Current Status of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in Shodhganga by State Universities in West Bengal

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Background

Theses and dissertations (TDs) have served as an essential source of information. For academicians and research scholars but at the same least utilized. Their under-utilization is due to either unawareness about their existence or because of their accessibility issues. But with the advent of the internet and its related technology libraries have also executed these technologies for upgrading their services and work. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are one such technology that is a digital representation of conventional TDs. It is the same as its paper counterpart in content and organization. Ph.D. theses can be quite challenging to find since they are exclusively held in the university library that awarded the degree. On the other hand, electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) are conveniently accessible online, making them easily discoverable and available, to anyone, through the Internet.

The UGC Notification of 2009 which was later amended on May 2016 marked a milestone. It requires researchers, in universities to submit Electronic versions of their theses and dissertations to a digital repository called Shodhganga hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre. The purpose is to enable access to theses and dissertations for the global academic community. This initiative aims to promote quality research and address issues related to research duplication.

Definition

"Electronic thesis and dissertations" should apply to any thesis or dissertation that is submitted,

archived and distributed solely or at least primarily in an electronic format". (**Matthew G.**

Kirschenbaum)

"ETD program gives procedure, standards and software to automate functions, and additionally a digital infrastructure for access and preservation of theses and dissertations." (**Lippincott, 2006)**

Need of the study

West Bengal is having the second-highest number of state universities in India after Karnataka. Presently there are 37 State universities out of which 16 are having 2(f) status and 21 are having12(B) status. Apart from this, there are 1 Central University, 2 Deemed Universities 11 State private universities, and 552 Colleges (77 Government and 473 non-government) as per the data available on UGC's official Website.

The above fact motivated the author to analyze the contribution of ETDs in Shodhganga by the state universities of West Bengal.

Introduction

➢ An ETD program gives procedures, standards, and software to automate functions, and additionally a digital infrastructure for access and preservation of theses and dissertations (Lippincott, 2006)

➢ The aim of this study is to assess the status of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), from state universities in West Bengal. These ETDs are stored in an open-access repository called Shodhganga, hosted and maintained by INFLIBNET.

➢ In West Bengal, there are currently 37 state universities, out of which 20 have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with INFLIBNET. However, only 17 of these universities have actually submitted their ETDs to the repository.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the current status of EDTs of the State Universities of West Bengal in Shodhganga. Along with this the additional goals are as follows-:

➢Ranking of West Bengal State Universities according to the number of ETDs they have contributed to Shodhganga.

➢To identify the department in Shodhganga that has the most ETDs across all state universities in West Bengal.

➢To rank the department from each University based on their ETDs contribution in Shodhganga.

➢To identify the language-wise distribution of the ETDs and rank them.

Methodology

A web-based survey was conducted to collect the data from the Shodhganga Website and the UGC official website. The present study follows the below-mentioned steps:

Step 1 - List of all State Universities in West Bengal has been retrieved from UGC official website on 29-07-2023.

Step 2 - From the Shodhganga official website, universities that have an MoU with INFLIBNET were recognized.

Step 3- Each institution that has signed an MoU with INLIBNET was counted separately for their ETDs contribution on Shodhganga Website by observation method. The metadata records such as Language, departments were counted too within each university on the Shodhganga website and recorded in MS Excel under the category; Total ETDs contribution, department wise ETDs contribution and language wise ETDs contribution for each participating university.

Methodology

Step 1   UGC's official website was searched

37 state Universities were found In West Bengal

https://www.ugc.gov.in/centraluniversity.aspx?type=2

Step 2   20 Universities were identified
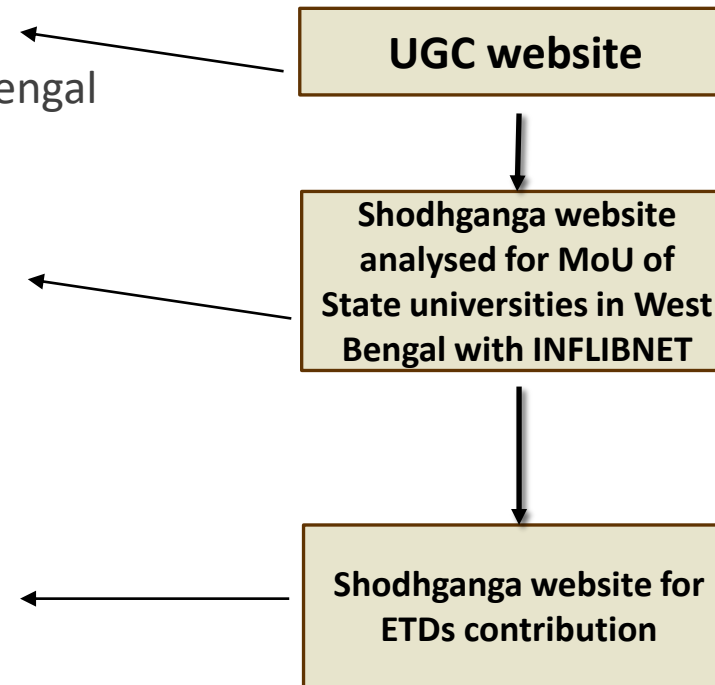
(http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/newmoredetails/mou.html)

