

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

8-16-2021

Analysis of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) on Library and Information Science in OATD.org: A Study

K.S. Sivakumaren

Anna University, Chennai, India, sivamit_kumaren@yahoo.co.in

Rajkumar Thangavel

Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Krishnankoil, trajkumarkvp@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Sivakumaren, K.S. and Thangavel, Rajkumar, "Analysis of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) on Library and Information Science in OATD.org: A Study" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 6182.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6182>

Analysis of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) on Library and Information Science in OATD.org: A Study

Dr.K.S.Sivakumaen
Assistant University Librarian
Library, MIT Campus
Anna University
Chennai-600 044, India
Email: sivamit_kumaren@yahoo.co.in

Dr. T.Rajkumar
Research Fellow
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education
Srivilliputtur, Tamil Nadu, India.
Email: trajkumarkvp@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper examines the availability of Open Access Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (OATD) available on Library and Information Science (LIS) in OATD.org. Totally, 10590 Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) on Library and Information Science were contributed by various Universities/Institutions during the period of 1971-2020 in OATD.org. Further, it is found that the countries such as US, Sweden, Finland, UK and South Africa were contributed 73.56% of theses. During 2011-2015, more numbers theses and dissertations were added in OATD.org. Among various countries, Sweden was found in the top with 2073(30.24%) of theses; University of Borås had contributed 900(27.70%) of theses than other Universities/Institutions. The department of Swedish School of Library and Information Science has contributed the highest number of theses 819(33.55%). English was found the dominating language, in which, 4204(56.86%) of theses were found in OATD.org.

Keywords: *OATD, ETDs, Theses, Dissertations, Library and Information Science, Open Access and Library and information Science*

1. Introduction

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are highly valuable resources for research and development in the academic institutions. In early days, the research reports were not available to access in the public domain. The advancement in the ICT has changed the way of organizing, processing and disseminating of information to the end users. The invention of Open Access has made it easy to access any information in the digital environment. The educational institutions have also started to deposit their content in the digital form called “Institutional Repository (IR) and made it available to the users. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) is one such technology which can enhance the management of theses and dissertations in libraries. The submission of theses and dissertations in electronic format has expanded the open door for the user community to have an entrance to the knowledge implanted in these works through different national and international ETDs and databases. 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). The increased complexity and accessibility of technology in everyday life have changed the desire and expectations of library clients which demand remote access to full text resources including theses and dissertations. The convergence of technology, open source initiatives, and developing new world view on intellectual property rights has energized ETDs (Vaishali & Babasaheb, 2014).

2. Review of Literature

Wani (2019) studied the Open Access Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (OAETD) repositories available at oad.org, on the basis of various parameters like structure, content support, technical and operational feasibility. It highlights positive and negative aspects of select OAETD repositories and forward suggestions for the better improvement. Survey method coupled with online visits is employed to obtain data from OAETD repositories besides schedule is drafted to understand various technical features. The findings of present work further strengthen the belief that adaptation of open access procedures in different settings especially in modern day research is showing an increasing trend. Moreover there is scope for further improvement in technical and operational feasibility of OAETD repositories. Jeyapragash, Rajkumar & Muthuraj (2016) examined the Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) deposited at INFLIBNET Shodhganga project by Indian Universities. It is found that 55390 theses have been deposited on various disciplines by 239 Universities. The study found that the top ten Universities contribution, ETD year wise growth, ETD Contribution by Major Subject wise, Growth of theses on subjects by year wise (2010- 2015), and also found on ETD Growth on subjects in 2015. Sivakumaren (2015) examined the Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) deposited at INFLIBNET Shodhganga project by Indian Universities. It is found that 32000+ theses have been deposited on various disciplines by 201 Universities. The study considered only top five Universities ranked by INFLIBNET Shodhganga project. It is found the top five Universities have contributed 3145 theses in the repository. Khaparde & Ambedkar (2014) discusses about ETD, History of ETD activities , It also discusses National Policy framework in India for building ETD repositories. UGC Regulations 2005 and 2009, INDEST Consortium, ICSSR – NASSDOC and National Knowledge Commission have provided guidelines to improve the quality of research and also to provide world wide access to research under open access. Ezema & Ugwu (2013) examined the adoption of ETD in Nigerian university libraries is very low. Nigerian universities must therefore adopt a pragmatic approach to develop an ETD program that will facilitate the dissemination of research documented in theses and dissertations. Ramirez et al., (2013) investigated the social sciences, arts, and humanities journal editors' and university press directors' attitudes toward ETDs. It is found that manuscripts that are revisions of openly accessible ETDs are always welcome for submission or considered on a case-by-case basis by 82.8 percent of journal editors and 53.7 percent of university press directors polled. Ramdas & Lihitkar (2014) made a comparative study on ETDs in India and found that institutional repositories are gaining momentum today. India is moving ahead in this direction and major education and research institutes have already created their own institutional repositories. In the same way, in Indian perspective growth and development of ETDs was

