

Role of ETD repository in the university libraries of Assam

By

Sukanya Pathak

Library Assistant (Technical)

Assam Science and Technology University

Objectives

- To examine the evolution and progress of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in the prominent university libraries of Assam
- To evaluate the contribution of Assam's University Libraries to Shodhganga through Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs).
- To show the development of Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETD's) which is playing a crucial role in transforming learning, research and all aspect of scholarly communication in the libraries of Assam.
- To show that the ETD repositories are transforming the scholarly research through digital communication among the academic institutions and their scholars in libraries of Assam.
- The different universities of Assam, like the Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Tezpur University, Assam University and others have gradually signed an MOU with Shodhganga and have been contributing towards the archival of digital theses and dissertations.
- The research paper gives an overview of the quality of research as improved by the ETD in prominent university libraries across Assam

Scope and Limitation

- The current paper presents an overview of the evolution, progress, and management of Electronic Theses (E-Theses) repositories in university libraries across Assam. It offers an evaluative analysis of the commitment of Assam's university libraries to Shodhganga@inflibnet.ac.in, focusing on the integration of ETDs.
- Among the numerous universities in the region, only six have actively contributed to ETDs, while the rest have not made significant contributions. This disparity could be attributed to factors such as their relative newness or recent entry into the realm of research and innovation

Methodology

- Data were gathered through email correspondence and telephonic interviews with librarians from various universities in Assam.
- Data for this paper were sourced from the INFLIBNET website, specifically Shodhganga@inflibnet Centre (<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in>).

Universities of Assam that contributed to Shodhganga: (as on 17.08.2023)

| Name of Universities | No of thesis | % of total |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Gauhati University (GU) | 6224 | 1.3% |
| Assam University (AU) | 1986 | 0.45% |
| Dibrugarh University (DU) | 898 | 0.18% |
| Tezpur University (TU) | 820 | 0.17% |
| Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) | 123 | 0.03% |
| Assam Agriculture University (AGU) | 107 | 0.02% |

Analysis

- The table reveals that only six universities in Assam have actively made significant contributions to Shodhganga, with Gauhati University leading the way in terms of the number of theses submitted.
- Notably, Gauhati University (GU) has made the most substantial contribution, with 6,224 theses (1.30%), followed closely by Assam University (AU) with 2,150 theses (0.45%), Dibrugarh University (DU) with 898 theses (0.18%), Tezpur University (TU) with 820 theses (0.17%). Assam Don Bosco University contributed 123 theses (0.03%), and Assam Agricultural University (AAU) contributed 107 theses (0.02)

Contribution of Universities by field of studies

| S.No | DEPARTMENTS | GU | TU | DU | AU | ADU | AAU |
|------|--|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 1 | Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities | 2738 | 124 | 360 | 1310 | 65 | 25 |
| 2 | Faculty of Science | 2635 | 484 | 374 | 654 | 15 | 71 |
| 3 | Faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences | 58 | 00 | 64 | 00 | 00 | 02 |
| 4 | Faculty of Commerce & Management | 267 | 59 | 86 | 138 | 17 | 02 |
| 5 | Faculty of Law | 117 | 00 | 00 | 14 | 00 | 00 |
| 6 | Faculty of Engineering & Technology | 409 | 153 | 14 | 34 | 26 | 07 |

Analysis

- The collected data are categorized into six broad areas, providing a comprehensive breakdown of the subject-wise contributions to Shodhganga's database by university libraries in Assam. Notably, certain universities have recorded zero submissions in specific subject areas such as Medical Science and Law.
- Subsequently, we endeavored to compare the subject areas across the six universities, aiming to highlight their respective developments more prominently.

Universities of Assam with less contribution to Shodhganga (till 17th August ,2023)

| S.No | Name of university | Mou Signed | Thesis Submitted |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Bodoland University | 8 th September 2015 | 89 |
| 2 | Assam Down Town University | 28 th April, 2018 | 64 |
| 3 | Cotton Univeristy | 10 th October 2018 | 15 |
| 4 | National Law University and Judicial Academy | 30 th May 2019 | 9 |
| 5 | Assam Kaziranga University | 28 th September 2020 | 5 |
| 6 | Assam Science and Technology University | 24 th October 2019 | 2 |

University of Assam which not made any contributions to Shodhganga (till 17th August , 2023

| Si No. | Name of the University | Year of Establishment | Status | Remarks |
|--------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. | Majuli University of Culture | 2018 | State University | MOU signed 25 th May, 2023 |
| 2. | Assam Royal Global University | 2009 | Private University | MOU signed 11 th March, 2023 |
| 3. | Srimanta Sankardeva University of Health Sciences. | 2009 | State University | |
| 4. | Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya | 2012 | Private University | MOU signed 3 rd December, 2019 |
| 5. | Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies | 2011 | | MOU signed 3 rd December, 2019 |
| 6. | Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-operative Management, Sivasagar | 2010 | State University | MOU signed 10 th October, 2020 |
| 7. | Bhattadev University | 2017 | State University | |
| 8. | Rabindranath Tagore University | 2019 | State University | |
| 9. | Kumar Bhaskar Verma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University, | 2011 | State University | |
| 10. | Madhabdev University | 2017 | State University | |
| 11. | Assam Women's University | 2013 | State University | |

Highest Access of Phd Theses from Gauhati University in the world through PQDT in the year 2017

| Author | Subject | Title | Rank : World |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Dr. Bidyut Jyoti Sarmah | Chemistry | Chemical composition of the Street dust of Guwahati with special reference to speciation of the heavy metals. | 1 st |
| Dr. Phani Dutta | Environmental Science | Studies on the physico chemical characteristics of surface water, Sediment and groundwater and bioaccumulation of heavy metals in Eichhornia crassipes of Greater Guwahati | 3rd |

Practical Implications

- From the paper it can be drawn that ETDs are playing one of the major roles in the field of research and communication. It is enabling the distribution of specific content of university generated knowledge. The advent of ETDs has resulted in preservation, while concurrently leading to a substantial influx of user data from diverse and extensive geographical locations.
- Based on the data and discussions presented earlier, it is evident that researchers derive significant benefits from the timely accessibility of content offered by ETDs.
- Uploading of research outputs into ETDs have made the research acclaim national as well as international recognition and are also connecting researchers with common research interests. The caliber and volume of research output obtained from ETDs also have a significant influence on determining university rankings, both on a domestic and global scale.

Conclusion

- ETDs by enabling the distribution of intellectual production worldwide are ensuring such accessibility and utility of research work for further research output. In India, Shodhganga INFLIBNET is an initiative by the Indian Government (MHRD) to be a part of such a digitization.
- The K.K.Handiqui Library is playing a major role to promote the digitization and uploading of Research content that will improve the quality of Research. In light of this discussion, we have emphasized the ethical considerations surrounding Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) and their profound impact on research and development within the university libraries of Assam.
- The heightened accessibility and visibility of research materials facilitated by ETDs in these libraries are garnering increased recognition and are significantly bolstering research efforts by offering swift access to valuable resource
- By implementing comprehensive awareness programs, robust training initiatives, and providing substantial financial support, we can foster the growth and development of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) repositories within the University libraries of Assam, ensuring their success and sustainability.