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Exploring the ETDs on SHODHGANGA project: A detailed study on the State Universities of West Bengal

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Abstract:

The intellectual output of any academic institution is variably measured, analyzed and interpreted by the quality of contributions through research publications. The creation and use of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) have paved the way for more scholarly outreach. Beside keeping the hard copies in the library book-shelves, the academic institutions are in the process of making these research assets available for public sharing. 'Shodhganga' being one of the crucial projects undertaken by the INFLIBNET center provides a common space for the Indian Universities to upload and share their institutionally published theses and dissertations in electronic form. In this paper, the authors have tried to map the contributions of the State Universities of West Bengal which have signed MoU with INFLIBNET for promoting research by sharing their ETDs in Open Access Repositories.

Keywords: State University, ETD, Electronic Theses and Dissertations, West Bengal, INFLIBNET, Shodhganga

Introduction :

The use of ETDs in higher academic institutions has been seen widely because of its association with modern ICT applications. The global scenario of research and development has stepped into a new era where knowledge dissemination is freely possible with the creation of Open Access repository software like DSpace, EPrint, Fedora Commons etc. The Indian Institutions are leaning forward to make contributions into these repositories.

As per the UGC mandate*(**Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree Regulations, 2009**), *“Following the successful completion of the evaluation process and announcements of the award of M.Phil/Ph.D, the University shall submit a soft copy of the M.Phil/Ph.D thesis to the UGC within a period of thirty days, for hosting the same in INFLIBNET, accessible to all Institutions/Universities”*.¹ This caters to the progressive development of research integrity and ensures quality output of research carried out institutionally.

This paper therefore aims at finding out the current scenario of the State Universities of West Bengal in bestowing their research publications to ‘Shodhganga’.

Literature Review:

The enthusiasm about creating a Knowledge Access Repository for following up with the R and D factors has been studied and observed among most of the university libraries worldwide. **(Greig, 2005)**

In a study involving 15 Universities and 50 Business Schools in the state of Orissa, it has been found that most of the institutions were unaware about the significance of ETDs and the need for creating any repository for the same. **(Swain, Dilip K., 2010)**

The adoption of Open Access Repositories has been greatly felt by the scholars of diverse disciplines due to the availability of research publications in the public domain. **(Antelmant, Kristine, 2004)**

¹ Part II, Sec 41, The Gazette of India, July 11, 2009 (Asadha 20, 1931)

Digital preservation of theses and dissertations is found to be in progress besides analyzing the subject coverage, access policies and value-added services. **(Ghosh,Maitreyi, 2009)**

The need for creating a digital library for Indian Theses and Dissertations and the role of INFLIBNET in doing so far in the direction has been broadly described by **Vijaykumar, J.K and Murthy, T.A.V (2001)**.

The current situation of IR in chronological development has put great emphasis on enforcing Open Access from the taxpayers' money for availing research papers as reviewed in the article by **Tonta Yasar (2008)**

Shodhganga- a Brief Overview:

"Shodhganga" is the name coined to denote the 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 India'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. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. The repository has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) submitted by the researchers.

It would be possible for universities having sufficient network and computing infrastructure to maintain their own ETD repositories wherein their research scholars could deposit e-versions of their theses and dissertations. Moreover, they can use Shodhganga to host their theses 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 provide unified access to theses and dissertations through its harvesting server.

Shodhganga replicates the 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. 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.

Objectives of the Study:

This study has been carried out for attaining the following objectives-

1. To distinguish the State Universities of West of Bengal which have signed MoU with INFLIBNET to 'Shodhganga' project so far now.
2. To analyze the year wise registration of the West Bengal State Universities.
3. To determine the present status of the concerned institutions in submitting the ETDs to 'Shodhganga'.
4. To rank those institutions based on the 'Shodhganga' ETDs contributions.
5. To evaluate the language predominance in the submitted ETDs.
6. To identify specifically the major subjective contributions by the departments with the greatest number of submissions.