investigated by Khaparde & Ambedkar (2014). Main objective was to study the composition and built of e-theses repositories in India and to discuss national policy framework in India for building ETD repositories. Investigators conclude that there is a need to organize ETD awareness programs to improve an understanding of the issues and options for the institutions planning to implement ETD repositories. Mishra, et al. (2007) studied the development of ETD repository at IITK library using DSpace. In this study they share the experiences they have gained from the digitization to access ETD, and the challenges faced, enhancements incorporated with special emphasis on technical developments, and the lessons learnt during the various stages of development of the ETD. Global adoptions of ETDs are evaluated by Swain (2010). This study explores the issue of ETD initiatives, adoption, and subsequent implications from studies carried out in different parts of the world. Universities in Kerala have started the digitization process of their PhD theses for the last few years. Sheeja and Cherukodan (2011) discussed the development and promotion of ETDs in Kerala. This study examines the ETD project of Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) and Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU). They found that both institutions have promoted ETDs by organizing workshops, adopting open source software, and training library staff. Ahmed, Alreyaee & Rahman (2014) conducted a study on theses and dissertations in institutional repositories. The study tries to discover the composition of ETDs in Asia based on the seven key parameters, i.e. country, type, language, discipline, software, content types and repository policies. Major findings made by the study are access to theses and dissertations are often restricted to parent institution only. The authors found that ETDs are addressing this problem by making institutional knowledge available online and thereby not only increasing its visibility and use, but also making them contribute to the impact and ranking of their institutions.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the Theses and Dissertations on Library and Information Science contributed in Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD) during the year 1971 to 2020.
2. To analysis the contributions of Theses and Dissertations by various countries
3. To investigate the contributions made by various Universities in OATD
4. To find out the department level contributions in OATD
5. To find out the contributions at various degree level and
6. To examine the contributions of Thesis and Dissertations in various language

4. Research Methodology

The data for the study have extracted from the Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD) database (<https://oatd.org/>)⁷ during March 2020. This study is mainly focused on theses on Library and Information Science only. Totally, 5,218,230 theses and desertions were found on various disciplines and contributed by Colleges, Universities, and Research Institutions. Out of 5,218,230 theses, 10590 theses were available on library and information science. The analysis was made on various aspects such as year, country, institution, degree and language. The collected data were converted into Ms Excel for analysis. The results of analysis were given below.

5. Data Analysis and Findings

The data collected were classified into various groups such as year, country, university, department, and types of documents for easy analysis.

5.1. Contribution of ETDs during 1971-2020

Open Access Theses and Dissertations .org (OATD) is a digital repository for Theses and Dissertations. It has 10590 ETDs on “Library and Information Science” deposited/contributed during the year 1971-2020. Theses and Dissertations were classified into ten groups based on years.

Table 1
Contributions of ETDs during 1971-2020

S. No.	Year	Nos.	%	Rank	Overall %
1	2016 -2020	2165	20.44	2	92.49
2	2011 -2015	3352	31.65	1	
3	2006 -2010	2117	19.99	3	
4	2001- 2005	1600	15.11	4	
5	1996 -2000	561	5.30	5	
6	1991- 1995	326	3.08	6	7.51
7	1986-1990	180	1.70	7	
8	1981-1985	108	1.02	8	
9	1976-1980	107	1.01	9	
10	1971-1975	74	0.70	10	
	Total	10590	100		100

