

## Shodhganga: Reservoir of Indian Theses: A boon for Research Scholars

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### Abstract

Theses and dissertation are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source of research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. Theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the anti-theses of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial. In this paper examines the Electronic thesis and Dissertation (ETDs) deposited at INFLIBNET Shodhganga project by Indian Universities. It is found that 99994 + theses have been deposited on various disciplines by 260 universities. The 3485 synopses were uploaded in the Shodhganga project. In this paper analysed top ten universities contributing electronic theses, year wise contribution and top viewed theses in the database.

**KeyWords:** Shodhganga, Electronic thesis and Dissertation (ETDs)

### Introduction

India is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of human resources. Since independence, the country has achieved a steady growth in the field of higher education and research. Many Indian education institutions have gained global reputation by their quality and unique research outputs. Ranked third largest education system in the world, India has 42 Central Universities, 275 State Universities, 130 Deemed Universities and 90 Private Universities. The research output from these higher education institutes contributes much for the development of the country. For organizing valuable research outputs from the universities across the country, the University Grants Commission has made a unique facility called "Shodhganga" a online reservoir of theses. This article attempts an investigation into the contents, contribution and usage analysis of Shodhganga online repository.

### Shodhganga

Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source of research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. Theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the anti-theses of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial

The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009) dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 mandates submission of electronic version of theses and dissertation by the researchers in universities with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertation to the academic community world-wide. Online availability of electronic theses through centrally-maintained digital repositories, not only ensure easy access and archiving of Indian doctoral theses but will also help in raising the standard and quality of research. This would overcome serious but will also help in raising the standard and quality of research. This would overcome serious problem of duplication of research and poor quality resulting from the poor visibility and the unseen factor in research output. As per the Regulation, the

responsibility of hosting, maintaining and making the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertation (called Shodhganga), accessible to all institutions and universities, is assigned to the INFLIBNET Centre.

Shodhganga is the name coined to denote digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations set up by the INFLIBNET Centre. The word Shodh originates from Sanskrit and stands for research and discovery. The Ganga is the holiest, largest and longest of all rivers in Indian subcontinent. The Ganga is the symbol of Indian's age-long culture and civilization, ever changing, ever-flowing, ever-loved and revered by its people, and has held India's heart captive and drawn uncounted millions to her banks since the dawn of history. Shodhganga stands for the reservoir of Indian intellectual output stored in a repository hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre.

The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is set up using an open source digital repository software called DSpace developed by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in partnership between Hewlett- Packard (HP). The DSpace uses internationally recognized protocols and interoperability standards. Shodhganga provides a platform for research scholars to deposit their Ph.D these and make it available to the entire scholarly communication in open access. The repository has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) submitted by the researchers.

DSpace supports Open Archives Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) and uses a qualified version of the Dublin Core schema for its metadata. The INFLIBNET Centre, promotes setting up of institutional and ETD repositories of in member universities using OAI-PMH compliant software. A number of member universities have already set-up their institutional and ETD repositories using either DSpace or other OAI-PMH compliant Institutional Repository software. It would be possible for universities wherein their research scholars could deposit e-versions of their theses and dissertations. Moreover, they can use Shodhganga to host these as backup archives. INFLIBNET

Centre, besides maintaining the Central ETD Repository (Shodhganga) would also deploy a central server to harvest the metadata from all such ETD repositories distributed in universities with an aim to provided unified access to theses and dissertations through its harvesting server.

Shodhganga replicates academic structure of each University in terms of Departments/ Centres/ Colleges each University has to facilitate ease of navigation. This structure facilitates research scholars from universities to deposit their theses in the respective Department / Centre / College. As shown in the Fig 1, option for simple search and advance search are available on the home page along with browsing facility through universities and departments. The Centre is also developing a semantic web-based interface to facilitate subject-based browsing, navigation, search and retrieval of content available in the repository. (Source: Shodhganga)

