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## **ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATIONS (ETDs) AT SHODHGANGA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY, KARAIKUDI, INDIA**

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### **Abstract**

*A reservoir of Indian theses is a digital repository of theses and dissertations submitted to Indian universities. It is maintained by INFLIBNET centre which is an autonomous inter-university centre of the university grants commission (UGC) of India, was initially located in the campus of Gujarat University, Ahmadabad. As of January 2013, INFLIBNET centre has moved to its new institutional building at infocity, Gandhinagar, capital of Gujarat. As on 28 November 2019 as many as 415 Universities contributing in India have signed MoUs with INFLIBNET Centre to participate in the shodhganga project. The full texts of all the documents submitted to shodhganga are available to read and to download in open access to the academic community worldwide. The repository has a collection of 2, 45,789 Theses, 6450 Synopses, 415 Universities contribution and 488 Universities signed MoUs.*

**Keywords:** *Shodhganga online database, Inflibnet, Thesis, Dissertation, Digital repository.*

### **Introduction**

The emergence of University Grants commission the aspiring and dream project of University Grants commission, which also aims at content creation by Indian academic sector, will definitely boost this idea. Therefore the state holders are becoming more aware and started looking for the more resources and latest information. Theses and dissertations are an important part of information resources in any university. In India, access to the resources is generally limited to the university community. Most of the libraries do not allow photocopying, lending or distribution of theses and they are often difficult to obtain in full text. Electronic Theses and Dissertations can be easily accessible and delivered over the World Wide Web. The theses and dissertations are written and published in print and soft copy at university level and archives in shelves in university libraries.

### **Need of the study**

A world wide literature search showed the increase in Ph.Ds worldwide and its importance in furthering academic research. The present scenario in the dissertation of doctoral research results, the problems, faced during accessing them the archival and publication practices of Ph.D.Theses are solved by the introduction of ETDs as a solution, World Wide. It is with this

context, there was a need to study the present scenario in Indian Universities including Alagappa University with the recent trend in electronic publication and open access.

### **Benefits of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD)**

1. Wider exposure of university research through superior accessibility
2. Opportunities to use of multimedia form of information
3. Ability to scholar as they learn the basic skills of scholarly publishing in an electronic format.
4. Conservation of paper, library storage space and of library staff time
5. Theses and Dissertations more immediately accessible
6. The option to have theses or dissertations accessible to any potential read every day at any time.

### **Objectives**

1. To create global visibility for research publications of Alagappa University
2. To collect content of the theses from Controller of Examination and uploading to shodhganga database
3. To provide open access to institutional research output by self-archiving it
4. To store and preserve the Theses and dissertations of Alagappa University.

Here, much care is to be taken on copyright is owned by the researcher or Institute, or for which permission has been obtained to include a copy of the work in the repository.

### **Alagappa University Initiatives**

Alagappa University are actively involved to research in the form of thesis and research publications and its intellectual outputs of the university exists as disorganized and decentralised digital objects held in personal computers, web servers or storage medias. They represent a vital part of the scholarly property of the university, and at the same time they are also a part that is the most endangered of being lost. The University needs to store and retain their intellectual assets. They also need to make their work available and visible to others within and outside the university, while managing their digital rights and maintaining the integrity of their work. As a solution, a shodhganga can take the responsibilities to capture and maintain these intellectual outputs. Alagappa University also having own institutional repository for archiving the digital content including Electronic Theses and Dissertations.

### **Inflibnet Initiatives**

Indian universities play a major role in generation and dissemination of knowledge by conducting research works and producing Ph.D., theses as a unique genre of information sources. INFLIBNET hosted a regularly updated free ETD for Ph.D., theses submitted to Indian Universities. At present it is freely available for searching at Shodhganga website and contains

around 2, 45,789 of full text theses covering all subjects and all universities. Being the data supplied by the universities themselves. The repository has been developed to capture, Disseminate and preserve the research theses of Indian Universities.

## **SHODHGANGA**

Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET Centre provides a platform for research students 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, and store, disseminate and preserve ETDs submitted by the researchers.

Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations repository called shodhganga originated to facilitate open access to theses throughout the academic community. The word 'Shodh' originates from Sanskrit and means research and discovery. 'Gnaga' is the name of the large stand holiest river in India. Shodhganga project was intended to provide online accessibility to Indian theses, to ensure that they are easy to access and to create a place for them to be achieved. It was also developed as a tool to help improve the standard and quality of research in India. Its aim is to help prevent duplication of research and to increase the visibility of Indian Theses.

