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Mapping the Contribution of Electronic Theses and Dissertations by the Universities of Assam to INFLIBNET Shodhganga Project: A Study

By

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Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are considered as generally significant and broadly utilized assets by the researchers in higher educational institutions. The current paper assesses the contribution of Universities of Assam in India's ETD Database Shodhganga. In order to share the research information among the Universities, the Shodhganga Project was initiated by INFLIBNET Centre, which providing free access to theses and dissertations through the archive. In this project, 12 Universities of Assam have marked MoU for Shodhganga and just 10 universities have submitted their research reports.

Keywords: Electronic Theses and Dissertations, Shodhganga, INFLIBNET, Universities, ETDs., Repository

1. INTRODUCTION

A significant role is played by Indian universities in the production and conveyance of information by promoting research work and generating doctoral theses. Theses are the intellectual output of an institution. At university level, the theses and dissertations are written and published in print and soft copy and archives in the library bookshelves. These research reports were not available for public domain access in the early days. Now, due to the application of ICT tools and techniques, it has been updated. In addition, the progress of ICT has changed the way information is structured, stored and disseminated to end users. Another milestone that has made it easier to access knowledge in the modern world is the invention of Open Access. An institutional repository is an archive for digital copies of this intellectual output to be stored, preserved and circulated. For research and development, ETDs are very useful tools within academic institutions.

2. An overview of Shodhganga

Shodhganga is the term coined to denote the Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations digital repository set up by the INFLIBNET Centre. The INFLIBNET Centre has been assigned the duty by the UGC to host, manage and make the Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertation.'Shodhganga' digital repository available to all institutions and universities.

Since 2009, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has made it mandatory in India for all research scholars to submit their theses and dissertations in print as well as in electronic form to their respective universities in order to make them accessible to a wider range of academic communities. Since then, several projects have been created to establish ETDs, one of which was initiated by INFLIBNET, Ahmadabad, Shodhganga was among them. Shodhganga has the duty of hosting, managing and establishing the Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertation digital archive as per the Regulation. Using the DSpace open source digital repository software, Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is configured. The primary objective of the Shodhganga@INFLIBNET Centre is to provide research students with a forum for depositing their Ph.D. theses and making them accessible to the research students.

3. Objectives

1. To distinguish the universities of Assam signed MoU to Shodhganga.
2. To study the contributions (ETDs) of 12 Assam Universities to the Shodhganga Project.
3. Ranking of the Universities of Assam based on Shodhganga's ETD contributions.
4. To analysis the contributions of ETDs by top departments of the Universities .
5. To evaluate the language predominance in contributed ETDs.

4. Methodology

This paper outlines the status of the Universities of Assam which signed the MoU to upload the ETDS to Shodhganga. In this analysis, survey methods of research were used to achieve the above objectives of the study. The data has been obtained from the Shodhganga repository by observation process. A systematic survey and assessment of the sodhganaga repository (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>) was conducted during October 2020 to trace the contribution of theses and dissertations to shodhganga by the universities of Assam. The data were grouped into three major categories e.g. overall contributions, department level contributions and contributions on various disciplines and language predominance of submitted ETDs.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

5.1.Status of the State universities signed MoU with Shodhganga

Table 1 displays the list of universities registered in the ETD repository in Shodhganga that have signed the MoU to INFLIBNET. As of December 2019, a total of 478 universities from 29 states of India were already registered in Shodhganga. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of universities in this project among the 29 states of India and ranked 1st. In the

5.2. Year wise registration of universities signed MoU with Shodhganga

The table 2 shows the year-wise registration of MoU-signed universities with Shodhganga. It indicates that more universities (75-15%) signed the MoU in 2018 and the lowest number in 2010 (10-2%). In 2011, 36 universities (7.5 percent) registered with INFLIBNET for Shodhganga. In 2012 and 2016, 49 universities were registered, 53 universities were registered in 2013, 29 universities signed the MoU to Shodhganga in 2014. In both 2017 and 2019, 59 universities were registered.