Step 3   ETDs contributions

Were counted for each university

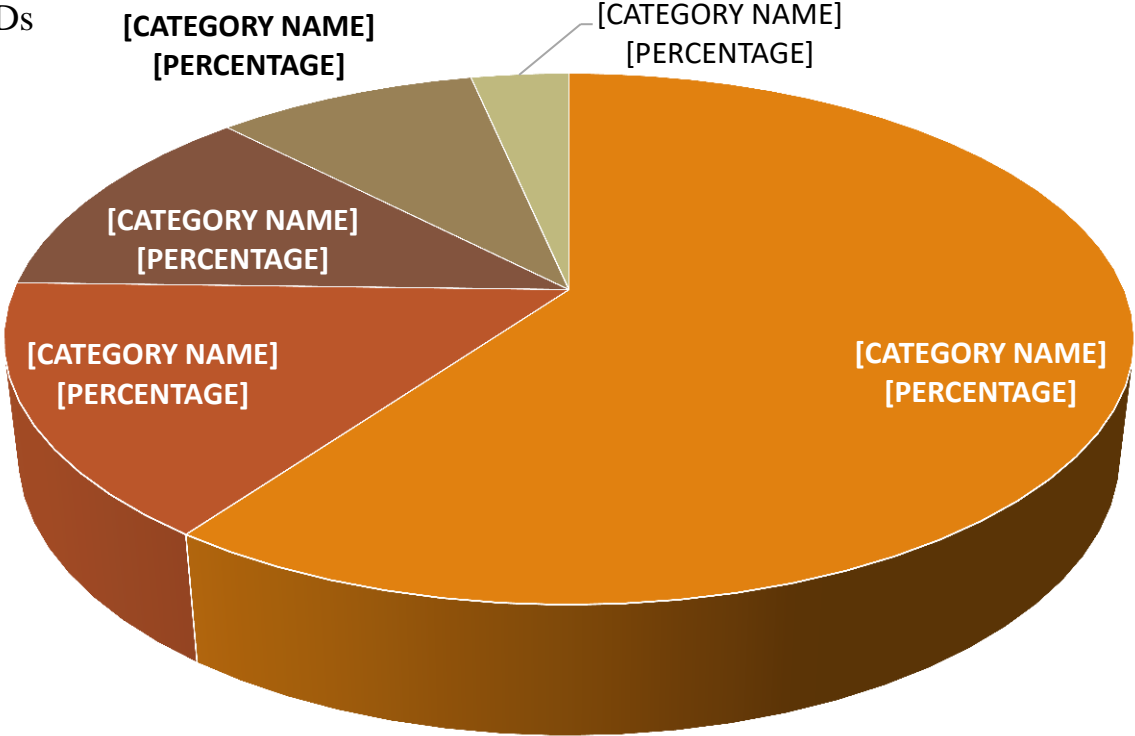(*Overall, Language wise,*

Department wise contributions)

UGC website

Shodhganga website analysed for MoU of State universities in West Bengal with INFLIBNET

Shodhganga website for ETDs contribution

Contribution of ETDs by the State Universities of West Bengal in Shodhganga

S.N.	University	No. of Theses Uploaded	Rank
1	Calcutta University (CU)	13850	1st
2	Jadavpur University (JU)	3575	2nd
3	Kalyani University (KLU)	2837	3rd
4	North Bengal University (NBU)	2066	4th
5	Vidyasagar University (VDU)	773	5th
6	Rabindra Bharti University (RBU)	188	6th
7	Raiganj University (RU)	129	7th
8	Sidho- Kanho Birsha University (SKBU)	100	8th
11	Presidency University (PU)	82	9th
10	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT)	51	10th
12	The WB National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS)	33	11th
13	Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University (CBPU)	31	12th
12	Bankura university (BKU)	22	13th
14	Kazi Nazrul University (KNU)	14	14th
9	University of Gour Banga (GBU)	12	15th

Top 5 Universities share of ETDs
In Shodhganga

Language-wise distribution

University	Languages									Total Contributions
	English	Bengali	Sanskrit	Hindi	Urdu	Nepali	Santali	Spanish	Others	
CU (13850)	12936	96	19	51	26	-	-	-	713	13841*
JU (3575)	3289	241	11	-	-	-	-	-	34	3575
KLU(2837)	2485	87	-	1	-	-	-	1	257	3831*
NBU (2066)	1794	232	-	30	-	10	-	-	-	2066
VDU (774)	678	79	-	10	-	-	5	-	1	773*
RBU (188)	79	105	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	188
SKBU (100)	69	24	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	100
GBU (12)	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
MAKUT (51)	50	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
PU (82)	65	11	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	82
BKU (22)	15	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
CBPBU(31)	22	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
KNU (14)	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
NBSOU (1)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
DHWU (1)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
WBNUJS(33)	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Total	21541	892	42	99	26	10	5	1	1005	23750