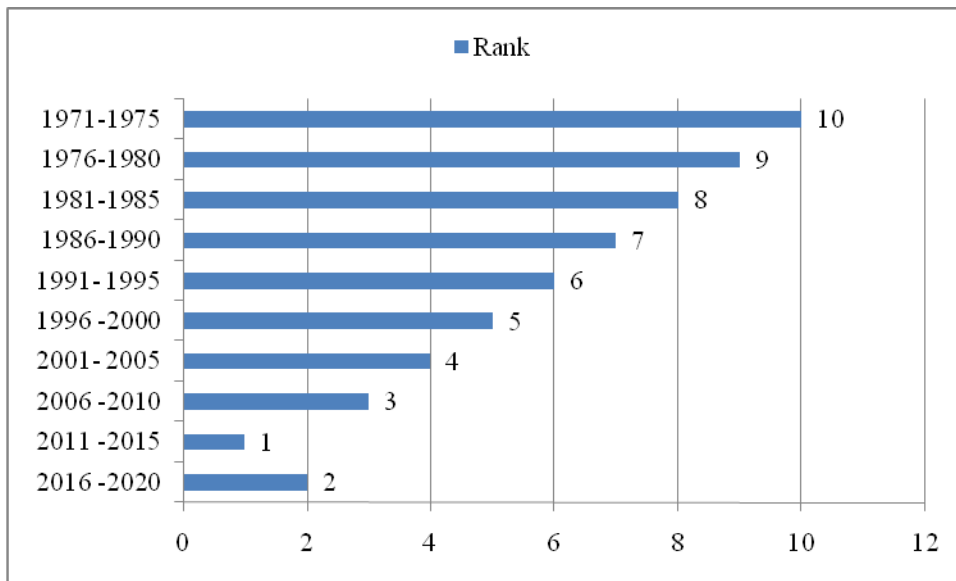


Figure 1. Contributions of ETDs during 1971-2020

Table 1 highlights the year wise contribution of Theses and Dissertations. During 2011-2015, the greatest number of Theses and Dissertations (31.65%) were found in OATD.org. It is followed that 22.44% of contributions were made during 2016 -2020 and 2006 - 2010 (19.99%), 2001-2005(15.11%) and 1996 - 2000 (5.30%). It is observed that OATD has more number of Theses and Dissertations (92.49%) contributed during recent years 1996 to 2020 than 1971 to 1995(7.51%).

5.2. Contribution of ETDs by Country

The research findings of various studies and investigations are made available today due to advent of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Furthermore, ETDs are available in Open Access System (OAS), which enables the researchers to collect information for their research. In earlier, it was very difficult to access to the theses and dissertations of various countries, whereas, now, it becomes easy to access to the ETDs contributed by various countries because of Open Access ETDs. Table 2 shows Theses and Dissertations contributed by 15 countries in OATD.org. Totally, 6855 Theses and Dissertations were found in this repository. Sweden was topped in the contributions with (30.24%) than other countries. Finland has made the second highest contributions (12.36%), followed by UK (11.58%), South Africa (9.29%) , US (8.30%) and Canada (7.59%) and the contributions made by other countries were found less and it ranges from 1.17% to 4.60%.

Table 2
Contributions of ETDs by Country

S. No.	Country	Nos.	%	Rank	Over all %
1	US	569	8.30	5	73.56
2	Sweden	2073	30.24	1	
3	Finland	847	12.36	2	
4	UK	794	11.58	3	
5	South Africa	637	9.29	4	
6	Canada	520	7.59	6	
7	Brazil	315	4.60	7	26.44
8	India	205	2.99	8	
9	Portugal	184	2.68	9	
10	Australia	180	2.63	10	
11	Kenya	157	2.29	11	
12	Czech Republic	125	1.82	12	
13	Colombia	85	1.24	13	
14	Germany	84	1.23	14	
15	New Zealand	80	1.17	15	
	Total	4577	100		100

5.3 Contribution of ETDs by University

The University is a prime educational institution offers courses on various subjects at different levels. In addition to regular U.G.and P.G. courses, the Universities offer research programmes on almost all the subjects. It leads to increase the research and publication productivity of Universities. The findings of the research are communicated in the form of “Theses” and “Dissertations”. Many initiatives at national and international level have been emerged to collect, process, preserve and disseminate the scholarly content in a single platform. Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD.org) is one of the international initiatives, where, 15 Universities were contributed 3249 Theses and Dissertations on Library and Information Science and the same is given in Table 3.

Table 3
Contribution of ETDs by University

S. No.	University	Nos.	%	Rank	
1	University of Borås	900	27.70	1	45.28
2	Uppsala University	571	17.57	2	
3	NC Docks	201	6.19	3	54.72
4	University of KwaZulu-Natal	195	6.00	4	
5	National Library of Canada	169	5.20	5	
6	University of Nairobi	157	4.83	6	
7	Loughborough University	150	4.62	7	
8	University of Helsinki	139	4.28	8	
9	Brno University of Technology	124	3.82	9	
10	Clark University Atlanta	122	3.76	10	
11	Florida State University	119	3.66	11	
12	Linnaeus University	105	3.23	12	
13	University of Cape Town	104	3.20	13	
14	Högskolan i Borås	98	3.02	14	
15	University of Pretoria	95	2.92	15	
	Total	3249	100		100

