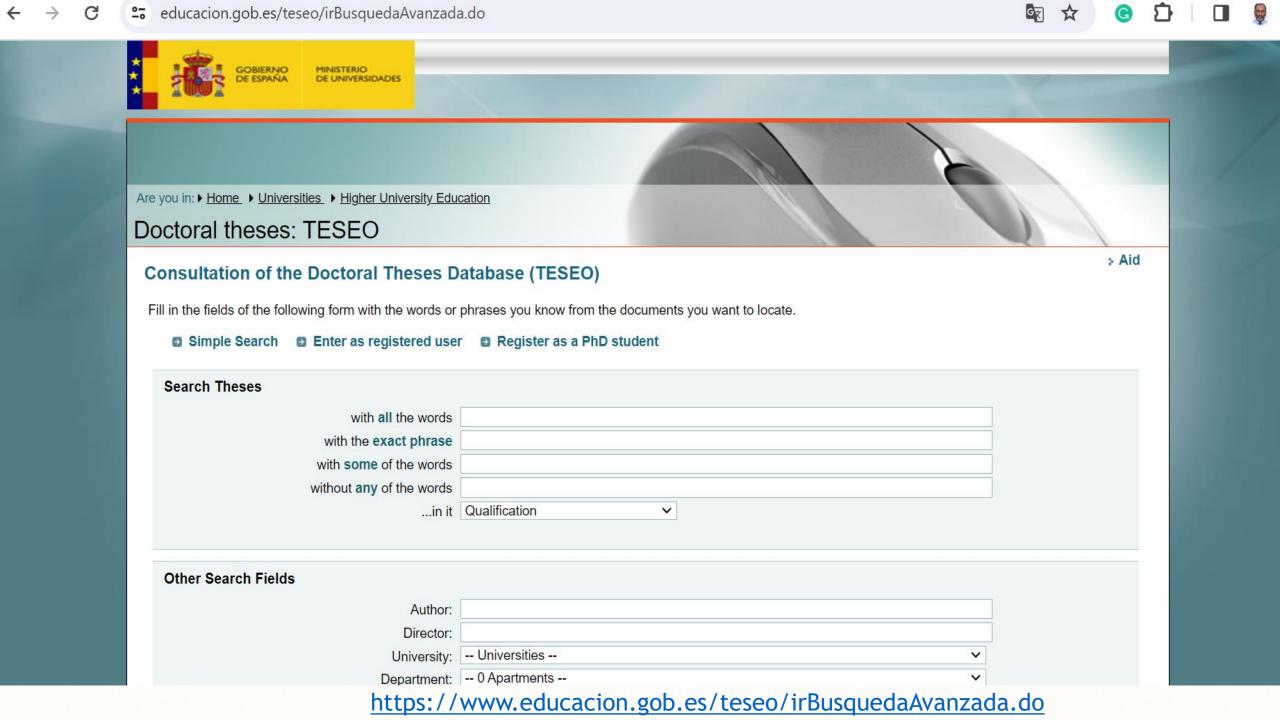






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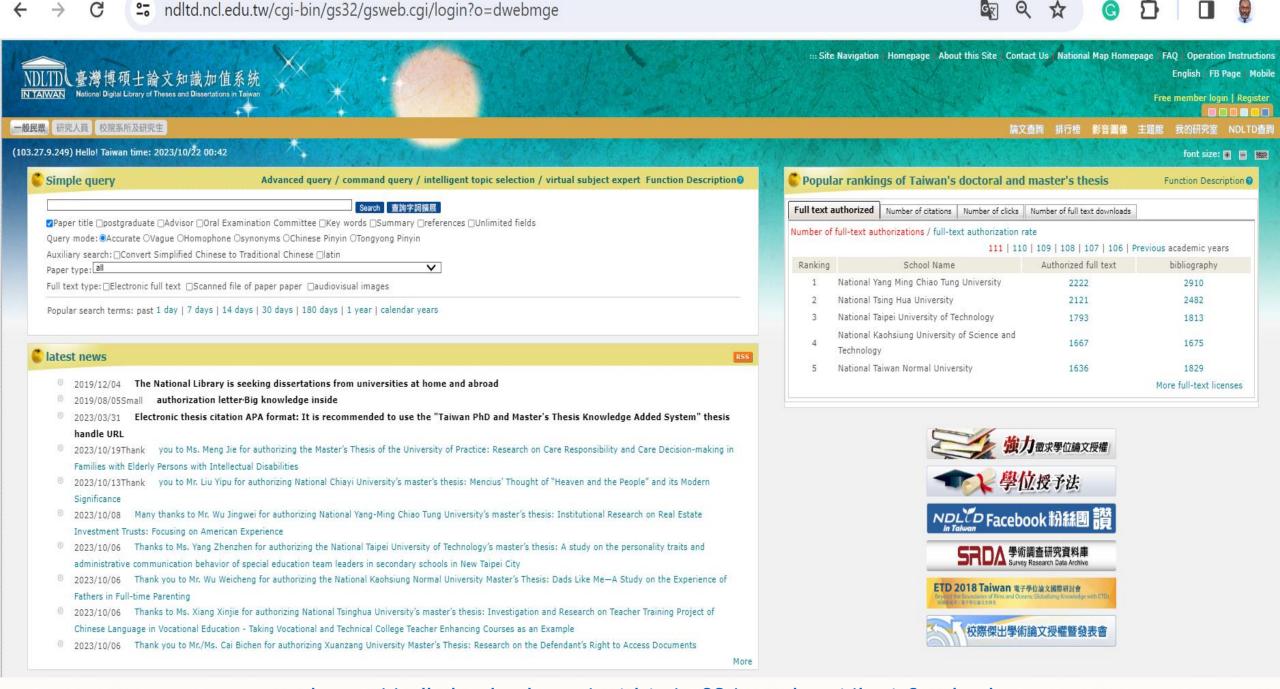
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International Level Initiatives of ETDs

- The NDLTD (Networked Digital library of Theses and Dissertations), an international organization dedicated to promoting the creation, adoption, use, dissemination, and preservation of ETDs.
- Global ETD Search platform is a joint effort of many regions/ countries/universities/consortia throughout the world under the supervision of NDLTD.
- DART-Europe E-Theses Portal Provides access to theses and dissertations of European countries
- DiVA Academic Archive On-line provides access to theses of 50 universities and research institutions from Nordic countries.
- Cyberteses A joint project of the Université de Montréal, the Université de Lyon, the Universidad de Chile, and 32 universities of Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

ETD Initiatives - International Level

ETDs Initiatives	No. of Records
Global ETD Search (NDLTD: Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations)	64,47,277
DiVA - Academic Archive On-line	4,61,460
DART- Europe E-Theses Portal	13,78,597
Cybertesis	50,000
WorldCat (Metadata)	1,12,25,898