Scope and Coverage:

The study is limited to only the 19 State Universities of West Bengal which have signed MoU to upload the ETDs to 'Shodhganga'. Among the selected ones, 14 universities have actively contributed to the ETDs at 'Shodhganga'.

Methodology

In this study survey method of research was used. The data have been collected through observation methods from the Shodhganga repository. An extensive survey and analysis of the Shodhganga repository (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>) was conducted from 16th June to 20th June, 2021 for mapping the contribution of theses & dissertations to Shodhganga by State Universities of West Bengal. The collected data was analyzed and presented in tabular form using Microsoft Excel. APA 7th edition was used to write all the bibliographic references.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Year wise registration of State universities of West Bengal signed MoU with Shodhganga

The table 1 depicts the year wise registration of MoU signed state universities of West Bengal with Shodhganga. It shows in the year 2017 a total of five state universities signed up with MoU. The year 2021 had three universities that signed the MoU to Shodhganga.

Table 1: Year wise registration of State universities of West Bengal signed MoU with Shodhganga

Sl. No.	Year	No. Of Universities	Percentage
1.	2011	2	0.105
2.	2012	1	0.052
3.	2015	2	0.105
4.	2016	2	0.105
5.	2017	5	0.263
6.	2018	2	0.105
7.	2019	1	0.052
8.	2020	1	0.052
9.	2021	3	0.157
	Total	19	100

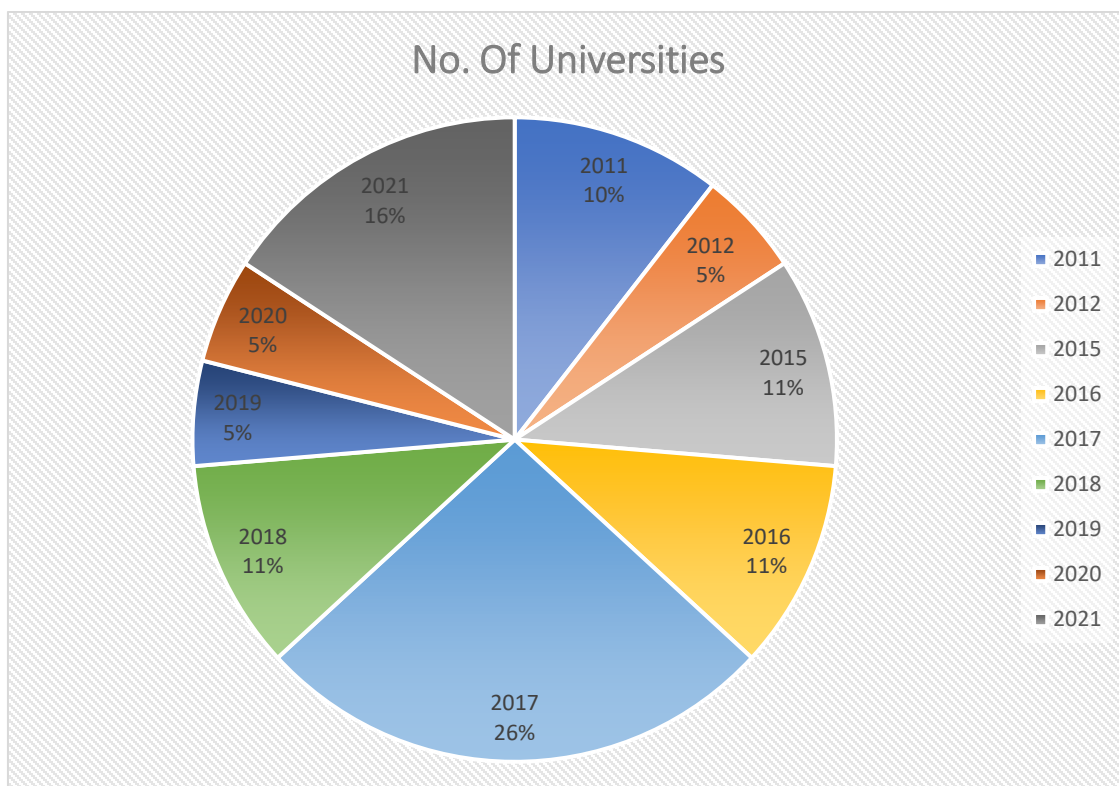


Figure 1: Year wise registration of State universities of West Bengal signed MoU with Shodhganga

