Contribution of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD's)in Legal research to Shodhganga Repository: An overview

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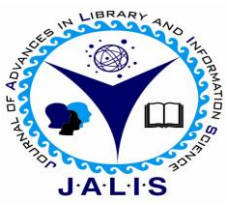
Abstract

The study examines the contribution of the university from Indian universities to Shodhganga for legal research in terms of ETDs. Shodhganga is a digital e-theses archive established by UGC under the INFLIBNET for Indian universities. The data are available via the Inflibnet shodhganga site. There are currently 121 universities in Shodhganga which contribute their theses. The theses and dissertations are extremely significant data collections provided by higher education institutions' research and development activities. Law departments have uploaded Total 2856 ETD. In this article the distribution, prolific status, year-wise, state wise contribution and MOUs are analysed.
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Keywords
ElectronicTheses and Dissertations; Indian Universities; Institutional Repository; Legal Research; Shodhganga.

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1. Introduction

An electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD) is similar to a traditional thesis in that it is accessible at any time and from any location, and it may help to improve the view of the individual scholar as well as the university engaged in the research, depending on the type of accessibility. This word ETD may be described as "any thesis or dissertations presented, preserved, distributed wholly and or largely in electronic format should be dealt with by electronic theses and disseminations" (Kirschenbaum 1996). It is made available to most of the scholars online, very quickly and cheaply. The technology of ETDs is one that can better the management of theses and dissertation in the library. The presentation of theses and dissertations in electronic format has extended the access of the users to the information implanted in these works through various national and international ETD and databases. Presently, the librarian is challenged to maintain and improve a successful open access ETD system for users. Open access to this academic collection by universities is necessary, since these intellectual assets may be used for a better society and future study in the form of theses and dissertations. In India NDLTD offers free internet access to thesis and dissertations, as well as access to the World Wide Web for many libraries and institutions.In addition, most colleges provide printing. As the national digital library initiative provides more materials online, the trend towards faster, less costly, and simpler access by the public to ETDs is anticipated to continue.

2. Shodhganga: an Overview

Shodhganga: an Indian thesis reservoir is a digital archive of theses and dissertations submitted to Indian universities. It was initially located on the Gujarat University campus, in Ahmedabad, and is managed by the INFLIBNET Centre, which is an autonomous inter-university center of the Indian University Grants Commission (UGC). Shodhganga@INFLIBNET has been set up with a DSpace digital open-source repository software created in collaboration with the Hewlett-Packard MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) (HP). The DSpace implements technologies and communication standards that are internationally accepted. Shodhganga gives a platform for researchers to submit their PhD theses and provides free access to them for the broader community. The repository is capable of recording, indexing, saving,

spreading and maintaining the ETDs contributed by the researchers.

Previously, Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism Software (www.turnitin.com) was utilized by the repository, but as of August 1, 2015, INFLIBNET Centre has chosen 'Urkund' Anti-Plagiarism Software (www.urkund.com) to be offered to universities who have signed an MoU and are qualified for UGC funding. The software will be provided free of charge by the INFLIBNET Centre to such institutions/universities. To date (31/05/2021), a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with INFLIBNET by 496 Indian universities to contribute their doctoral theses to the Shodhganga. More than 519 universities are contributing. Successfully till now 308892+ theses were submitted to the repository. Currently, the top ten contributing universities in India are:

1. University of Calcutta : 12572+
2. University of Madras : 12538+
3. Savitribai Phule Pune University : 10768+
4. Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj University : 10028+
5. Anna University : 9976+
6. Aligarh Muslim University : 8336+
7. B. S. Purvanchal University : 8243+
8. Panjab University : 7786+
9. Bharathidasan University : 6011+
10. Manonmaniam Sundaranar University : 5766+