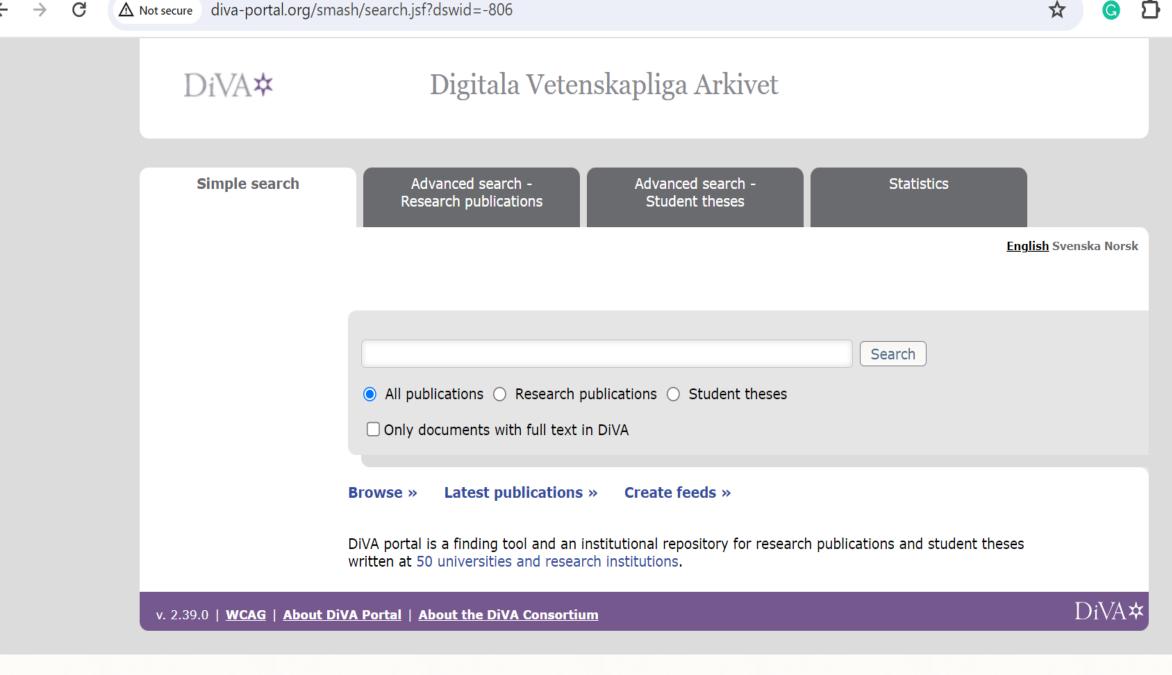
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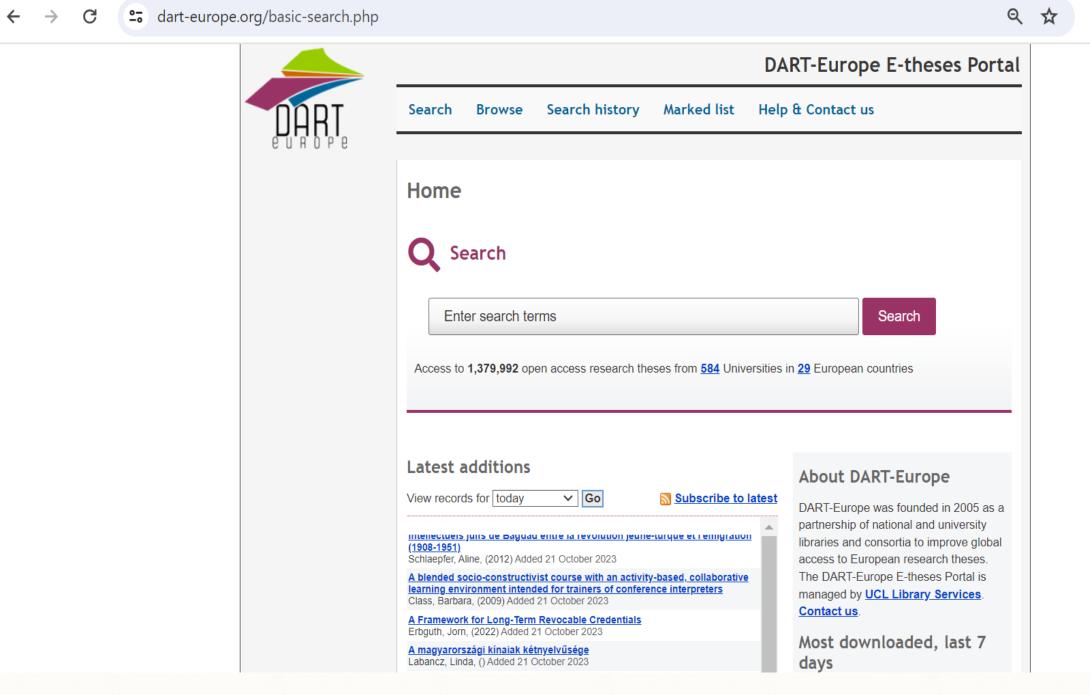
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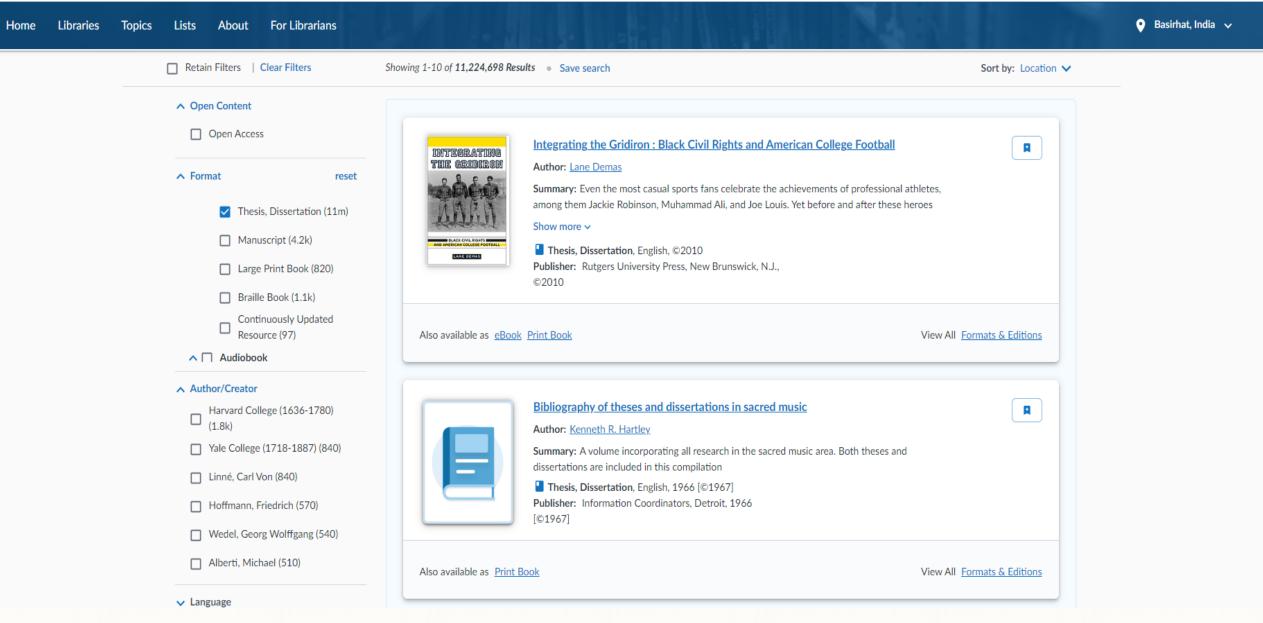




