

Scenario and status of ETD e-Infrastructure in Indian academic libraries



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Abstract: India has a huge academic platform, more than 1027 Universities, 161 premier institutions, and more than 1,000 Research & Development institutions serving in the field of Teaching and Learning. As the quality index is measured by output, a number of these are produced year after year, taken into account. The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D. Degree, Regulation, 2009 Amendment made on 2016) dated 5th May 2016 mandate the submission of the electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations to the academic community world-wide. Besides this, it is observed that there are four kinds of channels in which one can get ETDs in India i.e. Shodhganga, National Digital Library, India, Institutional repositories, and OPAC of particular institutes' libraries. These channels are serving academic communities for ETDs. Looking into this scenario, the researcher wants to study mainly duplication of availability of ETDs, methods of searching ETDs, packaging of ETDs and metadata of ETDs across various channels

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Introduction

Case – 1 Shodhganga

The first case is of Shodhganga which is a national electronic thesis database, which has the largest ETDs collection from India and growing day by day. Shodhganga is developed and maintained by INFLIBNET which is an Inter-

University Centre of University Grants Commission.

Case 2: National Digital Library of India: The second case is of NDLI, (National Digital Library, India) is also part of an Indian government-sponsored project. The core area of NDLI is not ETDs but it preserves and disseminates all kinds of academic resources.

Case 3: Institutional /University Repositories

Many Indian universities, and premier and autonomous institutions also have established ETDs databases as part of their institutional repository or Library collections. Similar to case no 2, here also a core collection of repositories is not ETDs but it is part of their collection.

Case 4: ETDs as Part of Library Collection

Many universities and research institutes have a collection of ETDs but this collection is not a separate collection, it is part of the library collection. No separate repository has been formed for ETDs. This can be accessed directly through OPAC. Some have restricted ETDs collection and, in some libraries, ETDs are open access

Objective

To study this is necessary to divide major players into cases, that are classified by their objectives, functions, operations, and target users.

Methodology

To study this, the researcher collected a sample of the thesis of Science & Technology, Arts & literature, Social Science & Humanities by random method from each channel and tried to justify the objectives determined for the study. The aim of this study is the accessibility of ETDs, to suggest a common and comprehensive format of metadata as well thesis itself, to point out duplication of theses across and within ETDs, to create awareness about creative commons and copyrights, and point out loopholes in searching methods, especially for multidisciplinary thesis.

To study this, the researcher collected secondary data from ETDs themselves and also went through literature and study published on India-based ETDs. It is also noted here during the study whether these channels are providing bibliometric reports or have provision for downloading data in standard bibliometric formats which can support performing bibliometric analysis in R studio or Python or Bibexcel-like analytic tools. Whether these ETDs platforms have been providing statistical/bibliometric parameters for available contents? To perform this study, metadata were collected categorically classified and compared, and further analyzed against the aim and objectives of the study. For each objective, a negative hypothesis is formed a null hypothesis.

Results

After going through this study, it is observed that;

- All theses and dissertations submitted to Shodhganga are available in full text in open access to the academic community worldwide. However, it is possible to impose restrictions on access as a special case, if so desired, by the university/research scholar.
- A total of 100 Top Level Universities and Institutions are available at National Digital Library, India. 67 Universities and institutions are providing Open access, 16 Universities and institutions are providing Authorized access, 11 are providing limited access, 2 are providing subscribed access and 3 are providing both open and authorized access, and the remaining 1 is providing Authorized and Limited Access.
- Premier Institutions like IITs & IIMs have their IRs as each one is working within its own subject domain.
- All the agriculture universities are working within the particular subject domain and they have joint IRs which serve ETDs However, still many universities have yet to establish full-fledged ETDs.
- Many universities might not have established their own ETDs as they are tied up either with Shodhganga or National Digital Library, India.

Analysis

Here we have seen that most of the ETDs grown under some government project or their stack-holders are government bodies. Here researcher has primarily collected secondary data from various literature as well as ETD's websites. If we look at this, the major players are less than 10 and they are having nearly 90% collection. Among these most of associated with either Shodhganga or NDLI. The universities should extend computer and network infrastructure and requisite software to facilitate online submission of theses and dissertations by researchers into Shodhganga and requisite manpower for support and guidance. No special hardware or accessories are required to access NDLI. NDLI can be accessed from devices like PC, laptops, and Mobile devices supporting any web browser. However, we will need internet connectivity to access NDLI. NDLI is not available through physical media such as CD-ROM. When one executes SWOT analysis these linkages will be useful. Also, from time to time studies conducted by some researchers on this subject area but recent data is not available as primary data.