3. Review of Literature

Sivekumaren, K.S. (2015) This paper discusses the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) submitted by the Indian Universities to the INFLIBNET Shodhganga project. It has been revealed that by 201 universities, 32000 or more theses have been submitted in different areas. The survey included just five INFLIBNET Shodhganga Universities. There are 3145 theses in the repository by the top five universities. Verma, Manoj Kumar. (2017). This paper will evaluate in the case of electronic thesis and dissertation the LIS research contribution of the central Universities of India in Shodhganga. There are 46 central universities on the website of the UGC, 27 of which have signed MOUs on Shodhganga with INFLIBNET. Total 131 ETD has been uploaded and the Aligarh Muslim University has been making the most contribution (76) and top six supervisors from the same universities are likewise the most productive. Included in the upload of theses are the dominance of LIS research, library services (34), behavioral search and user requirements information (15), and ICT application (10).

Subbiah, Sivasubramanian (2018).Article aims to present an outline of the contributions made to the open access repository by the TamilNadu State Universities of India, namely Shodhganga INFLIBNET. On September 13, 2017, the UGC was listed as 41 universities in Tamil Nadu.Shodhganga INFLIBNET signed MOUs with 33 of those universities. Thorough case studies of several TamilNadu state universities in India on the contribution of the different institutions. Aasif Ahmad Mir (2021). The article assesses LIS Ph.D. Theses uploaded to Shodhganga's availability, visibility, impact, and trend. The Shodhganga repository has been used by ninety-six Universities in India for the 1767 LIS theses. Detailed analysis of Shodhganga's top five institutions suggest that just 15.68 percent of the theses have been mentioned. The theses obtained the greatest number of citations from Phule Pune University in Savitribai. Most fruitful research guides were also determined in the LIS e-thesis research in Shodhganga.

4. Objectives of the study

1. To examine the university-wise and state-wise Legal Ph.D. theses uploaded to Shodhganga.
2. To study the visibility and impact of Legal theses of selected universities deposited in Shodhganga.
3. To identify the most productive research guides in Legal research in selected universities based on e-theses contribution to Shodhganga.
4. To examine the research trend in Legal.

5. Area of Study

Details from the web site Shodhganga (http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/) were gathered till December 2020. Out of the 519, 121 universities law departments contributing in the Shodhganga repository. Shodhganga received 2856 law theses from 121 universities. 1256 theses were given by the top ten institutions. Research guide data were gathered from the thesis metadata or title page.

Types of law universities in India contributing and signed MOUs to Shodhganga.