Table 2: State Universities and their location

Sl. No.	Name of the University	Location
1.	Aliah University	Kolkata
2.	Bankura university	Bankura
3.	Diamond Harbour Women's University	South 24 Pargana
4.	Jadavpur University	Kolkata
5.	Kazi Nazrul University	Asansol
6.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology	Kolkata
7.	Presidency University	Kolkata
8.	Rabindra Bharati University	Kolkata
9.	Raiganj University	Uttar Dinajpur
10.	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute	Howrah
11.	Sidho Kanho Birsha University	Purulia
12.	The University of Burdwan,	Bardhaman
13.	The WB National University of Juridical Sciences	Kolkata
14.	The West Bengal University Of Teachers' Training, Education Planning And Administration	Kolkata
15.	University of Calcutta	Kolkata

16.	University of Gour Banga	Malda
17.	University of Kalyani	Kalyani
18.	University of North Bengal	Darjeeling
19.	Vidya Sagar university	Midnapore

State Universities of West Bengal signed MoU to Shodhganga

Table 3 shows the MoU signed by state universities of West Bengal for submitting the Electronic Theses and Dissertations in Shodhganga. A total of nineteen state universities of West Bengal have signed with MoU. Out of the nineteen state universities, a total of fourteen universities have deposited their research reports. Aliah University, Diamond Harbour Women's University, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, The West Bengal University Of Teachers' Training, Education Planning And Administration haven't yet submitted any research reports. University of North Bengal made the first initiative to sign MoU to Shodhganga.

Table 3: State Universities of West Bengal signed MoU to Shodhganga

Sl. No.	Name of the University	MoU Signed with Shodhganga	University Coordinator
1.	Aliah University	2nd January, 2019	Mr. Nihal Alam
2.	Bankura university	1st March, 2021	-
3.	Diamond Harbour Women's University	12th April, 2021	-
4.	Jadavpur University	22nd April 2016	Sri Samit Pahari
5.	Kazi Nazrul University	24th January,2020	-
6.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology	31st March, 2021	Mridul Adhikary
7.	Presidency University	23th January,2017	Mr. Rabishankar Giri
8.	Rabindra Bharati University	20th April 2015	Prof. Sujata Mukherjee
9.	Raiganj University	14th March, 2018	Dr. Ajay Misra
10.	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute	21st March, 2018	Br. Mrinmay Maharaj
11.	Sidho Kanho Birsha University	21st November,2017	Dr. Sushanta Kumar Mondal
12.	The University of Burdwan,	5th November 2012	Dr. Bikash Mukhopadhyay
13.	The WB National University of Juridical Sciences	25th July 2011	Dr. R Parameswaran
14.	The West Bengal University Of Teachers' Training, Education Planning And Administration	18th May,2017	Dr. Sujit Pal
15.	University of Calcutta	22nd December 2016	Prof. Soumitra Sarkar

16.	University of Gour Banga	17th July,2017	Dr. Biswajit Das
17.	University of Kalyani	24th March 2015	Dr. Asitabha Das
18.	University of North Bengal	31st March 2011	Mr.Manash Esh
19.	Vidya Sagar university	21th April,2017	Prof Prakash Chandra Dhara

Contribution of State Universities from West Bengal to Shodhganga

Table 4 shows the contribution of State Universities from West Bengal to Shodhganga. University of Calcutta has the maximum contribution and it has submitted 12572 ETDs to Shodhganga. The University of Burdwan has the second place with 2593 contribution followed by University of Kalyani with 2560 contribution. University of North Bengal (1931), Jadavpur University (927), Vidyasagar university (551) are placed in fourth, fifth and sixth rank respectively.