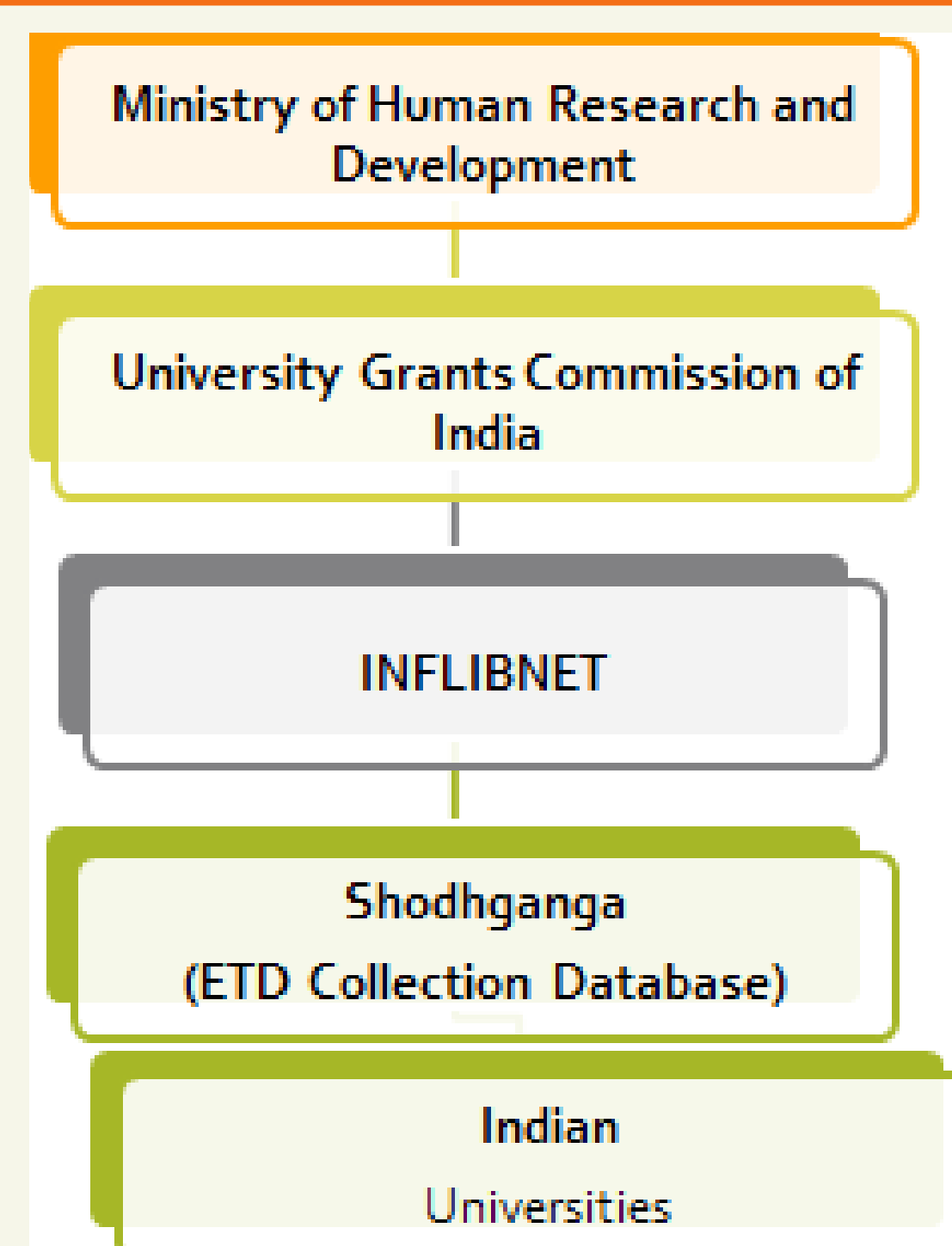


Figure - 1 Structure of Shodhganga (INFLIBNET)