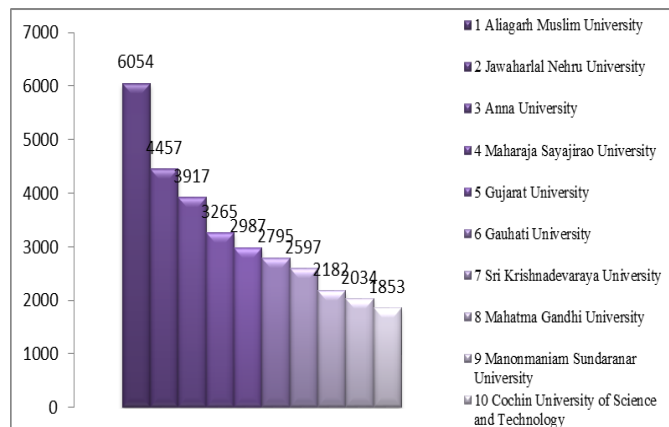
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**Table 1:** Top ten contributing universities

S. No.	University	No. of theses
1	Aligarh Muslim University	6054
2	Jawaharlal Nehru University	4457
3	Anna University	3917
4	Maharaja Sayajirao University	3265
5	Gujarat University	2987
6	Gauhati University	2795
7	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	2597
8	Mahatma Gandhi University	2182
9	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	2034
10	Cochin University of Science and Technology	1853

Acknowledge: Source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>

The table no 1 exposes that Aligarh Muslim University has contributed more theses than any other university in the country. This university has uploaded 6054 theses into this project. Anna University, Chennai has listed 3rd in the table, the university has uploaded 3917 theses into shodhganga repository. The table further shows that Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, which functioning in tirunelveli district, Tamilnadu comes 9th with 2034 theses into the repository.

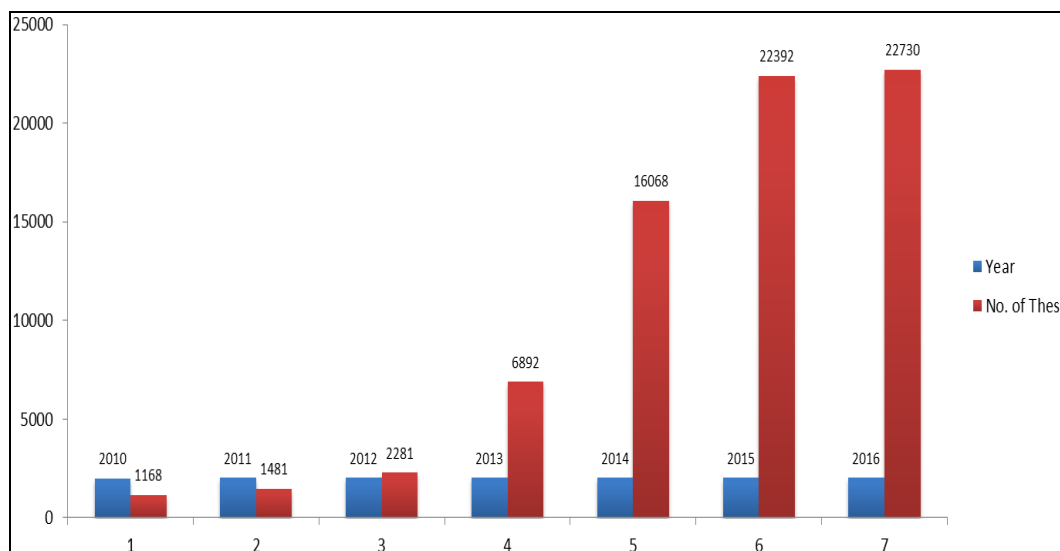


**Table 2:** Year wise Contribution

S.No	Year	No. of Thesis
1	2010	1168
2	2011	1481
3	2012	2281
4	2013	6892
5	2014	16068
6	2015	22392
7	2016	22730
Total no. of Theses		73012

Acknowledge: Source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>

The above table reveals that there are 73012 theses have been uploaded into Shodhganga project by Indian Universities. The year 2016 witnessed for more number of contribution, more than 20 thousand theses have been uploaded during this year.