Sl No	Name of The University	State	MOUs Signed on	Type of University
1	Aligarh Muslim University	Uttar Pradesh	28th Sept 2012	Central University
2	Assam University	Assam	31st Jan 2013	Central University
3	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	Uttar Pradesh	14th Oct 2014	Central University
4	Banaras Hindu University	Uttar Pradesh	8th April 2015	Central University
5	Central University of Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	1st June2017	Central University
6	Central University of Punjab	Punjab	19th May 2012	Central University
7	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh	17th Oct 2013	Central University
8	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University	Chattisgarh	10th Mar 2011	Central University
9	Indira Gandhi National Open University IGNOU	New Delhi	1st Jan 2016	Central University
10	Jamia Milia Islamia University	New Delhi	3rd Dec 2014	Central University
11	Jawaharlal Nehru University	New Delhi	23rd Dec 2011	Central University
12	North-Eastern Hill University	Meghalaya	26th Nov 2010	Central University
13	Pondicherry University	Pondicherry	30th Aug 2010	Central University
14	Sikkim University	Sikkim	1st Mar 2012	Central University
15	University of Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	16th Nov 2015	Central University
16	University of Delhi	Delhi	18th June 2014	Central University
17	Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University	Maharashtra	1st June 2016	Deemed University
18	CHRIST University	Karnataka	1st Aug 2011	Deemed University
19	Dayalbagh Educational Institute	Uttar Pradesh	7th Mar 2012	Deemed University
20	KIIT University	Odisha	6th April 2016	Deemed University
21	Symbiosis International University	Maharashtra	3rd May 2013	Deemed University
22	Tata Institute of Social Sciences	Maharashtra	9th Mar 2011	Deemed University
23	Amity University	Haryana	6th May2019	Private University
24	Babu Banarasi Das University	Uttar Pradesh	26th Feb 2016	Private University
25	C.U. Shah University	Gujarat	8th April 2016	Private University
26	GD Goenka University	Haryana	3rd Mar 2018	Private University
27	IFTM University	Uttar Pradesh	2nd June 2014	Private University
28	Jagannath University	Haryana	20th Aug2019	Private University
29	Jagran Lakecity University	Madhya Pradesh	10th Jan 2019	Private University
30	Jaipur National University	Rajasthan	22nd May2019	Private University
31	Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women s University	Rajasthan	24th Nov 2012	Private University
32	Madhav University	Rajasthan	12th Jan 2014	Private University
33	Maharaja Agrasen University	Himachal Pradesh	3rd May2019	Private University
34	Maharaja Vinayak Global University	Rajasthan	15th Nov 2018	Private University
35	Manipal University Jaipur	Rajasthan	5th July 2016	Private University
36	MATS University	Chhattisgarh	09th July 2018	Private University
37	Mewar University	Rajasthan	10th Oct 2012	Private University
38	MVN University,Palwal	Haryana	29th Feb 2016	Private University
39	Nims University Rajasthan	Rajasthan	25th Aug 2015	Private University
40	Noida International University	Uttar Pradesh	29th Nov2017	Private University
41	Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University, Udaipur	Rajasthan	15th Nov 2018	Private University
42	Raffles University	Rajasthan	6th Oct 2018	Private University
43	Shobhit University, Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	29th July2017	Private University
44	shri Ramswaroop Memorial University	Uttar Pradesh	20th Mar 2017	Private University
45	Swami Vivekananad University	Madhya Pradesh	21st Mar2017	Private University
46	Tantia University	Rajasthan	22nd Sept2017	Private University
47	The Northcap University Formerly ITM	Haryana	2nd Feb 2015	Private University

	University, Gurgaon			
48	University of Petroleum and Energy Studies UPES	Uttarakhand	1st Nov2017	Private University
49	Uttaranchal University	Uttarakhand	26th Mar 2016	Private University
50	Acharya Nagarjuna University	Andhra Pradesh	12th Oct 2012	State University
51	Andhra University	Andhra Pradesh	9th June 2016	State University
52	Awadhesh Pratap Singh University	Madhya Pradesh	25th May 2018	State University
53	Bangalore University	Karnataka	21th Aug 2015	State University
54	Bankura University	West Bengal	1st Mar 2021	State University
55	Bundelkhand University	Uttar Pradesh	13th Oct 2011	State University
56	Chaudhary Charan Singh University	Uttar Pradesh	29th Oct 2013	State University
57	Chaudhary Devi Lal University	Haryana	19th Aug 2016	State University
58	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University	Uttar Pradesh	14th Nov2017	State University
59	Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh	25th Oct 2013	State University
60	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Agra	Uttar Pradesh	16th Mar 2016	State University
61	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	Maharashtra	13th Aug 2013	State University
62	Dr. Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University, Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	2nd Jan 2019	State University
63	Gauhati University	Assam	27th June 2011	State University
64	Goa University	Goa	13th Aug 2012	State University
65	Gujarat National Law University	Gujarat	5th Jan 2016	State University
66	Gujarat University	Gujarat	4th June 2012	State University
67	Gulbarga University	Karnataka	18th July 2013	State University
68	Guru Nanak Dev University	Punjab	28th Oct 2010	State University
69	Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University	Gujarat	12th April 2013	State University
70	Himachal Pradesh University	Himachal Pradesh	9th July 2012	State University
71	Jiwaji University	Madhya Pradesh	11th Sept 2012	State University
72	Kakatiya University, Warangal	Telangana	27th April 2016	State University
73	Karnatak University	Karnataka	16th June 2011	State University
74	Karnataka State Open University	Karnataka	10th Jun 2015	State University
75	Kumaun University	Uttarakhand	17th Dec 2011	State University
76	Kurukshetra University	Haryana	20th June2017	State University
77	Kuvempu University	Karnataka	27th June 2013	State University
78	Maharaja Ganga Singh University	Rajasthan	2nd Aug 2016	State University
79	Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University	Gujarat	1st April 2013	State University
80	Maharshi Dayanand University	Haryana	1st Feb 2012	State University
81	Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith	Uttar Pradesh	24th Nov 2018	State University
82	Mohan Lal Sukhadia University	Rajasthan	10th April 2012	State University
83	National Law Institute University, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	17th July 2018	State University
84	National Law School of India University, Bengaluru	Karnataka	14th May 2018	State University
85	National law University, Delhi	Delhi	6th Aug 2016	State University
86	National University of Advanced Legal Studies	Kerala	19th June2017	state university
87	North Maharashtra University	Maharashtra	29th Mar 2014	State University
88	Osmania University	Andhra Pradesh	17th April 2013	State University
89	Panjab University	Punjab	21st July 2015	State University
90	Patna University	Bihar	30th Oct 2018	State University
91	Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University	Chhattisgarh	14th Nov 2011	State University
92	Punjabi University	Punjab	24th Sept 2014	State University