Table 2 : Year wise registration of universities signed MoU with Shodhganga

SL.NO	YEAR	No. of Universities	Percentage
	2010	10	2.09
1	2011	36	7.53
2	2012	49	10.25
3	2013	53	11.08
4	2014	29	6.06
5	2015	59	12.34
6	2016	49	10.25
7	2017	59	12.34
8	2018	75	15.69
9	2019	59	12.34
	Total	478	100

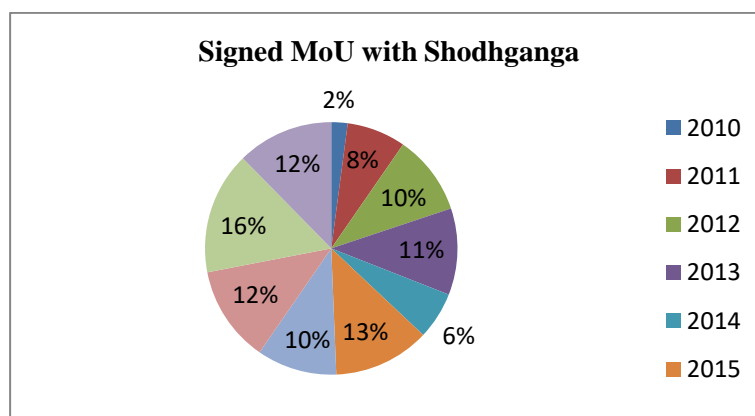


Fig1: Year wise registration of universities signed MoU with Shodhganga

5.3. Universities of Assam signed MoU to Shodhganga

Table 3 shows the Universities are signed from Assam for submitting the Electronic Theses for the institutional repository purposes. In this project, 12 Universities of Assam were participated and deposited their research reports. Out of 12 Universities from Assam the Gauhati University has made first initiative to signed MoU to Shodhganga.

Table 3: Universities of Assam signed MoU to Shodhganga

Sl. No	Name of the University	Location	University Co-Ordinator Name	MoU Signed for Shodhganga
1	Gauhati University	Guwahati	Dr.Wooma Sankar Dev Nath	18th July 2011
2	Assam Don Bosco University	Guwahati	Mr.J N Vishwakarma	27 th Sepetember ,2011
3	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	Guwahati	Dr. Gautam Kumar Sarma	23rd December 2011
4	Assam University	Silchar	Dr. A K Sharma	31st January 2013
5	Tezpur University	Tezpur	Dr.Mukesh Saikia	1st August 2013
6	Dibrugarh University	Dibrugarh	Dr. Utpal Das	30th Jun 2015
7	Bodoland University		Dr. Ganesh Chandra Wary	08th September 2015
8	Assam Down Town University	Guwahati	Dr. MD Yamin Hassan	28th April, 2018
9	Cotton University	Guwahati	Dr. Zabeen Ahmed	10th October, 2018
10	National Law University and Judicial Academy	Guwahati	Dr. Kankana Baishya	30th May,2019
11	Assam Science and Technnology University	Guwahati	-	24th October,2019
12	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University	Nagaon	Mr. Shekharjyoti Neog	3rd December,2019

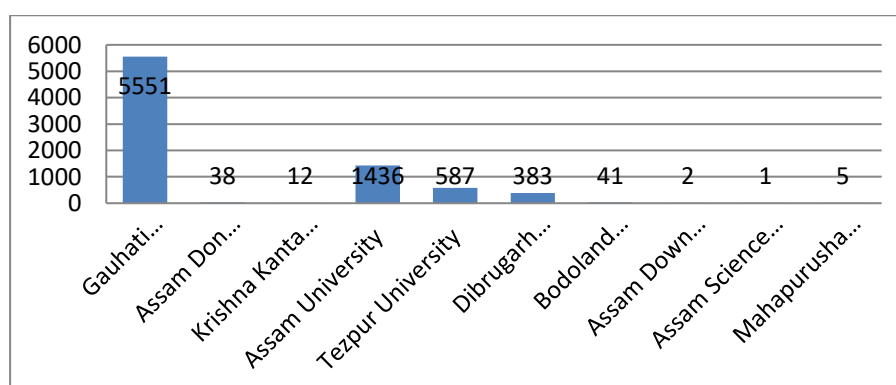
Source: <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/newmoredetails/mou.html> Retrieved 09-10-2020

5.4.Contribution of Universities from Assam in Shodhganga

Table 4 shows the Out of 10 Universities from Assam ,Gauhati University has the maximum contribution and it has submitted 5551 highest ETDs to Shodhganga. The Assam University has taken place the second position submitting 1436 theses. Further, Tezpur University has deposited 587 Theses and ranked in the 3rd place. Assam Science and Technnology University have submitted only one thesis to shodhganga. .Similarly, Dibrugarh University (383), Bodoland University (41) and Assam Don Bosco University (38) were also contributed considerable number of Theses and placed in 4th, 5th and 6th rank respectively.The contributions by Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (12), Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University(5), Assam Down Town University(2), Assam Science and Technnology University (1)were found less among 10 Universities. Both the Cotton University and the National Law University and the Judicial Academy have signed MoU to Shodhganga, but these universities do not upload any theses.

