

INTRODUCTION TO ETD PROJECT AT IIU

Progress and issues

PROFILE

The foundation of the University was laid on November 11, 1980. The University was upgraded, restructured and reconstituted by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in March 1985.

Currently with nine (9) faculties and six (6) autonomous academies, institutes and centers, the University is conducting around ninety (90) academic programs with an enrollment of over 17,000 students that includes around 7000 female students. In addition around 2,000 are enrolled in the Iqra Technical Centre, a constituent unit of the University.



SUPPORT & TRAINING

Support and technical training was provided to students, staff, and faculty. Workshops and training were conducted within a department if so requested.

The anticipated technical training emphasis during the pilot was on how to create documents as PDF (Portable Document Format) files. This support included discussion of procedures involved in accepting ETDs and some technical training in how to identify problems in a PDF document.

This training is planned to be made available to faculty, staff, and graduate students.

First ETD initiative in Pakistan

Pakistan Research Repository (PRR)

Initiated by: Higher Education Commission (HEC) in 2005

Aim: "to maintain a digital archive of the intellectual output of Pakistani institutions, to provide a single-entry access point to view this research, and to distribute this information as widely as possible".

Scope: First phase covers only MS and PhD level theses/dissertations
Second phase, Master theses, E. Books and Research Papers

Present Status: 2132 Ph.D. theses have been digitized and are available on the Web

URL: <http://www.eprints.hec.gov.pk>

ISSUES

- Concerns of students about the Copyright violations.
- Hesitancy of some students for submission of soft copy of the thesis.
- Power crisis in the country: load shedding reduces the pace of digitizing.
- OCR (optical character recognition) restrictions for languages other than English for thesis scanned from printed copies.
- Storage of digital data and backups, resources/media with high capacity are required
- Virus attacks on servers

FORMAT

The pilot will focus on dissertations and theses to be prepared for submission as text-based Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) files. The ETD may include external or internal links to non-text/multi-media files. The ETD document itself may include multimedia elements as long as those elements are in formats on the approved list of accessible file types. There is no limit to the file size of the ETD during the pilot. Participating students will not be required to submit a hard-copy version of the thesis or the dissertation to the library in addition to the electronic thesis/dissertation.

While the University copy of the final thesis or dissertation does not need to be submitted in paper form if it is submitted electronically during the pilot, a graduate program may continue to require paper copies from pilot participants for review by thesis or dissertation committees and for the school or department libraries.

INTRODUCTION

International Islamic University Library has started developing a digital library of theses and dissertations which includes the archived theses and the submission by new students. As per suggested policy the University library requires postgraduate students entering Master, M.Phil and Ph.D programs to submit an electronic or 'soft' copy of their theses at the same time that print or 'hard' copies are submitted. The goal of the ETD library is to systematically collect and disseminate electronic theses and dissertations created by graduate students of the University.

In the initial phase, International Islamic University's departments with graduate programs were invited to participate in the pilot project. Only those master's and doctoral students from participating departments/faculties were able to submit electronic theses or dissertations (ETDs) during the 12 months (to include the graduation periods of December 2007 through December 2008) of the pilot project. Faculties/Departments that wanted to participate were asked to agree to do so for the full year in which the pilot runs.

CURRENT STATUS

Digitized theses:	852
Digitized from hard copy:	809
Theses received in soft form:	43
Number of theses digitized/day:	9

Work on 1st phase is being carried out rapidly and access to the digital theses is available within the university intranet. PhD theses can be accessed from Pakistan Research Repository website.
(<http://eprints.hec.gov.pk>)

PILOT EVALUATION

The following areas (and others to be identified) were evaluated by survey or data collection: faculty/student satisfaction; procedures; training and support; reasons for participating or not participating in pilot; costs; accessibility/visibility figures.

During the spring term of 2008, the ETD Working Group evaluated the results of the pilot; prepare a report, including recommendations for next steps; and submitted the results, report, and recommendation to the President of the University. Since then the University library has digitized 500 existing thesis in Arabic, Urdu and English languages. While faculty sends ETDs of their students per the format requested regularly. The number of ETDs in IIUs collection is on rise.