Language-wise distribution

Language	No. of ETDs	Rank
English	21641	1st
Bengali	915	2nd
Sanskrit	48	3rd
Hindi	99	4th
Urdu	26	5th
Nepali	10	6th
Santali	5	7th
Spanish	1	8th
Others	1005	
Total	**23750**	

Department-wise contribution

University/ contribution	Rank	Department	contributions
CU (13850)	1st	**Science**	2230 (16.10%)
	2nd	Bio-Chemistry	832 (6.01%)
	3rd	Botany	675 (4.87%)
JU (3575)	1st	**Chemistry**	205 (5.83%)
	2nd	Economics & Physics	156 (4.44%)
	3rd	Mathematics	150 (4.26%)
KLU (2837)	1st	**Zoology**	375 (13.22%)
	2nd	Chemistry	370 (13.04%)
	3rd	Botany	292 (10.29%)
NBU (2066)	1st	**Chemistry**	300 (14.52%)
	2nd	Bengali	234 (11.33%)
	3rd	Botany	182 (8.81%)
VDU (774)	1st	**Bengali**	73 (9.43%)
	2nd	Chemistry & Chemical Technology	72 (9.30%)
	3rd	plied Mathematics with Oceanlogy & Computer Programm	60 (7.75%)
RBU (188)	1st	**Bengali**	33 (17.55%)
	2nd	History	22 (11.70%)
	3rd	Sanskrit	18 (9.57%)

University/ contribution	Rank	Department	contributions Share
RU (129)	1st	**Bengali**	22 (17.05%)
	2nd	Mathematics	18 (13.95%)
	3rd	Geography	17 (13.18%)
SKBU (100)	1st	**Bengali**	19 (19%)
	2nd	Sanskrit	13 (13%)
	3rd	Education	9 (9%)
GBU (12)	1st	**Education & Geography**	4 (33.33%)
	2nd	Mathematics	2 (16.67%)
	3rd	Botany & English	1 (8.33%)
MAKAUT (51)	1st	**School Engineering & Technology**	20 (39.22%)
	2nd	School Management and Sciences	9 (17.65%)
	3rd	Pharmaceutical Science and Technology	8 (15.69%)
PU (82)	1st	**Life Sciences**	26 (31.71%)
	2nd	Bengali & Physics	11 (13.41%)
	3rd	Chemistry	10 (12.20%)
BKU (22)	1st	**Bengali & Education**	5 (22.73%)
	2nd	Law	4 (18.18%)
	3rd	English & Sanskrit	2 (9.09%)
CBPBU (31)	1st	**Bengali**	9 (40.91%)
	2nd	Geography	7 (31.82%)
	3rd	History	4 (18.18%)
KNU (14)	1st	**English**	6 (42.86%)
	2nd	Political Science	4 (28.57%)
	3rd	Bengali & Mathematics	2 (14.29%)

Results

➢There are **37 State Universities** in West Bengal among which only **20 University have MoU** with INFLIBNET and out of 20 only **17 Universities have submitted ETDs** in Shodhganga.

➢ Among 17 Universities the **highest number of ETDs were deposited by CU (i.e., 13850)** in which the **Department of Science contributed the highest number of ETDs (i.e., 2230) thereby securing 1st rank,**

➢ The **second highest number of ETDs was deposited by JU (i.e., 3575)** in which the Department of Chemistry deposited highest no. of 205 (5.83%) ETDs and secured 1st rank.

➢The **third-highest number of ETDs were deposited by KLU (i.e., 2837)** in which the Department of

Zoology has submitted the most of ETDs i.e., 375 (13.22%).

➢ A total of **6 languages were identified** i.e., English, Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Sanskrit, and Urdu. The

highest number of ETDs are deposited in the English language i.e., 21641.

➢ Shodhganga **does not mention the language of 1005 ETDs**. They are categorized under "**Others"**

metadata in Shodhganga repository. Netaji Subhash Chandra Open University (NBSOU) is not found in the

MoU list besides the fact that it has 1 ETD contribution.

<u>Conclusion</u>

➢ The present study shows that despite such efforts made by UGC only 20 (54.05%) State Universities out of 37 total Universities in West Bengal, have MoU with INFLIBNET

➢ only 17(45.9%) have submitted their ETDs in Shodhganga and about 45.9 % of the total universities i.e., 17 Universities have even not even signed MoU with INFLIBNET.

➢ This study would motivate such types of universities to take the necessary steps in their policy for agreement with INFLIBNET for submitting their ETDs and the existing Universities in Shodhganga to actively submit their ETDs. Apar from this from actively submitting EDTs in Shodhganga, NAAC and NIRF accreditation bodies should also offer some credentials.