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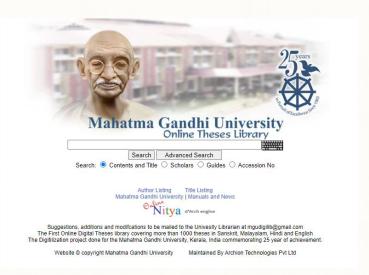
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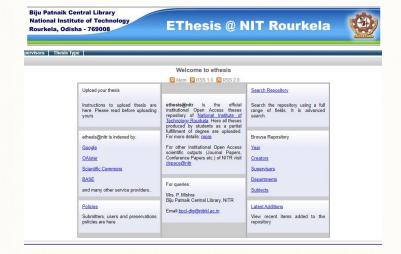


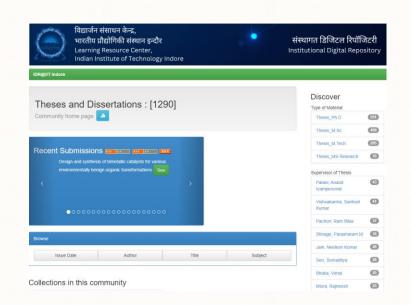
ETD Initiatives - Institutional Level (India)

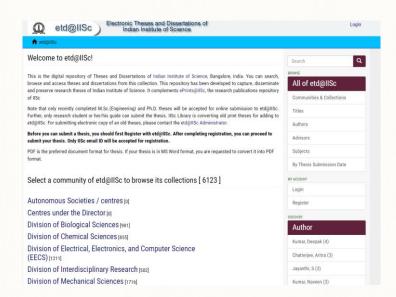
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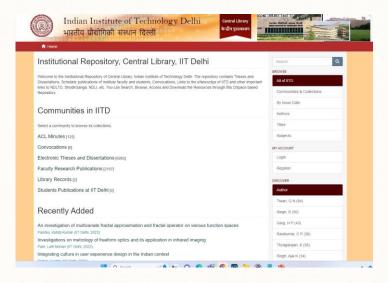