Table 4: Contribution of State Universities from West Bengal to Shodhganga

Sl. No	Name of the University	Total No. of Theses uploaded	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Bankura university	3	0.014	13
2.	Jadavpur University	927	4.32	5
3.	Kazi Nazrul University	2	0.009	14
4.	Presidency University	23	0.107	10
5.	Rabindra Bharati University	167	0.776	7
6.	Raiganj University	48	0.224	8
7.	Sidho Kanho Birsha University	47	0.219	9
8.	The University of Burdwan	2593	12.089	2
9.	The WB National University of Juridical Sciences	15	0.07	11
10.	University of Calcutta	12572	58.608	1
11.	University of Gour Banga	12	0.056	12
12.	University of Kalyani	2560	11.934	3
13.	University of North Bengal	1931	9.002	4
14.	Vidyasagar university	551	2.569	6

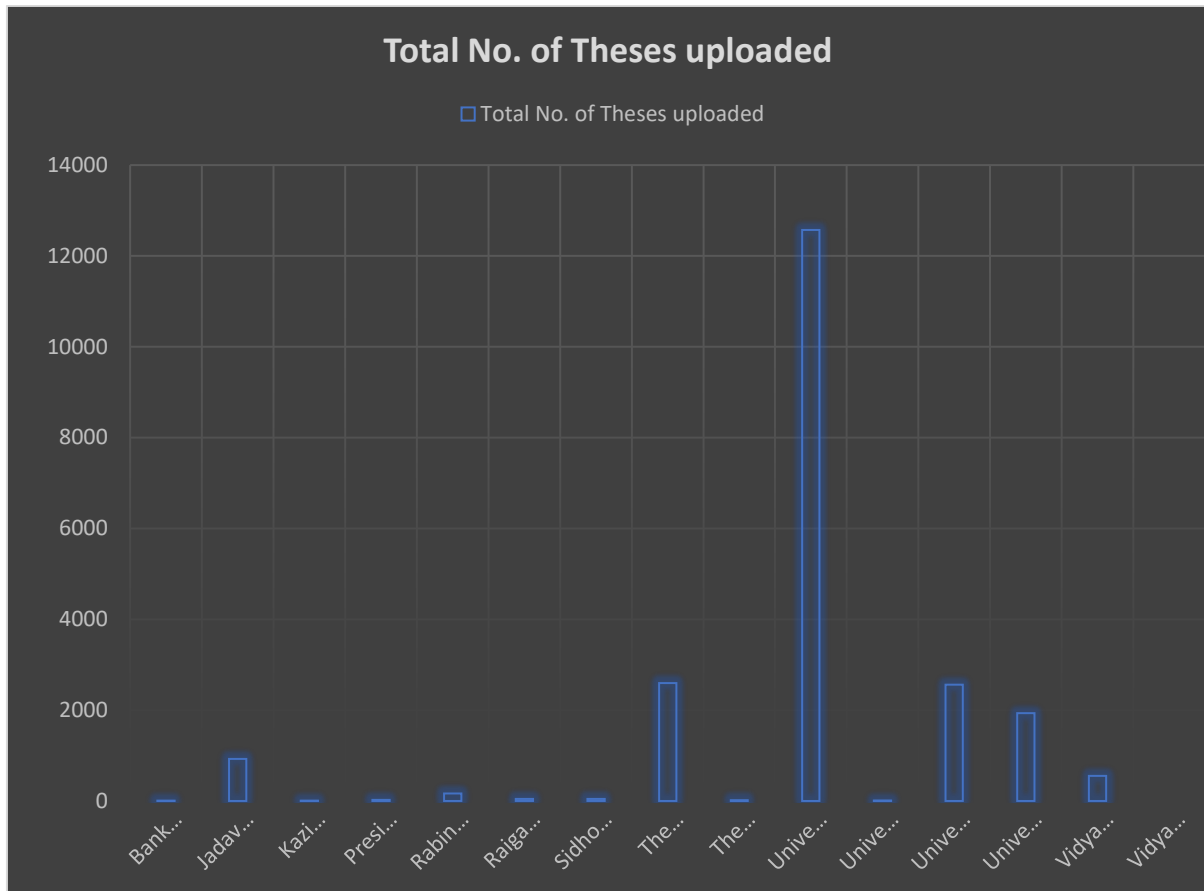


Figure 2: Theses submitted in Shodhganga by State Universities of West Bengal

Language predominance contributed in ETDs

Table 5 shows that a total of 21451 number of theses were uploaded by the state universities of West Bengal. There are 19095 theses which are written in English language. 629 theses were written in Bengali language, which is the official language of West Bengal.

