ETD initiatives : An audit of International landscape

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Introduction

- Importance
- Advantages
- ➤ Research is a window to the world and its future (Goldin,2010)
- ➤ Non duplication of efforts
- ➤ Different levels of access
- ➤ More visibility and recognition
- ➤ Elimination of storage problem.

Research Methodology

- Survey Method :
- ➤ The following countries were studied
- ➤ Australia-38 universities
- ➤ India- 40 universities/Institutes
- ➤ UK-40 universities/Institutes
- ETDs are OA, freely and easily across the globe. Therefore ,the data which was available through Internet was considered adequate and used for this study.

Objectives:

- Current / Ongoing projects –various universities involved in ETD projects
- Content/Total collection
- Coverage of subject areas
- Objectives of ETD
- Use of software
- Metadata schema used
- Competency of the staff to maintain ETD
- Policies of the universities with regard to acquisition/acceptance of e- theses.
- Policies of Government/Research Council/University Grants Commission(UGC)
- The paper elaborates and compares the ETD initiatives taken in UK and Australia with India.

EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE IN INDIA

- India has one of the largest educational systems in the world. There are 42 Central Universities,243 state Universities,53 state private universities,130 deemed universities,33 institutions of national importance, established under the act of Parliament and five institutions, established under various state legislations. The number of colleges ,across the country ,in 2011 was 30,000+ ;more than 11,000 doctoral theses are awarded to the students every year.(http://mhrd.gov.in/over_test11)

Role of University Grants   Commission

www.**ugc**.ac.in/

- The University Grants Commission was established as a statutory body of government of India by an Act of Parliament in 1956.It is responsible for promoting coordinating   and maintaining standards in university education, research and training. It provides grants to institutions and colleges of higher learning; advises Central and state governments on the measures necessary for the improvement of university education.

Policies of UGC regarding ETDs

- UGC, India has mandated electronic submission of Ph.D theses vide UGC Regulation2009(minimum standards and Procedure for award of M.Phil/Ph.D degree)According to this all universities are supposed to set up an e- thesis repository and facilitate e- submission, archiving, maintenance and access to this repository at university level. All universities are required to submit, the metadata for all the Ph.D theses submitted to their universities from inception, to INFLIBNET, which will provide infrastructural support to the universities for setting up ETD archives. The center will also provide anti plagiarism software to the universities; this will ensure that whatever content is uploaded is authentic and free from plagiarism.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON OPEN ACCESS

- Setting up and maintaining ETDs is in keeping with recommendations given by NTFIT (National Task Force on Information Technology)1998 and National Knowledge Commission ,2005

- "All the reports generated out of the R & D works funded by the government and its agencies should be made available for wider dissemination and commercial exploitation. The government should ensure establishment of a suitable mechanism for collection, compilation and timely publication (hosting) of such information in the electronic form." (http://it-taskforce.nic.in/bbr3/chap5.htm). The report of the working Group on libraries has also recommended that institutional repositories of electronic theses and dissertations be setup.

Major ETD initiatives in India

- **Shodhganga** http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/

The ETD repository created and maintained by INFLIBNET centre is popularly known as Shodh ganga (reservoir of knowledge).It serves as a platform for researchers to deposit their PhD theses and make it available for the scholarly community in open access. INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network www.inflibnet.ac.in) is an autonomous Inter University Centre (IUC) of UGC, India provides infrastructure for sharing library and information resources and services among academic and research institutions. UGC,India has entrusted INFLIBNET with the responsibility of creating and maintaining shodh ganga .The repository   is Dspace enabled and captures, stores, indexes, disseminates electronic theses submitted by the researchers to the Indian universities. The repository has a collection of 3350 theses which can be globallyaccessed (open access)

Major ETD initiatives in India (contd)

- **Shodhgangotri: Repository of Indian Research in progress** http://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in/

- Under this initiative, research scholars are supposed to deposit electronic versions of approved synopsis which they have submitted to the universities for getting registered for doctoral programmes. The synopses are made available in open access and may be browsed globally. This repository aims at highlighting the research trends followed across Indian universities and thus prevents duplication of efforts in research. Once the full text of a particular thesis is submitted and uploaded, a link to the full text (in Shodh ganga) from synopsis in Shodhgangotri is provided .This repository has 376synopses at present

Major ETD initiatives in India (contd)

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Major ETD initiatives in India (contd)

- **Vidyanidhi** (which means 'Treasure of Knowledge' in Sanskrit) http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/ is a digital library of 5482 these submitted to the various Indian universities .The digital library provides access to more than 1,00,000 Indian theses metadata which includes 1500 records in Kannada(for kannada theses and 4000 records in Hindi language for Hindi theses. It uses Dspace and follows ETD-MS: an Interoperability Metadata Standard for Electronic Theses and Dissertations – version 1.00

Major ETD initiatives in India (contd)

- **ETD Initiative at Jawaharlal Nehru University**

The Jawaharlal Nehru University was established in 1966, funded by the Central Government of India. It main aims are to impart teaching at post-graduate level and offer research programmes. The university has 10 schools of studies and 3 special centres; besides, there are 9 centres in School of International Studies; 3 centres in School of Information Technology; 11 centres in School of Language Literature and Culture Studies; 12 centres in School of Social Sciences. Centers' aim is to introduce rigorous and scientific research methodology in specific discipline/area of study housed in parent school of studies.