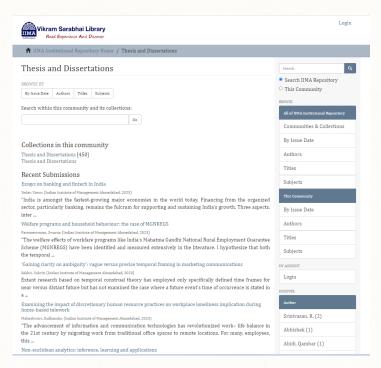




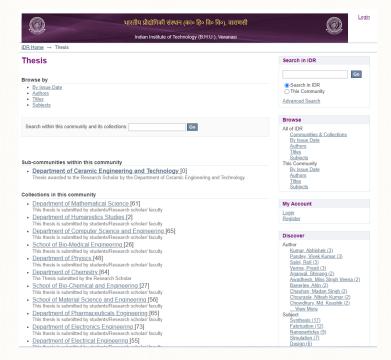


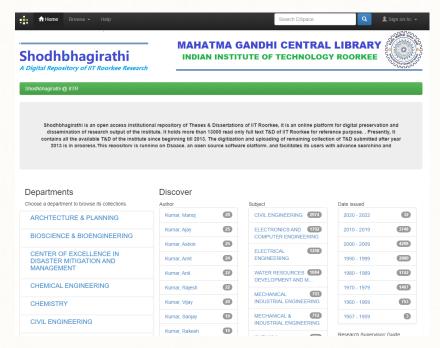


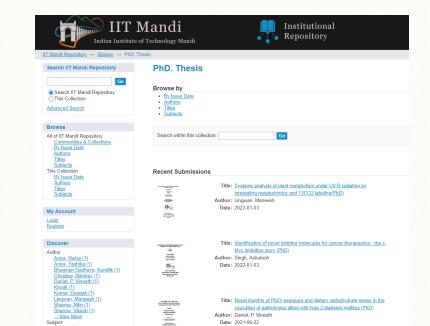


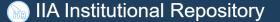












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Recently Added

Editorial: Terrestrial analogues of extraterrestrial environments: Assessing habitability and biosignatures preservation

Clarke, Jonathan; Safonova, M; Sivaram, C; Pandey, Siddharth; Blank, Jennifer G. (Frontiers, 2022-11)

Tales from India. 1: Meteor showers in classical and colonial sources

Kapoor, R. C (University of Science and Technology of China, 2022-09)

