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CURRENT STATUS OF SHODHGANGOTRI: REPOSITORY OF INDIAN RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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Abstract:

Across the globe, new research projects are undertaken every year by the researchers. There should be some system which will maintain a database of ongoing research work in order to avoid duplication of research. Some universities and institutions in foreign countries maintain database of research in progress. In India, various universities and institutions like INFLIBNET, DELNET, NASSDOC, IISc, CSIR and University of Mysore etc. have their Electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD) repository providing open or login based access to full-text ETDs. But, none of these have any database of Research in Progress. Recently, INFLIBNET introduced ShodhGangotri, which has been built to maintain a database of synopsis of on-going M.Phil/ Ph.D in Indian universities and institutions. The present paper provides a brief picture of the current status of ShodhGangotri.

Keywords: INFLIBNET, ShodhGangotri, ShodhGanga, Research in Progress, Electronic Thesis & Dissertation, Open Access Repositories, Open Access Initiative.

Introduction:

In India, every year large number of research scholars submit their M.Phil/Ph.D Thesis or Dissertation in various higher education institutions. As per the record available with Information & Library Network's (INFLIBNET) ShodhGanga- the Electronic Thesis & Dissertation Repository, till June 2013, more than 7600 M.Phil/Ph.D Degrees have been awarded and more than 1100 Research Scholars have on-going M.Phil/ Ph.D. At the initial stage of registration, they are required to submit synopsis of their proposed research work. In this stage, the researcher browses variety of primary, secondary and tertiary documents to find some unique or virgin area which has remained undiscovered till now. The whole process becomes time consuming as there is no proper, up to date database which gives information regarding On-going Research Work. In order to provide a clear view of the proposed research work, such kind of databases should have open access. Several foreign institutions/ universities like Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (London), National Disability Authority (Dublin), Royal College of Nursing (London), Uppsala University etc. maintain Research in Progress database. In India, such an attempt of maintaining Research in Progress database is recently introduced by INFLIBNET.

Research in Progress help an information user to find out whether anybody else is working on a problem or in an area in which he/she is working or intends to work and the knowledge of which may effect, help, or modify his own line of work. It is also possible for the user, through the list, to get in touch with the institution or the investigator and get additional information, clarifications etc., and well before the final results are available in documentary form. Even if one is not immediately interested to contact the investigator and know the details of an on-going research, one is informed as to when the results of the work would be available and in what form. Lists or Directories of Research in progress are also valuable tools for those who are responsible for planning of research, grant of research funds and management of research in general. Presence of synopsis of the research work is an additional advantage to the research in progress database. It helps to understand the researcher about a particular topic.

Harrod's Librarians Glossary defines *Synopsis* as 'A factual summary of an article or paper contributed to a learned journal, suitable for use as an abstract published in accompaniment with the article, presumed to be prepared by the author of the article but in any case subjected to the same editorial scrutiny had correction which is given to the full article.'

Review of Literature:

Shapira, Youtie & Porter (2010) examine the development of social science literature focused on the emerging area of nanotechnology. To study the development, the authors created a database of nanotechnology-social science literature by merging articles from the Web of Science's Social Science Citation Index and Arts and Humanities Citation Index with articles from Scopus. The findings suggest that there are multiple dimensions of cited literature and that social science citations of other social scientists' works have increased since 2005.

McKnight & Hagy (2008) discussed the research methodology recommended by the Medical Library Association (MLA) for students taking up Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) programs in the U.S. MLA stresses that the students must be knowledgeable in information science essential to develop quantitative and qualitative research. Case reports, opinions and comparative research requirements of some MLIS programs are some of the important components of the study.

Banwell & Capel (2006) investigated the progress in the research on older people, information, and social networks in Cumbria, England. It is indicated that majority of people prefer to belong in a social network since it makes them healthier. According to health organizations like National Health Service, older people require access to health and social information to further improve their lifestyle.