93	Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law Punjab	Punjab	5th April 2018	State University
94	Sambalpur University	Odisha	11th Feb 2012	State University
95	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	Maharashtra	26th Sept 2012	State University
96	Saurashtra University	Gujarat	13th Oct 2015	State University
97	Savitribai Phule Pune University	Maharashtra	26th April 2011	State University
98	Shivaji University	Maharashtra	26th Sept 2011	State University
99	SNDT Womens University	Maharashtra	28th Aug 2012	State University
100	Solapur University	Maharashtra	24th Mar 2015	State University
101	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	Andhra Pradesh	12th Nov 2010	State University
102	Sri Padmavathi Womens University	Andhra Pradesh	8th Aug 2016	State University
103	Sri Venkateswara University	Andhra Pradesh	25th Oct 2010	State University
104	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	Maharashtra	30th July 2013	State University
105	Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University	Tamil Nadu	2st Aug 2011	State University
106	The University of Burdwan	West Bengal	5th Nov 2012	State University
107	The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences	West Bengal	25th July 2011	State University
108	University of Calcutta	West Bengal	22nd Dec 2016	State University
109	University of Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	12th Jan 2016	State University
110	University of Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	30th Mar 2011	State University
111	University of Kerala	Kerala	20th July 2012	State University
112	University of Kota	Rajasthan	18th Aug2017	State University
113	University of Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	19th Feb 2014	State University
114	University of Madras	Chennai	30th Sept 2015	State University
115	University of Mumbai	Maharashtra	22nd Dec 2014	State University
116	University of Mysore	Karnataka	8th June 2012	State University
117	University of North Bengal	West Bengal	31st Mar 2011	State University
118	University of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	31th July 2013	State University
119	Utkal University	Bhubaneswar	22nd Aug 2016	State University
120	V. B. S. Purvanchal University	Uttar Pradesh	14th Feb 2011	State University
121	Veer Narmad South Gujarat University	Gujarat	02nd Jan 2015	State University

According to sources in Shodhganaga, Law departments/ Universities status who are contributing to shodhganga in India - Central University : 16 Deemed University : 06, Private University : 27 State / Public University : 72

6. Findings & Interpretations

According to Table 1, Uttar Pradesh is the most contributing state, with the most legal thesis in the Shodhganga (408) from 18 universities. Haryana was second with the contribution of 8 universities to 296 thesis submissions, while Maharashtra came in third with 236 by 12 universities. With 5 universities and 216 contributions, West Bengal was the fourth state to contribute a thesis to the repository, and Karnataka was the fifth, with 214 contributions from 9 universities.