ETD Initiative at Jawaharlal Nehru University

- The Central Library of the University is the hub of all academic and research activities. There are 9690 registered users which include 2420 Under Graduate and Post Graduate students, 2545 research scholars, 456 teachers and 1300 administrative staff (2011, academic session). The Central library is also utilized by more than 2000 visitors from other colleges and universities, every year. The Library has a collection of 550000 books;1,00000 bound journals and subscribes to one thousand journals annually. The Library also subscribes to 24 online databases besides gets access to 23 databases through the UGC-INFONET consortium. It has a cyber-library which enables access to OPAC and online resources. The Cyber library is equipped with 200 access terminals with provision of taking out hardcopies of e-resources. There is a Helen Keller unit in the Library, which is equipped with assistive technologies to enable visually challenged and partially sighted students to access OPAC and online resources. TheLibrary has a collection of 18000 theses and dissertations

ETD Initiative at Jawaharlal Nehru University

- The university has signed an agreement with INFLIBNET, an IUC of UGC, India. According to this, JNU will digitize old theses and dissertations and build an ETD archive .The university will also provide metadata and soft copies of theses to upload in Shodhganga. The online theses will be made globally accessible under open access. The MOU clearly lays down the responsibility and tasks to be undertaken by the university for creating, maintaining, sharing an ETD archive, as envisioned by UGC Notification (Minimum Standards& {Procedure for Award of M.Phil&Ph.D degree) Regulation,2009 dated June,2009.The university will use anti plagiarism software to test the thesis for plagiarism before it is submitted for evaluation and award of degree. The UGC Notification has also clarified that if a supervisor or student wants to withhold the contents of his thesis from public viewing, it can be withheld from public viewing for a maximum period of 3 three years. The University has already outsourced the work of digitizing 8000 theses which is going on at present.

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ETD initiatives in UK

- Theses Alive

The project was started by Edinburgh University Library in collaboration with University of Cambridge, Crane field University, university of Leeds and Manchester MetropolitanUniversity to create an online repository of digital PH.D these and to create an online submission system for electronic theses and dissertations. The project has already ended and the digital archivehttp://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/ is accessible and maintained by Edinburgh University Library.

ETD initiatives in UK (contd)

- EThOS(Electronic Theses Online service)http://ethos.bl.uk:8080/About.do

- It provides a single point of access where researchers may access250,000+ theses produced by UK Higher Education. it supports Higher Education Institutions through the transition from print to e-theses. The website is maintained by British Library in Bostan Spa, Yorkshire. The site harvests e-theses from Institutional Repositories and digitizes paper theses from participating institutions to offer the single point of access.. Many UK institutions support Open Access to their theses, so download of their digital and digitized theses is free to the researcher. A small number of participating institutions do not support Open Access and in this case the researcher has to pay for the digitization

ETD initiatives in UK (contd)

- Out of 40 universities studied, 08 did not have IR/ETDs;IR of Canterbury Christ Church University (IR:CReATE) did not open. The University of Chichester is still to launch its IR. Out of the remaining 32 universities, 11 and 16 had used Dspace and E- prints respectively for running their IRs. There were 3 libraries who had used proprietary software of PTFS Archival Ware, IntraLibrary digital repository and digital commons of Bepress. The University of Hull had used Hydra, another OSS for its IR.

- The IRs had a collection ranging from 66 to 28,310 items. More than 95% of the IRs had used Dublin Core Metadata Schema while Glasgow Caledonian University had used Bepress created Metadata schema.

RCUK

- Role and policies
:.http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/doc
uments/RCUK%20_Policy_on_Access
_to_Research_Outputs.pdf

ETD initiatives in Australia

- Out of 38 libraries survey, 5 had used digitools; 06 had used Ds pace; Digital commons and VITAL had been used by 05 and 10libraries respectively .Fez and E-prints had been used by 04 and 06 libraries respectively. There was one library which had used Equall 5.0 .The Institutional repositories of Australia had rich collection of items ranging from 1000+ to 167,791 records .These repositories had clearly stated their objective, content, metadata use access and preservation policy.

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Major Findings:

- Out of the total 634 universities and institutions of national importance, just a handful of universities have set up ETDs.

- The importance and culture of ETDs is still to completely diffuse among the planners and administrators

- Many researchers and supervisors may be a little reluctant to join ETD movement as they are well aware that the research work they undertake is not of acceptable or permissible standards

Major Findings: (contd)

- voluntary ETD deposition results in repositories remaining less populated. Until now, it was neither mandatory for the universities to set up ETDs, nor was it mandatory for the students to submit theses electronically.

- Creating and maintaining an IR or ETD entails lot of technical expertise and collaborative efforts on a regular basis. Individual initiatives by the staff cannot offer long term gains. It has been observed that many IRS and ETDs are started by individual initiatives, but are not maintained as individuals may lose interest with passage of time

Conclusion

- Early stages of development
- Capacity Building programmes
- Awareness programmes
- Need to express explicit policies
- E TD Efforts are in full swing in Australia and UK.

Thank you