DeCandido (1989) reported the development of a research in progress database by the Research Libraries Group (RLG). The article explains the pilot project that was developed in conjunction with the Modern Language Association to disseminate information about articles accepted by journals, but not yet published, in the fields of language, literature, linguistics, and folklore.

Bales & Tucker (1988) describe the Research Libraries Group's Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). The researchers examined the central database and special database files. The article also described future developments and projects for RLIN.

Global Efforts towards Creating Database of Research in Progress:

Due to the various benefits of having a Database or Record of Research in Progress in a particular field throughout the world or a particular region in specific, several countries have come out with numerous databases of research in progress on certain discipline. Some examples are as follows:

1) *Current Legal Research Topics Database Project:*

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London has brought out this database which lists subjects of research in progress by students of law in the UK, and is presented for information only. It provides a list of research for higher degrees in law, M.Phil./Ph.D presently under going in universities in the United Kingdom. Researchers can search this free web database by a word in the dissertation title; subject keywords or name of jurisdiction; student's name or name of the University.

2) *National Disability Authority Research in Progress Database:*

Developed by National Disability Authority (NDA), Dublin, it lists substantive research that is already in progress or firmly agreed.

3) *FEDRIP Database:*

The Federal Research in Progress (FEDRIP) developed by National Technical Information Services, Alexandria (Virginia) provides access to information about ongoing federally funded projects in the fields of the physical sciences, engineering, and life sciences.

4) *The Food Systems Research in Progress Database:*

Developed by The University of Vermont-Burlington, this database hopes to serve as a central location where researchers can browse, connect, and build upon the ongoing Farm to Plate research in Food Systems in Vermont.

5) *RCN Research in Progress:*

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN), London gives information about research which is currently being undertaken. The database also provides list of academic institutions' within the UK that offer health-related course, and their current research priorities.

6) *Uppsala University Research in Progress:*

Uppsala University maintains a database of Research in Progress providing information on Research undergoing in Energy, Life Science and Global Development.

7) *HSRProj*:

Academy Health, Washington developed HSRProj (Health Services Research Projects) in Progress database contains descriptions on more than 7,500 current health services research projects funded by government and state agencies, foundations, and private organizations.

8) *Database for Rural Health Research in Progress*:

University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health developed Database for Rural Health Research in Progress which provides policymakers with a concise source of rural health services research currently underway in the Rural Health Research Centers.

9) *TRB RiP*:

The Transportation Research Board's Research in Progress (RiP) website contains the Research In Progress (RiP) Database and a data-entry system to allow users in State Departments of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, University Transportation Centers and other US DOT funded universities to add, modify and delete information on their current research projects. The RiP database now contains over 8400 current or recently completed transportation research projects.

Research in Progress Databases in India:

In India, although there are several efforts of Open Access or Subscription based Full-text Electronic Thesis & Dissertation (ETD) repositories developed by DELNET, NASSDOC, University of Mysore's Vidyaniidhi, INFLIBNET's ShodhGanga and ETDs of some Universities, Research Institutions etc. but none of them provide a database of Research in Progress in general or in the respective Institute/ University. Some Indian Universities provide information about Research in Progress but the lists are not updated. Such lists mention only Name of the Researcher, Guide and Title of the Research Work. Full text of the synopsis is not provided. INFLIBNET's ShodhGanga recently introduced ShodhGangotri, which is a Repository of Indian Research in progress.

ShodhGangotri - Repository of Indian Research in Progress:

As the homepage of INFLIBNET's ShodhGangotri mentions:

The word "*Shodh*" originates from Sanskrit and stands for "research and discovery". "*Gangotri*" is one of the largest glaciers in the Himalayas and source of origination of Ganges, the holiest, longest and largest of rivers in India. The Ganges is the symbol of age-long culture, civilization, ever-aging, ever-flowing, ever-loving and loved by its people.