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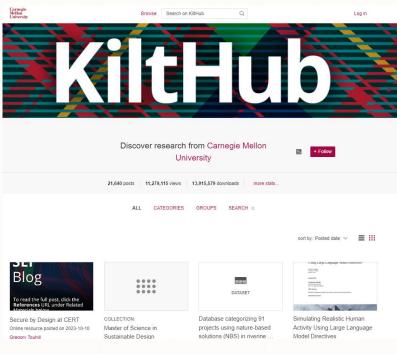
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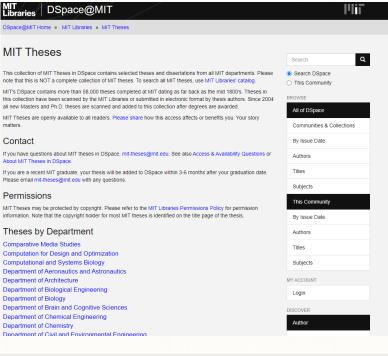
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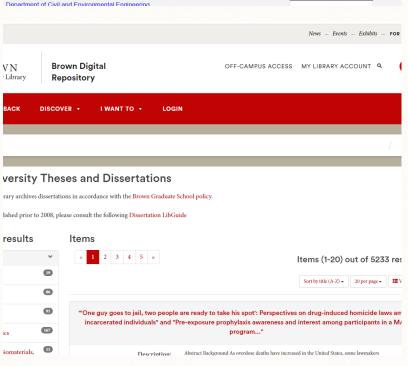
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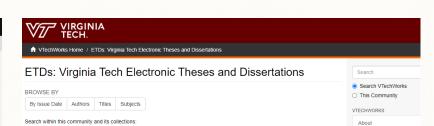
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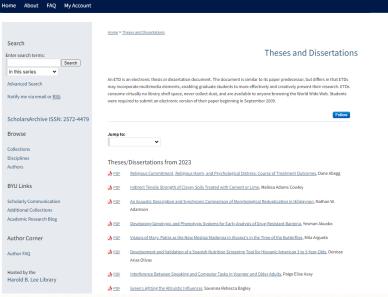
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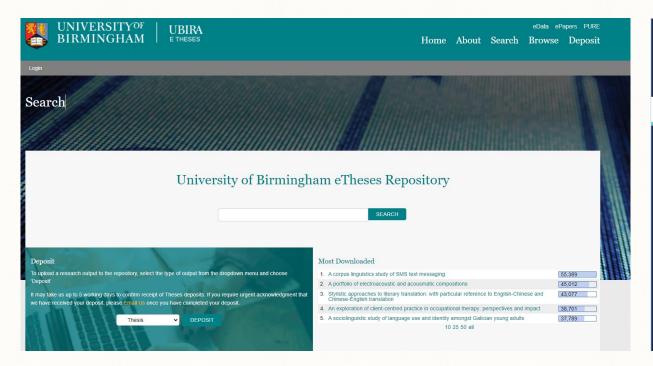