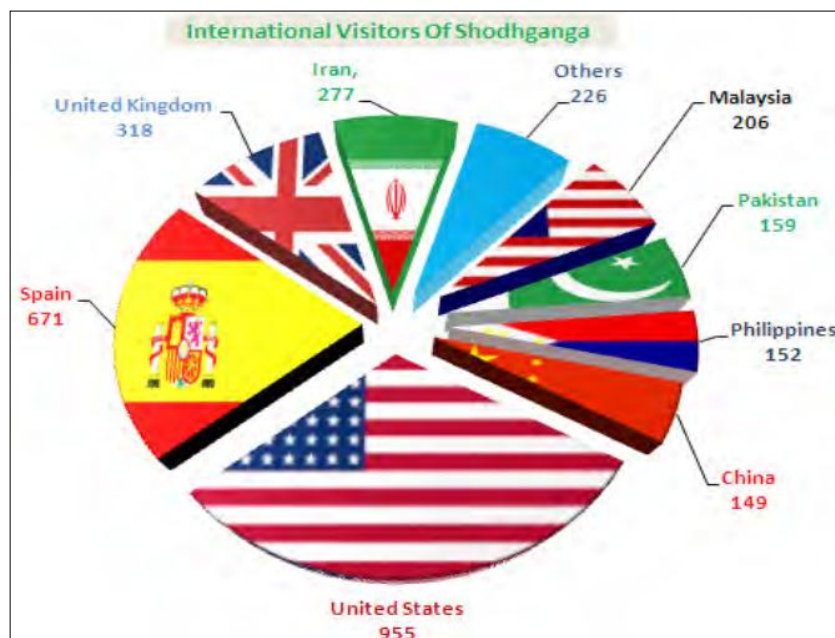
**Top five viewed theses**

S. No.	Title /Researcher/Guide/University/Unique id	Number of Views
1	Women freedom fighters in Tamil Nadu URL: <a href="http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/14211">http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/14211</a>	11,624
2	A comparative study of nationalized and private banks with reference to customer relation management URL: <a href="http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/2350">http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/2350</a>	9,671
3	History of English literature in pre-post Independence India: a critical evaluation URL: <a href="http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/4901">http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/4901</a>	9,336
4	Role of merchant banking in managing public issues: an empirical study with special reference to post 1997 era URL: <a href="http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/3566">http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/3566</a>	9,067
5	Customer acceptance of Internet shopping in India: impact of shopping orientations, knowledge and security URL: <a href="http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/2695">http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/2695</a>	8,729

**Visitors to Shodhganga**

The analysis of visitors to shodhganga reveals that 70% users are new users in the year 2014 -2015. The new visitors and returning visitors are shown below in pie chart. There are

many users from other countries who are visiting Shodhganga regularly. Foreign users from United States of America, UK, Spain, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and China are the top countries in the users list.



**Country wise Browser’s detail – Other than India**

S.No	Country	No. of Visits
1	China	149
2	Iran	277
3	Malaysia	206
4	Pakistan	159
5	Philippines	152
6	Spain	671
7	United Kingdom	318
8	United States	955
9	others	226
10	Total	3,113

Shodhganga has emerged that one of the most demanding repository system across the world. It could be understand by the above table that more than 3000 searches have been taken place outside India. United States has been listed top with 955 visits followed by Spain (671) and United Kingdom (318). China is the least country who visited shodhganga with 149

searches, as per above table followed by Philippines (152) and Pakistan (159).

**Recommendations**

1. Library professionals should create awareness / training programme on Shodhganga among research scholars and academicians
2. All the type of universities (A central, state, deemed universities) should sign with Shodhganga project and deposit more theses in the database.

**Conclusion**

Electronic Thesis and Dissertations are very valuable Information Resource of any university / academic institutions. Shodhganga facilitates the research scholars to collect review studies and helps retrospective view of our research area. There are more than 90,000 full electronic theses available in the Shodhganga repository, researcher should concern and avoid the duplication of same topic in the

areas of discipline. Indian Universities voluntarily put MoU with Shodhganga Project and deposit many electronic theses in the database.

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