Under the initiative called "ShodhGangotri", research scholars / research supervisors in universities are requested to deposit electronic version of approved synopsis submitted by research scholars to the universities for registering themselves for Ph.D. The repository on one hand, reveals the trends and directions of research

being conducted in Indian universities, on the other hand it helps in avoiding duplication of research. Synopsis in “ShodhGangotri” will later on be mapped to full-text theses in "ShodhGanga". As such, once the full-text thesis is submitted for a synopsis, a link to the full-text theses would be provided from ShodhGangotri to "ShodhGanga". Developed on DSpace Platform, users can search synopsis in ShodhGangotri by Universities or Departments, Issue Date, Researcher/ Guide, Title and Keywords. Simple and Advanced search options are available wherein information can be searched using Boolean Logic. The homepage provides link to ‘How to submit?’ explaining in detail the six steps to be fulfilled for successful submission of the synopsis to the database.

The homepage also provides link to other ETDs of National importance. The data formats supported by the repository are PDF (Portable Document Format), PNG (Portable Network Graphics), JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group), MP3 for Audio files and MPEG4 for Video files.



Fig.1: Homepage of ShodhGangotri

Research Objectives:

The objectives of the present study are to analyze the composition of Synopsis or Research in Progress in Indian universities and institutions submitted to ShodhGangotri in 4 key aspects: discipline, university, state and language.

Scope:

The data for the present study is collected exclusively from “ShodhGangotri: Indian Research in Progress’ developed by INFLIBNET.

A total of 1181 Research in Progress was identified in various subjects in Indian Universities during the period of 1st May 2013- 18th June 2013 and were studied according to the objectives of the study.

Findings and Discussions:*1. Research in Progress in India by discipline:*

Forty-two disciplines are at present covered in the synopsis submitted to ShodhGangotri. Currently maximum number of synopsis are submitted on Pure Sciences (viz. Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Mathematics & Statistics), followed by Commerce & Management and Pharmacy. There are very few synopsis submitted in Geology, Nutrition, Sociology, Tourism studies etc.

Table 1: Research in Progress in India by Discipline

Sr.No.	Discipline	No. of Synopsis Submitted
1.	Pure Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Biochemistry, Zoology, Microbiology, Mathematics & Statistics)	297
2.	Commerce & Management	210
3.	Pharmacy	145
4.	Computer Science & Engineering	136
5.	Education	86
6.	English	52
7.	Geography	29
8.	Psychology	22
9.	Yoga & Health	21
10.	Biosciences & Biotechnology	20
11.	Gandhian Thought & Development Studies	13
12.	Economics	13
13.	Malayalam	11
14.	Library & Information Science	10
15.	Pedagogical Sciences	10
16.	Law	10
17.	History	08
18.	Energy, Environment & Natural Resources	07
19.	Hindi	07

20.	Physical Education & Sports Sciences	07
21.	Environmental Sciences	07
22.	Islamic Studies	06
23.	Journalism & Mass Communication	05
24.	Sanskrit	05
25.	Behavioral Sciences	05
26.	Indian Legal Thought	05
27.	Rural Development & Social Work	05
28.	International Relations & Politics	04
29.	Philosophy	03
30.	Electronics & Communication	03
31.	Home Science	03
32.	Nutrition	03
33.	Indian Culture	02
34.	Oriental Studies	02
35.	Tourism Studies	02
36.	Geology	01
37.	Sociology	01
38.	Marathi	01
39.	Life Sciences	01
40.	Orthodontics	01
41.	Sericulture	01
42.	Immunology	01
	Total	1181

2. University-wise Categorization of Research in Progress submitted:

Out of the 120 Indian Universities in MoU with ShodhGanga (till June 2013), 22 Universities are submitting their Research in Progress in ShodhGangotri. Shri Jagdish Prasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University contributed the maximum number of synopsis (817), followed by Mahatma Gandhi University (178).