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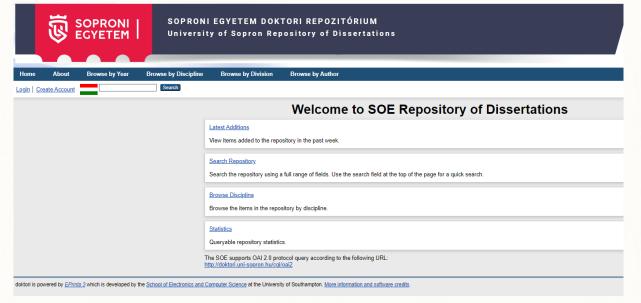
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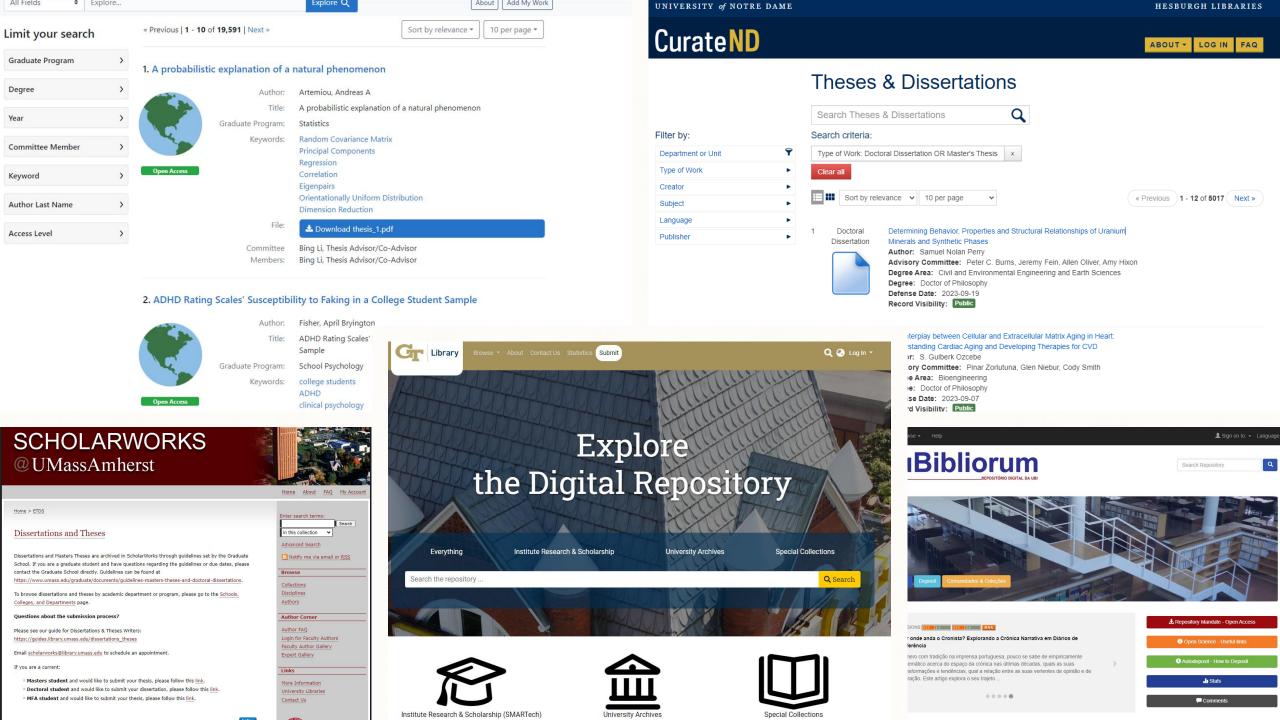
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- Uniformly expanding random walks on manifolds. Elliott Smith, Rosemary. University of Chicago.
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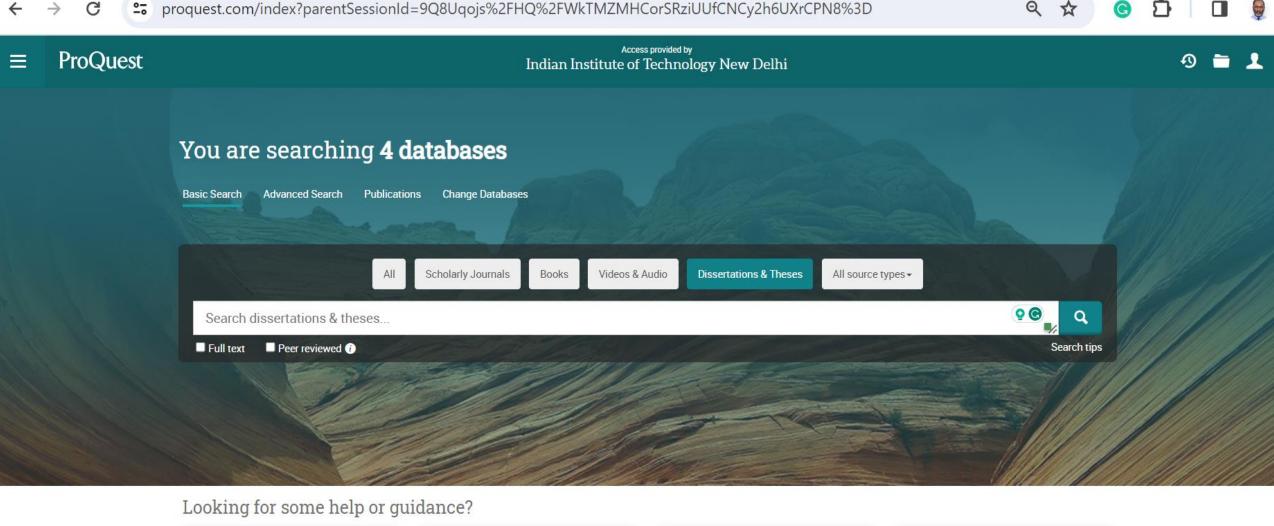
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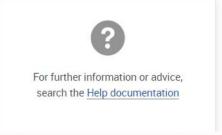
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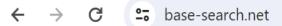