Table 4: Contribution of Universities from Assam in Shodhganga

Sl.No	Name of the University	Total No. of Theses uploaded	Percentage	Rank
1	Gauhati University	5551	68.90	1
2	Assam University	1436	17.82	2
3	Tezpur University	587	7.28	3
4	Dibrugarh University	383	4.75	4
5	Bodoland University	41	0.50	5
6	Assam Don Bosco University	38	0.47	6
7	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	12	0.14	7
8	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University	5	0.06	8
9	Assam Down Town University	2	0.024	9
10	Assam Science and Technnology University	1	0.012	10
	Total	8056	100	

**Fig3: Theses Submitted in Shodhganga Universities from Assam**

5.5.Contributions of ETDs by top departments of the Universities

The 5th table has find out the highest number of Theses deposited by the Top departments of each Universities. In this project, it is found that only few Universities are regularly contributing their ETDs. Among 10 Universities, the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University has deposited the highest number of (370,54.49%).theses pertaining to this department and placed in the 1st rank. Assam University(140,20.61%), Tezpur University(107,15.73%), Dibrugarh University(34,5%) were also deposited a good number of Theses and placed in 2nd,3rd , 4th rank respectively. The percentage of ETD contribution of Bodoland University, Assam Don Bosco University, KrishnaKanta Handiqui State Open University, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University ,Assam Down Town University, Assam Science and Technology University seems to be poor

Table 5: Contributions of ETDs by top departments of the Universities

Sl. No	Name of the University	Dept.	Nos.	%	Rank
1	Gauhati University	Zoology	370	54.49	1
2	Assam University	Ecology and Environmental Science	140	20.61	2
3	Tezpur University	Chemical Sciences	107	15.73	3
4	Dibrugarh University	Political Science	34	5.00	4
5	Bodoland University	Biotechnology	11	1.62	5
6	Assam Don Bosco University	North East India Studies	5	0.73	6
7	KrishnaKanta Handiqui State Open University	Social Sciences	5	0.73	6
8	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University	Sankaradeva Studies	5	0.73	6
9	Assam Down Town University	Pharmaceutical Sciences	2	0.29	7
10	Assam Science and Technnology University	Mathematics	1	0.14	7

5.6.Language predominance in contributed ETDs

Table-6 indicates that there are 6856 ETDs in English, which is a worldwide common language. 137 theses in the Assamese language, the official language of Assam, and 518 theses in other languages, including Bodo, Bengali, Manipuri, Hindi, etc. Assam University provides largest number of other languages ETDS to Shodhganga.

Table 6: language predominance in contributed ETDs

Sl.No	Name of the University	Theses in English	Theses in assamese	Theses in other language
1	Gauhati University	4816	132	54
2	Assam University	977	-	459
3	Tezpur University	584	-	3
4	Dibrugarh University	380	3	-
5	Bodoland University	38	2	1
6	Assam Don Bosco University	41	-	-
7	KrishnaKanta Handiqui State Open University	11	-	1
8	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University	5	-	-
9	Assam Down Town University	3	-	-
10	Assam Science and Technnology University	1		
	Total	6856	137	518

6. Major findings

- a) There are a total of 12 Assam universities that have signed MoUs with Shodhganga, but only 10 universities contribute to Shodhganga. The two universities (Cotton University and the University of National Law and the Judicial Academy) have not yet proceeded to contribute their dissertations to the repository of shodhganga.
- b) It is found that the Gauhati University (5551) has the highest total contributions, while Assam University (1436) has the second highest contributions, and Tezpur University (587) has the third highest contributions.
- c) Gauhati University's Department of Zoology has contributed top theses (370) in shodhganga, followed by Assam University of Ecology and Environmental Science (140) and Tezpur University's Department of Chemical Sciences (107).
- d) It is found that 6856 ETDs in English, 137 theses in the Assamese language, 518 theses in other languages, including Bodo, Bengali, Manipuri, Hindi, etc.

7. Conclusion

The greatest benefits of electronic theses and dissertations are avoiding duplication of research work, ensuring rapid retrieval of information, enhancing the resource sharing. Some universities of Assam did well and submitted their theses to shodhganga, but some universities were at the beginning of contributions, while two universities have not yet started uploading their theses. There are also several differences in department wise contribution, since some departments contributed more and some very limited in number. Efforts must be made by university officials, librarians to resolve this void in awarding Ph.D. and submitting theses to Shodhganga to further increase the number of ETDs in the repository. There is a need to establish workshop and training programs, highlighting issues of copyright, and encouraging research scholars to carefully examine the ethics of limiting access to their research by the national and international academic community.

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