Table 2: University-wise Categorization of Research in Progress

Sr.No.	Name of the University	No. of Synopsis Submitted
1	Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University	817
2	Mahatma Gandhi University	178
3	Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalay	48
4	Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University	29
5	Dayalbag Educational Institute	24
6	Maharishi Markandeshwar University	13
7	Himachal Pradesh University	11
8	Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women	10

9	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	07
10	Jayoti Vidyapeeth Womens University	07
11	Jaypee Institute of Information Technology	06
12	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	06
13	Madurai Kamraj University	05
14	Dr.Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalay	02
15	Sri Devaraj Urs University	02
16	University of Kerala	02
17	Bharathidasan University	01
18	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	01
19	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	01
20	Tamil University	01
21	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalay	01
22	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	01
	Total	1181

3. State wise distribution of Research in Progress submitted:

According to University Grants Commission Higher Education Reports 2011, there are 567 Universities (Central Universities-43, State Universities- 285, Deemed Universities-129 and Private Universities-110) in India which provide higher education in various disciplines across the twenty eight Indian states and seven Union Territories. Out of the 567 Universities, 404 Universities from 13 states contribute their research in progress to the repository.

Rajasthan ranks first by two of its universities contributing 824 M.Phil/ Ph.D synopses in the repository, followed by Kerala having two Universities which contribute 180 synopses. Five Universities from Tamil Nadu contribute 18 synopses.

Maharashtra, which has several Universities and Institutes of national and international repute, has only 03 Universities submitting synopsis of their on-going research in progress. In spite of the benefits of ETDs and Research in Progress Database, only 12 Universities/ Institutes from Maharashtra have signed MoU with ShodhGanga for submitting their full text ETDs.

Table 3: State wise distribution of Research in Progress

Sr.No.	State	Total No. of Universities in the State	No. of Universities Contributing	No. of Synopsis Submitted
1	Rajasthan	47	2	824
2	Kerala	14	2	180
3	Uttarakhand	17	1	48
4	Uttar Pradesh	53	2	30
5	Jammu &	07	1	29

	Kashmir			
6	Tamil Nadu	55	5	18
7	Haryana	22	1	13
8	Himachal Pradesh	17	1	11
9	Maharashtra	41	3	9
10	West Bengal	22	1	9
11	Andhra Pradesh	42	1	6
12	Madhya Pradesh	27	1	2
13	Karnataka	40	1	2
	Total	404	22	1181

4. Language wise distribution of Research in Progress submitted:

Being an international language, maximum number of synopsis is submitted in English (1137), followed by 32 Synopsis submitted in Hindi. Only 01 Synopsis is submitted in Marathi language.

Table 4: Language wise distribution of Research in progress

Sr.No.	Language	No. of Synopsis Submitted
1	English	1137
2	Hindi	32
3	Malayalam	11
4	Marathi	01
	Total	1181

Conclusions:

The present status of the ShodhGangotri Repository of Indian Research in Progress is satisfactory. Although, lot of research work is presently on-going in several universities and institutes, they don't get a global exposure in the E-thesis repositories due to lack of proper system and stringent rules and regulations for maintaining their record. ShodhGangotri, being the only Research in Progress Database of Indian Universities must get a nationwide submission of synopsis of on-going doctoral research project in order to avoid duplication of research and to let the researchers know about the virgin areas of research.

There are several higher education institutions in the States & Union Territories of India which impart M.Phil/Ph.D. Such institutions must start contributing synopses and full text of their ETDs in the repository.

The fear of plagiarism might be one of the reasons due to which universities and institutions do not submit their Research in Progress or full text ETDs. But, keeping in

mind the benefits of such databases and with the help of software to avoid plagiarism, these hindrances can be tackled.

In December 2012, UGC has forwarded a letter to all universities and institutions conducting M.Phil/Ph.D to forward the soft copy of both the Synopsis and Thesis of M.Phil and Ph.D directly to the INFLIBNET under the provision in UGC (Minimum Standards And Procedure For Awards Of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree) Regulation, 2009.

The increase in the number of submission of synopsis and thesis in ShodhGangotri and ShodhGanga is possible only when all universities, affiliated colleges and institutions abide by the UGC Circular.

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