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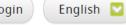
















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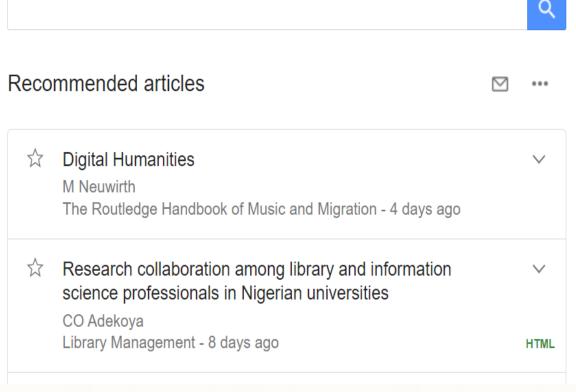


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Summing Up

- ETDs are transforming the scholarly communication landscape through knowledge creation and sharing for industrialization and modernization.
- The establishment of ETD repositories is growing continuously.
- Nobel number of ETD initiatives have come up at the national, international and institutional levels.
- Nowadays, ETDs represent a significant part of references in academic publications.
- However, compared to research articles published in academic journals, ETDs are considered second-level information because they generally do not undergo rigorous peer review and are produced early in the academic career.
- ETDs have productive research results on specific research problems.
- Academic institutions are developing ETDs linked with innovation hubs, while academic libraries are exploring emerging genres like linked data to improve discoverability.

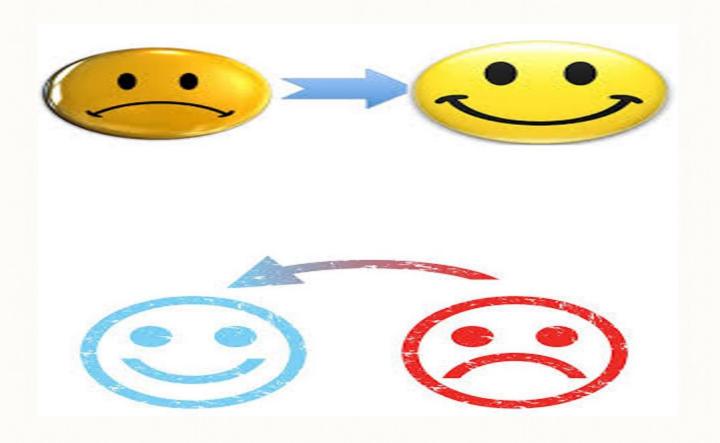
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