Table 5: Language predominance contributed in ETDs

Sl No.	Name of the University	Total No. of Theses uploaded	Theses in English	Theses in Bengali	Theses in other languages
1	University of Calcutta	12572	11609	37	926
2	The University of Burdwan,	2593	2081	115	397
3	University of Kalyani	2560	2229	48	283
4	University of North Bengal	1931	1668	211	52
5	Jadavpur University	927	847	25	55
6	Vidyasagar university	551	476	70	5
7	Rabindra Bharati University	167	68	94	5
8	Raiganj University	48	38	7	3
9	Sidho Kanho Birsha University	47	31	16	-
10	Presidency University	23	17	6	-
11	The WB National University of Juridical Sciences	15	15	-	-
12	University of Gour Banga	12	12	-	-
13	Bankura university	3	2	-	1
14	Kazi Nazrul University	2	2	-	-
	Total	21451	19095	629	1727

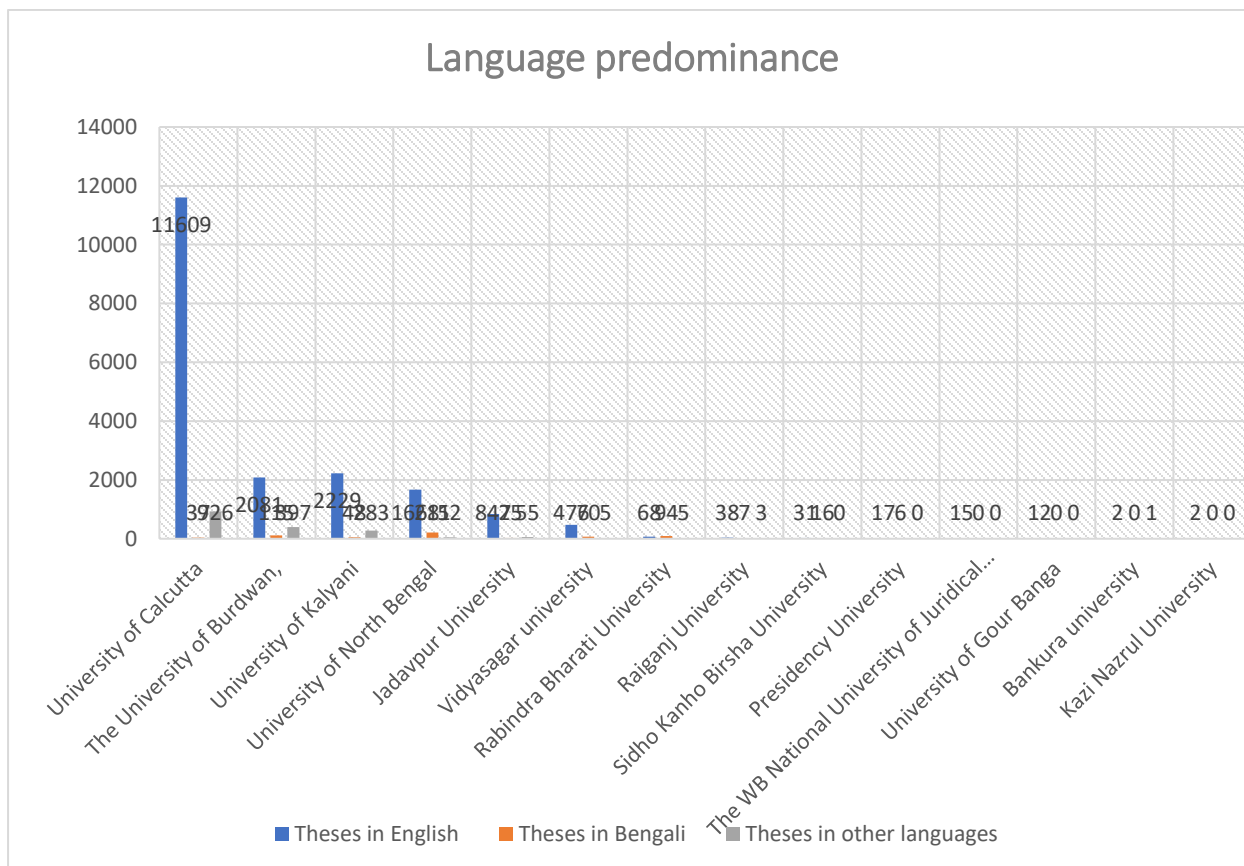


Figure 3: Language predominance contributed in ETDs

Contributions on ETDs by top departments of the State Universities

Table 6 shows the highest number of theses deposited by the top departments of each state university. Among the fourteen universities, the department of Biochemistry, University of Calcutta has deposited the highest number of theses i.e 698 followed by Chemistry department of The University of Burdwan which has made 282 contributions.

Table 6: Contributions on ETDs by top departments of the State Universities

Sl. No.	Name of the University	Top Department	Dept Theses Count
1	University of Calcutta	Biochemistry	698
2	The University of Burdwan	Chemistry	282
3	University of Kalyani	Zoology	362
4	University of North Bengal	Chemistry	277
5	Jadavpur University	Pharmaceutical Technology	76
6	Vidyasagar university	Applied Mathematics with Oceanology & Computer Programming	44
7	Rabindra Bharati University	Bengali	31
8	Raiganj University	Geography	8
9	Sidho Kanho Birsha University	Bengali	15
10	Presidency University	Life Sciences	9
11	The WB National University of Juridical Sciences	Law	15
12	University of Gour Banga	Education and Geography both	4
13	Bankura university	English, Law and Sanskrit	1
14	Kazi Nazrul University	English	2

Findings

1. A total of nineteen state universities of West Bengal have signed with MoU. Out of the nineteen state universities, a total of fourteen universities have deposited their research reports.
