

ETDs in Brazil: 2001 – 2009

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Brazil is a very large country that spreads from the North of the Equator to the South of the Tropic of Capricorn; it has many landscapes and climates. The population concentration and the Human Development Index vary from region to region. The South and South East have the highest population density and the highest development levels. The majority of oldest and most traditional graduate programs in the country are in these regions too.

ETDs in Brazil started in the late 1990s. In 2001 a project of the Ministry of Science and Technology created the Brazilian national consortium of ETDs. At that moment, there were only 3 universities with ETD programs – 2 were in the South East and the third in the South.

The national consortium is named BDTD – Biblioteca Digital de Teses e Dissertações (bdtd.ibict.br) and it is operated and managed by IBICT – Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia (www.ibict.br/). BDTD developed free and open software for the universities to use. Training sessions were held all over the country in order to support the local institutions.

At the moment there are 78 institutions with ETD programs and the National Consortium holds over 83,000 metadata records. All institutions operate digital libraries that are OAI-PMH-Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting data providers. This poster shows the evolution of ETDs programs – mapping geographical regions and sizes of collections, currently present in all regions of Brazil.

Aligning Academic Research Agendas With Economic Development Agendas

» Denise Bedford, Kent State, World Bank

Organizations like the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank work with country governments, non-governmental organizations and knowledge domain experts to develop Country Assistance Strategies for client countries.

The purpose of this research is to explore the extent to which those Country Assistance Strategies are aligned with the academic research produced by or about those countries.

Methodology: A sample set of developing and middle-income Country Assistance Strategies will be used to determine the base of need for research and development for each country. Semantic analysis methods will be used to characterize the knowledge domain of the R&D need.

Theses and dissertations targeted to the country or generated from within the country will be used to define the R&D agenda on a practical level. Research agendas or foci discussed by professional associations, academic institutions or academies in the country also will be used to define the R&D base. Semantic analysis methods will be used to characterize the R&D focus. Comparisons of need and focus will be drawn, gaps will be highlighted, and opportunities for alignment will be identified.

Total Quality Management (TQM) for ETDs

» Dinesh Chandra, Ministry of Defense, India

» Kamani Perera, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

ETDs facilitate more timely exchange of information among scholars and improve distance learning without any geographical barrier. It supports teaching, learning and research while reaching unreachable without walls through digital libraries.

Greater revolution has occurred in the libraries recent past converting paper-based libraries to electronic based ones.

With the emergence of WWW and availability of national and global networks, universities and libraries have turned their attention to ETDs rather than building printed-based TD collection. In this way, librarian's role dramatically changed and is responsible for what ETDs available for their users and how users can access to the available information within the physical walls of the library or elsewhere for scholarly communication.

ETDs can be defined as theses and dissertations which are submitted in electronic format and facilitate use of multimedia, reference linking while accessing electronically. TQM methods can be applied to build up these ETD collections. It promotes quality management of ETD collections widely.

Edward Deming and J.M. Juan are the two people who gave birth to TQM. According to them, TQM strongly focused on clients while helping them to know their needs and meeting those needs exceeding their expectations. And also TQM facilitates commitment to quality and continuous improvement, adopting systematic and scientific approach to operations (Viljoen and Underwood, 1997).

ETDs are playing an important role in the university community. TQM methods are using widely in western countries to develop ETDs rather than developing countries.

TQM can be defined as -

Total – staff, suppliers, customers
Quality – quality of work, products
Management – quality of leadership

Main TQM Principles –

Plan (P)
Do (D)
Check (C)
Action (A)

When applying TQM methods for ETD collection, it can be divided into three categories as follows-

1. Exploring and planning
2. Processing and operating
3. Evaluating and improving

Using TQM methods for ETD development, library professionals can understand user's expectations and they meet their expectations. It lowers cost of operation while improving the quality of ETD collection to attract and retain more university scholars.

"TQM is defined as a management method relying on the cooperation of all the members of an organization. A management method that centers on quality and on the long-term success of the organization through the satisfaction of the customers, as well as the benefit of all its members and society" (Information Resources Guide on TQM 2000-2005).

Extended Learning Initiatives with Institutional Repositories: Rising Tide Raises all the Boats

» Kamani Perera, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

» Dinesh Chandra, Ministry of Defense, India

In this Internet era, modern libraries have taken initiation to extend their services through open access. Open access helps to distribute available resources freely.

This facility is a greater benefit to the developing country sector where scholars/students couldn't access available information due to financial constraints. Open access system facilitates free access of information globally without any geographical barrier.