Table 3 indicates that “University of Boras” has contributed the highest number of Theses and Dissertations (27.70%) on Library and Information Science. Uppsala University (17.57%) was the second highest contributor in OATD.org. NC Docks (6.19%), University of KwaZulu-Natal (6.00%) and National Library of Canada (5.20%) were contributed a considerable number of Theses, however these are less than the contributions of top two Universities. It is also observed the contributions made by other Universities were also found less than other top Universities. It is inferred that the top two Universities alone were contributed 42.28% and 54.72% of contributions were made remaining Universities.

5.4 Contribution of ETDs by Departments

The contribution of Theses and Dissertations were further analyzed at department level and grouped into 14 categories. Totally, 2441 Theses and Dissertations on Library and Information Science were contributed and shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Contribution of ETDs by Departments

S. No.	Department	Nos.	%	Rank	
1	Swedish School of Library and Information Science	819	33.55	1	72.22%
2	ALM	556	22.78	2	
3	Library and Information Science	256	10.49	3	
4	Computer Science	132	5.41	4	27.78%
5	Library and Information Studies Centre (LISC)	91	3.73	5	
6	Cultural Sciences	87	3.56	6	
7	Education and IT	81	3.32	7	
8	Library and Information Studies	78	3.20	8	
9	Information	71	2.91	9	
10	Information Science	59	2.42	10	
11	Sociology	59	2.42	10	
12	Information Studies	58	2.38	12	
13	Psychology	49	2.01	13	
14	Chalmers University of Technology / Department of Computer Science and Engineering (Chalmers)	45	1.84	14	
	Total	2441	100		100

Table 4 highlights that “Swedish School of Library and Information Science” (33.55%) was the top department under this category to contribute the highest number of Theses and Dissertations than other departments. “ALM” was the second highest contributors with 22.78%, followed by “Library and information Science”(10.49%).The contributions of 3 top Universities were highest (72.22%) than other departments (27.78%).

5.5 Level of ETDs.

Theses and Dissertations on Library and information Science in OATD.org. repository were found in four categories e.g. Doctoral, Masters, Thesis and Dissertations and the same is explained in Table 5.

Table 5
Level of ETDs.

S. No.	Level	Nos.	%	Rank
1	Doctoral	2126	57.98	1
2	Masters	1276	34.80	2
3	Thesis	250	6.82	3
4	Dissertation	15	0.41	4
	Total	3667	100	

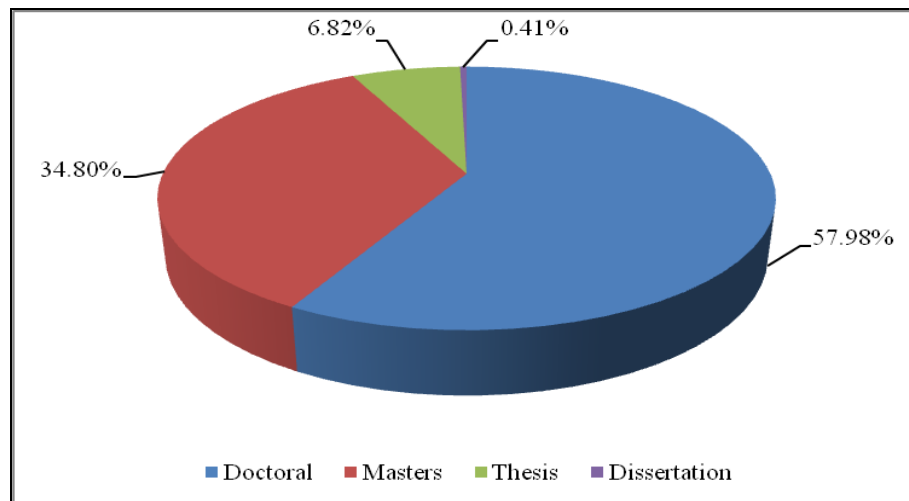


Figure 2. Level of ETDs.

It is found from Table 5 that more number of Theses (57.98%) were found under “Doctoral” level, followed by “Masters” (34.80%), and “Thesis” (6.82%).

5.6 Contribution of ETDs in various Language

The usage of content is highly depended on the language, in which the content is written. The usage of the content would be increased when the content is available in a common lanaguge at international level. In OATD repository, 7393 Theses and Dissertations were available in 14 language.