6.1 Contribution of Law Universities to Shodhganga

India is a significant departure from the most productive and leading universities of higher education from the traditional legal education system in the world. Its goal is to elevate a law school to the international level. The explosion of new areas of legal practice sorely needs new kinds of professionals and educators with an updated perspective to come into the picture. India has a total of 123 law universities, which have assigned MOUs to the shodhganga.

Table 1 : Contribution of ETDs by Law Universities in Shodhganga, State wise.

Sl No.	State	Total theses Contributed	Number of Universities
1	Andhra Pradesh	96	5
2	Assam	103	2
3	Bihar	12	1
4	Chandigarh	209	1
5	Chhattisgarh	12	2
6	Delhi	63	6
7	Goa	18	1
8	Gujarat	202	8
9	Haryana	296	8
10	Himachal Pradesh	78	1
11	Jammu & Kashmir	39	3
12	Karnataka	214	9
13	Kerala	7	2
14	Madhya Pradesh	81	6
15	Maharashtra	236	12
16	Manipur	5	1
17	Meghalaya	4	1
18	Odisha	107	3
19	Pondicherry	12	1
20	Punjab	113	4
21	Rajasthan	213	15
22	Sikkim	1	1
23	Tamil Nadu	61	2
24	Telangana	15	2
25	Uttar Pradesh	408	18
26	Uttarakhand	35	3
27	West Bengal	216	5
Total		**2856**	**123**

Table 2: List of Top Ten Contributing Law Universities

Sl No	University	State	Contri-bution	%
1	Panjab University	Chandigarh	209	15.82 %
2	Maharshi Dayanand University	Haryana	205	15.52 %
3	Aligarh Muslim University	Uttar Pradesh	126	9.54 %
4	Gauhati University	Assam	101	7.65 %
5	Maharaja Ganga Singh University	Rajasthan	97	7.34 %
6	The University of Burdwan	West Bengal	81	6.13 %
7	Himachal Pradesh University	Himachal Pradesh	78	5.90 %
8	Saurashtra University	Gujarat	73	5.53 %
8	Kurukshetra University	Haryana	73	5.53 %
8	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	Maharashtra	73	5.53 %
8	University of Calcutta	West Bengal	73	5.53 %
9	Karnatak University	Karnataka	67	5.07 %
10	Utkal University	Odisha	65	4.92 %
Total			**1256**	**100%**

From Table 2 and figure 1, it can be seen that of the out of 123 universities only top ten universities have taken, Panjab University (PU) ranked one as it has contributed the maximum number of theses 209 (15.82%) in Shodhganga followed by MDU (MDU) whose contribution is 205 (25.515.52%). Furthermore, AMU ranks third with a contribution of 126 (9.54%) of theses, followed by GU with 101 (7.65%) and the MGSU with 97 (7.34%).The table also indicates that the next highest contributing universities are UOB 81 (6.13 %), Pondicherry University HPU 78 (5.90%), SU 73 (5.53%), KU 73 (5.53%), SRTMU 73 (5.53%), UOC 73 (5.53%), KUD 67 (5.07%) and UU (4.92%).