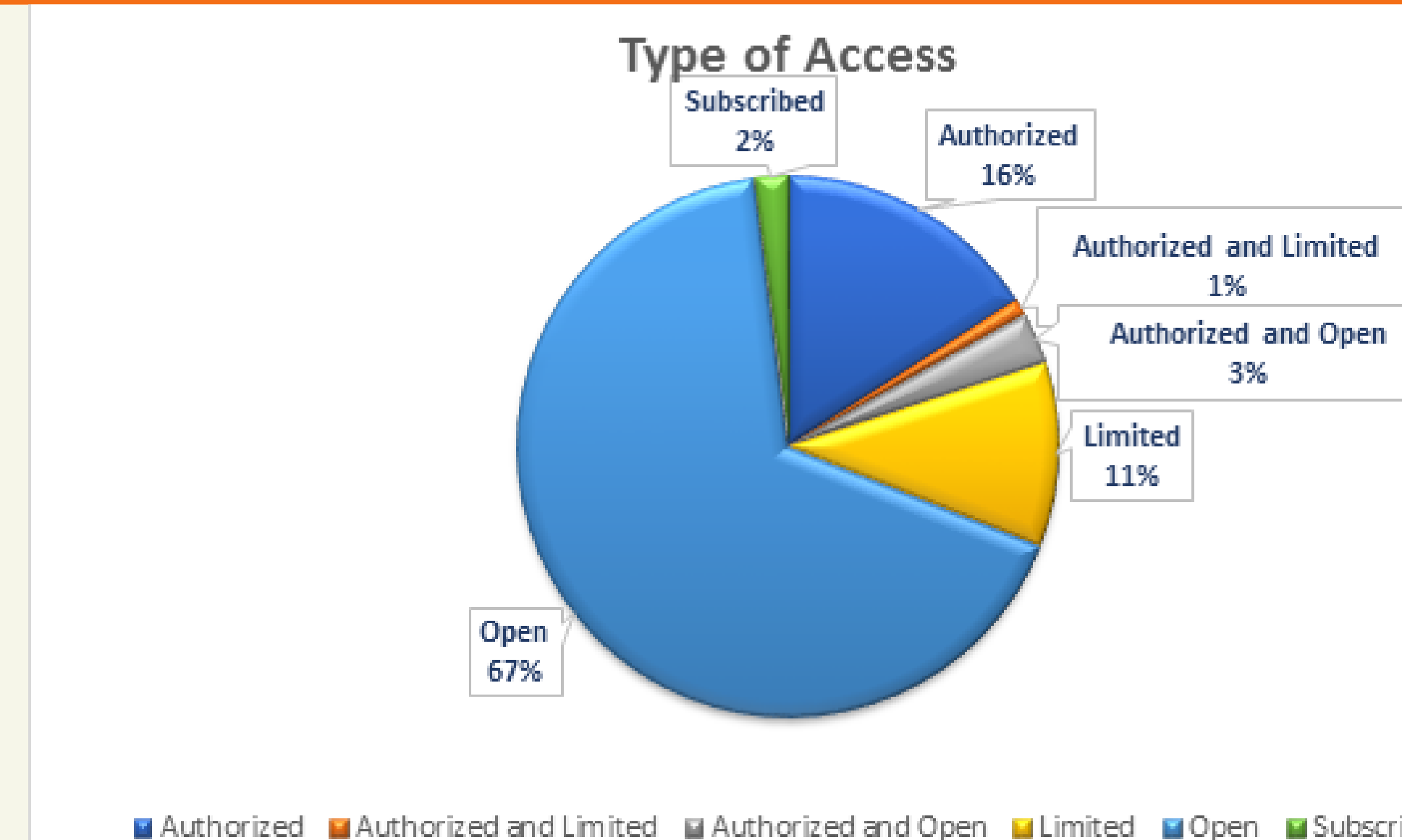


Figure -2: Type of Access of ETDs through National Digital Library, India

Conclusion

Continuous evaluation and study are always remaining an important part of the growth & development of ETD. For giving better services and making a robust system it should be examined and evaluated from time to time. Also, it is necessary that it should be tested with emerging and trending parameters. Here researcher tried to justify with new things.

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