Table 6
Contributions of ETDs in various Language

S. No.	Language	Nos.	%	Rank	Overall %
1	English	4204	56.86	1	80.62%
2	Swedish	1756	23.75	2	
3	Finnish	560	7.57	3	19.38%
4	Portuguese	427	5.78	4	
5	Czech	118	1.60	5	
6	Spanish	79	1.07	6	
7	German	58	0.78	7	
8	Greek	41	0.55	8	
9	French	40	0.54	9	
10	Lithuanian	32	0.43	10	
11	Norwegian	27	0.37	11	
12	Sr	18	0.24	12	
13	Chinese	13	0.18	13	
14	Slv	10	0.14	15	
15	Turkish	10	0.14	15	
	Total	7393	100		100%

It is evident from Table 5 that “English” is a dominating language, because of the highest number of Theses and Dissertations (56.86%) were written in “English”. “Swedish” was the second highest language used for writing of 23.75% of Theses and Dissertations contributed in OATD.org.

6. Conclusion

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are most important resources for the researchers in higher educational institutions. In early days, it was very difficult for the researchers to find out the research made by the researchers. The researchers were mainly depended on the traditional Theses and dissertations to get research information. Now, there is a tremendous change in the research and it becomes easy for the researcher to collect information for their research. ICT enables to collect, process, store and distribute the scholarly information easily. In this study, it is found that a good number of Theses and Dissertations were found on Library and Information Science. The results of the study show that the contributions of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) were found high during recent year e.g.2011-2020.It is believed that the contributions of ETDs on Library and Information will increase in future also. Further, the highest no. of theses were written in “English” language only. The ETDs were written in other language shall be translated into some other common language to share the research results among other researchers. It will increase the usage of research findings at world level.

References

1. Ahmed, A., Alreyaee, S., & Rahman, A. (2014). Theses and dissertations in institutional repositories: an Asian perspective. *New Library World*, 115(9/10), 438-451.
2. Ezema, I. J., & Ugwu, C. I. (2013). Electronic theses and dissertations in Nigeria university libraries. *The Electronic Library*.
3. <https://oatd.org/>
4. Jeyapragash, B., Rajkumar, T., & Muthuraj, A. (2016). Research output analysis of electronic theses and dissertations with special reference to Shodhganga. *Science & Technology*, 1588(2.8), 9.
5. Khaparde, D., & Ambedkar, B. (2014). Growth and Development of Electronic Theses and Dissertation (ETDs) in India. *Journal of Library and Information Sciences*, 2(1), 99-116.
6. Khaparde, V., & Ambedkar, B. (2014). Growth and development of electronic theses and dissertation (ETDs) in India. *Journal of Library and Information Sciences*, 2(1), 99-116.
7. Lippincott, J.K. (2006). Institutional strategies and policies for electronic theses and dissertations. *EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research Bulletin*, 13. Retrieved from <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ERB0613.pdf>.
8. Mishra, R., Vijayanand, S., Noufal, P.P. & Shukla, G. (2007). Development of ETD Repository at IITK Library using DSpace. In *International Conference on Semantic Web and Digital Libraries (ICSD-2007)*, 249-259.
9. Ramdas, L. S., & Lihitkar, R. S. (2014). Electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) in India: a comparative study. *Library Hi Tech News*, 31(2), 9-14.
10. Ramirez, M. L., Dalton, J. T., McMillan, G., Read, M., & Seamans, N. H. (2013). Do open access electronic theses and dissertations diminish publishing opportunities in the social sciences and humanities? Findings from a 2011 survey of academic publishers. *College & Research Libraries*, 74(4), 368.
11. Sheeja, N. K., & Cherukodan, S. (2011). The development and promotion of ETDs in Kerala. 8th International CALIBER - 2011, Goa University, Goa, March 02-04, Retrieved from https://scholar.google.co.in/scholar?start=20&q=ETDs+in+india&hl=en&as_sdt=0,5
12. Sivakumaren, K. S. (2015). Electronic thesis and dissertations (ETDs) by Indian universities in Shodhganga project: a study. *Journal of advances in library and information science*, 4(1), 62-66.
13. Swain, D.K. (2010). Global adoption of electronic theses and dissertations. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 188-196.
14. Vaishali., & Babasaheb, A. (2014). ETDs in India: Towards a national repository with value added e-theses service. *A Journal of Library and Information Sciences*, 2(1), 92-100.
15. Wani, J. A. (2019). Open Access Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Repositories: An Assessment. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 0_1-11.