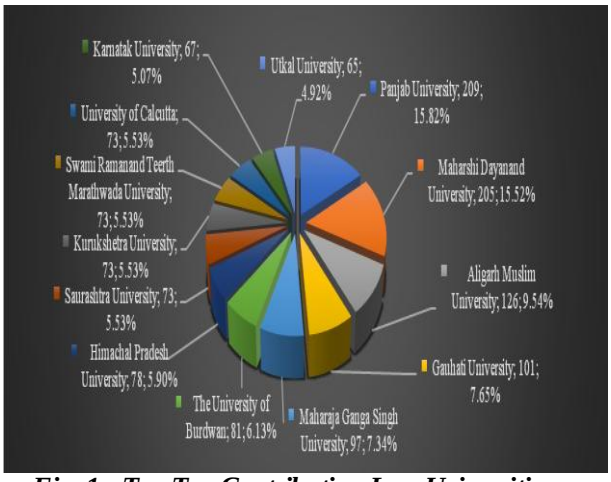


Fig. 1 : Top Ten Contributing Law Universities

Table 3: Contribution of the top ten research supervisors from law universities

Sl No	Name of Research Supervisor	Name of The University	Theses Awarded
1	Sheoran, Chander Pal	Maharshi Dayanand University	30
2	Akhtar, Saleem	Aligarh Muslim University	24
3	Rajashekhar, C	Karnataka University	22
4	Tayal, Vimlendu	Maharaja Ganga Singh University	21
5	Bishnoi, Ram Bhagwana	Maharaja Ganga Singh University	19
6	Iqbal Ali Khan	Aligarh Muslim University	18
7	Kaushik, Anil	Maharaja Ganga Singh University	18
8	Jaswal, P S	Panjab University	18
9	Maniyar Bharat G	Saurashtra University	18
10	Singh, Shiv Sahai	The University of Burdwan	18

According to Table 3 :

Leading legal research supervisor from renowned universities. The first leading research supervisor to have seen 30 theses was identified by Chander Pal Sheoran, the Maharshi Dayanand University. Second, Saleem Akhtar is the chief guide at the Muslim University with 24 duties under his supervision. From Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Tayal Vimlendu is ranked third with 21 theses and Ram Bhagwana Bishnoi with 19 in fourth place, respectively Iqbal Ali Khan (Aligarh Muslim University), Anil Kaushik (Maharaja Ganga Singh University), Jaswal, B.S. (Panjab University), Bharat G Maniyar (Saurashtra University), Shiv Sahai Singh (The University of Burdwan) with 18 theses awarded under their supervisor.

7. Benefits of upload and maintenance of Electronic Theses and Dissertation (ETD) and Some of these benefits will be significant reasons for a repository development.

- Immediately accessible theses and dissertations anytimeanywhere.
- Reaching new professionals and students.
- Preservation of the storage of paper, library space and library personnel time.
- Improved transparency and learning material quality.
- Contents of repository may be searched locally and internationally.
- Helps a university system to manage its intellectual property through copyright awareness.
- Increased visibility of academic research via enhanced communication.
- Capacity for academics to master the core competences of electronic format.

8. Suggestions

- Repository administrators should be careful while uploading the theses because some theses have been uploaded twice or wrongly indexed.
- University Co-ordinator have to make efforts to upload theses to INFLIBNET time to time.
- Librarians should utilize the chance to partic ipate in seminars and conferences to get insi ght into ETD repositories.
- Special Awareness Programmes/ Workshops should be arranged by the university forthe faculty members, explaining them the benefits of open access, copyright issues, andtechniques to tackle plagiarism.
- Universities should organise awareness workshops related to ETDs, where people should be made aware of using repository.
- Universities should take digitization projects regarding the old theses and dissertations, so that even they can be deposited in Shodhganga.
- Lack of staff is the main reasons for the unsatisfactory submission of ETDs by the Universities.

9. Conclusion

The INFLIBNET project, Shodhganga, is the India E-thesis repository, which offers free access to e-thesis throughout world. Though it is still under process of development, most universities have yet to submit their PhD theses to Shodhganga. Legal research in India certainly needs to be stepped up. As certain

universities provide researchers with an excellent opportunity to do their study. It is time librarians learned the importance of ETDsfor teaching and research from professors, administrators and policy-makers.In order to overcome these problems and to enhance the contributions of each university, the university authorities and libraries should thus adopt measures. The university system is directly connected to learning and teaching as well as to teaching quality and leads to outstanding academics of universities. The output of research in the form of doctoral thesis is a significant scholarly publication and extremely beneficial for academic and research activities.

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