2. Aliah University, Diamond Harbour Women's University, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, The West Bengal University Of Teachers' Training, Education Planning And Administration haven't yet submitted any research reports. University of North Bengal made the first initiative to signed MoU to Shodhganga.
3. University of Calcutta has the maximum contribution and it has submitted 12572 ETDs to Shodhganga. The University of Burdwan has the second place with 2593

contribution followed by University of Kalyani with 2560 contribution. University of North Bengal (1931), Jadavpur University (927), Vidyasagar university (551) are placed in fourth, fifth and sixth rank respectively.

4. A total of 21451 number of theses were uploaded by the state universities of West Bengal. There are 19095 theses which are written in English language. 629 theses were written in Bengali language, which is the official language of West Bengal.
5. Among the fourteen universities, the department of Biochemistry, University of Calcutta has deposited the highest number of theses i.e 698 followed by Chemistry department of The University of Burdwan which has made 282 contributions.

Conclusion

The institutional repositories in India are in the developing stage. Many institutions are on the verge of developing their repositories. Through the Shodhganga project, UGC provides a platform to the research students in depositing their Ph.D. theses and taking the research output beyond the library walls at the national level by making it open access. Shodhganga is a most admired & resourceful repository in Indian which provides a podium to Indian universities to deposit the electronic version of theses and make available for the entire scholarly community of the world through open access. Some state universities of West Bengal were doing well and contributing their theses to Shodhganga but some universities are still in the beginning stage of contributions while six state universities have not yet started to upload theses. The library professionals and the University authority should take initiatives to create access and awareness of ETD and short out the problems and try to increase the contribution of their respective universities.

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