### **Features of Shodhganga**

Shodhganga provides simple search and advanced search options to access theses. It also includes the following browse options, communities, collection, title, author, subject, and data. The repository contains many useful links, as well as highlighting a list of recent submission and links to other ETD services.

### **Top 10 Universities at India**

S.No.	Name of the University	State	No. of Theses
1	University of Calcutta	West Bengal	11916
2	Savitribai Phule Pure University	Maharashtra	10501
3	Anna University	Tamil Nadu	8858
4	Aligarh Muslim University	Uttar Pradesh	8212
5	V.B.S. Purvanchal University	Uttar Pradesh	8107
6	University of Madras	Tamil Nadu	7541
7	Panjab University	Panjab	7385
8	Bharathidasan University	Tamil Nadu	5770
9	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Tamil Nadu	5347
10	Gauthati University	Assam	5203

## State Universities in Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Name of the University	Number of Theses	Rank
1	Anna University	8858	1
2	University of Madras	7541	2
3	Bharathidasan University,	5770	3
4	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	5347	4
5	Bharathiar University	4360	5
6	Madurai kamaraj University	2229	6
7	Alagappa University	1882	7
8	Periyar University	1811	8
9	Annamalai University	1023	9
10	Tami Nadu Agricultural University	705	10
11	Mother Teresa Women's University	307	11
12	Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University	172	12
13	Tamil Nadu Dr.Ambedkar Law University	050	13
14	The Tamil Nadu M.G.R. Medical University	014	14
15	Tamil University	005	15
16	Tamil Nadu Teacher Education University	002	16
17	Tamil Nadu Veterinary University and Animal Science University	-	-
18	Thiruvalluvar University	-	-
19	Tamil Nadu Open University	-	-

## Collection Building

It provides step-by-step instructions for submitting theses and a thesis template is provided to help researchers submit their thesis in a standard format. The repository has also incorporated web2.0 applications, such as RSS feeds. Overall, the repository has a user friendly interface that provides many options to submitters and users to enable easy navigation.

Under this, the major steps followed for building up with two stems, community creation and collection building creation. Login into the space enter user name and password. Collections are space described community creating top level community. There are two options of communities:

Step 1: Top level community created by INFLIBNET

Creating sub-community is similar to Top level creation, becomes as below after finishing top.

Step 2: Entering the metadata of theses and dissertations

Step 3: Upload the full text thesis in the forms of Title, Certificate, Content and Chapters etc...

### **Alagappa University ETD Collection at Shodhganga**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Department / Centre</b>	<b>Number of Theses</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1	Department of Education	318	1
2	Department of Industrial Chemistry	252	2
3	Department of Physical Education and Health Science	222	3
4	Alagappa Institute of Management	135	4
5	Department of Physics	128	5
6	Department of Mathematics	120	6
7	Department of Tamil	117	7
8	Department of Corporate Secretary ship	113	8
9	Department of International Business and Commerce	095	9
10	Department of Computer Science Engineering	071	10
11	Department of English and Foreign languages	056	11
12	Department of Library and information Science	043	12
13	Department of Biotechnology	043	12
14	Department of Women's Studies	034	13
15	Department of Management	025	14
16	Department of oceanography and coastal area studies	023	15
17	Department of Economics and Rural Development	021	16
18	Department of Animal Health and Management	014	17
19	Department of Bio-informatics	014	17
20	Centre for Nano science and Technology	013	18
21	Department of Bio electronic and Biosensors	06	19
22	Department of History	03	20
23	Department of Zoology	03	20
24	Department of Energy Science	03	20
25	Public Administration	02	21
26	Political Science	02	21
27	Botany	02	21
28	Molecular Biology	01	22
29	Department of Geology	01	22

## Conclusion

The greatest advantages of Electronic Theses and Dissertations are avoiding duplication in research work, ensuring quick retrieval of information, promoting resource sharing, and providing a permanent solution to the problem of space. It is time for librarians to appraise a demicians, professors, administrators, and policy makers of the important of Electronic theses and dissertations to teaching and research. Workshops and training programmes for both students and faculty need to be developed that cover issues of copyright and choice of access, and that encourage research scholars to carefully consider the ethics of restricting their research from access by the national and international scholarly community. Librarians should take the opportunity to attend workshops and conferences to gain knowledge of ETD repositories. It is essential for librarians as information professionals to take the initiative to make progress in this crucial area.

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