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**a reservoir of Indian theses**

<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>

**Shodhganga**  
Repository of Indian Electronic  
Theses and Dissertations

## Introduction

Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source for research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. However, theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the anti-theses of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial.

The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009) dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 provides mandate for submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations with an aim to facilitate open access to Indian theses and dissertations to the academic community world-wide. Online availability of electronic theses through centrally maintained digital repositories, ensures easy access and archiving of Indian doctoral theses but also helps in long run, raising the standard and quality of research, this would overcome serious problem of duplication of research and poor quality resulting from the “poor visibility” and the “unseen” factor in research output. As per the Regulation, the responsibility of setting-up, hosting and maintaining the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations and making it accessible to all institutions and universities, is assigned to the INFLIBNET Centre. “Shodhganga” is the name coined for the repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations set-up by the INFLIBNET Centre.

The word “**Shodh**” originates from Sanskrit and stands for research and discovery. The “Ganga” is the holiest, longest and largest river in Indian subcontinent which has held heart of its people captive and drawn millions of people to its banks since the dawn of history. The Ganga is the symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization, ever changing, ever flowing, ever loved and revered by its people. “Shodhganga”, a repository of theses and dissertations submitted to Indian universities, is expected to keep growing to a formidable size as more and more researchers from India submit their research works to this ever growing reservoir.

## Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET Centre

The Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET Centre is set-up using DSpace, an open source digital repository software, initially developed by MIT and HP, now updated and maintained by DuraSpace, a non-profit Organisation. The DSpace uses internationally recognized protocols and interoperability standards. The Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET Centre provides a platform for research scholars to deposit their Ph.D. thesis and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. The repository has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs submitted by the researchers.

DSpace supports “Open Archives Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting” (OAI-PMH) and uses a qualified version of the Dublin Core metadata schema. The INFLIBNET Centre promotes setting-up of institutional and ETD repositories in member universities using OAI-PMH compliant software. A number of member universities have already set-up their institutional and ETD repositories using either DSpace or other OAI-PMH compliant Institutional Repository software leading to a scenario wherein it would be possible for universities having sufficient network and computing infrastructure to maintain their own ETD repositories, while their research scholars could deposit e-versions of their theses and dissertations, and INFLIBNET Centre, besides maintaining the Central ETD Repository (Shodhganga) would also deploy a central server to harvest the metadata from all such ETD repositories distributed in universities with an aim to provide unified access to theses and dissertations through its harvesting server. Shodhganga received the “**e-INDIA Jury Choice Award**” for the **Best ICT Enabled Higher Education Institute of the Year 2011**.

Shodhganga Repository at INFLIBNET replicates academic structure of each university in terms of Departments/ Centres and Colleges each university has. This structure facilitates research scholars from universities to deposit their theses in the respective Department / Centre/ College.



Shodhganga (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>)

## Funds to Universities under UGC's Shodhganga Scheme

The UGC provides financial assistance to eligible universities for following purposes:

- ❖ Setting up of ETD Laboratory depending upon no. of theses submitted by a university in a year;
- ❖ Access to anti-plagiarism software package to deter plagiarised content; and
- ❖ Digitization of backfiles of these based on theses available in a university.

The eligible universities who have signed MoU with the INFLIBNET Centre on Shodhganga may apply for financial assistance in the prescribed Performa.

## How do Universities Join Shodhganga @ INFLIBNET?

Universities can join “Shodhganga” by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the INFLIBNET Centre. This MoU spells out the responsibilities of Universities and INFLIBNET Centre related to “Shodhganga”. Please visit Shodhganga website for details on responsibilities of research scholar, universities and INFLIBNET Centre (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/moredetails/responsibility.html>). Universities signing the MoU would be required to adopt UGC Regulations, 2009 and mandate submission of electronic version of theses into “Shodhganga”, modify/amend their existing Ph.D ordinance or Ph.D guidelines. Copy of the MoU to be signed between universities and INFLIBNET Centre is available at <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>

After adapting to the Notification, 2009 and signing the MoU, university signatory to MoU with INFLIBNET Centre for Shodhganga should identify a senior academic professional (Librarian/Dean/Professor) who will work as University Coordinator to liaison between the INFLIBNET Centre and the University for the Shodhganga project.

## Who can submit Theses into Shodhganga Repository?

Any research student from any university or deemed-to-be university in India can submit his/her thesis into Shodhganga on voluntary basis even if it is not mandated by their respective university in the format prescribed by INFLIBNET Centre. While all universities covered under 12B/2(f) Sections of the UGC Act are listed in “Shodhganga”, provision is made to add other universities / deemed to be universities desirous of submitting their theses and dissertations. Theses can be submitted into the Repository either by student himself, his supervisor or representative of the university. While online submission of electronic theses by researchers/supervisors or university's representatives as mandated by the university would be preferred, however, individual researchers are encouraged to submit their theses and dissertations either online or off-line (through E-mail or CD/DVD) on voluntary basis till their respective university(ies) adopt and implement UGC Notification, 2009.

## Submission Process: How to Submit?

The process of submission of theses in “Shodhganga” consists of the following six steps:

- ❖ **Registration/Login:** Submitter (student, his/her research supervisor or the authorized representative of the university) is required to register himself/herself at the “Shodhganga” website. For new registration click at “Register and Submit” link on left navigation panel. The registration page has 4 links as shown below, while the first link is for creating a new user. Other links are for existing users to log in.
  - ◆ User Registration - This link is used for creating new user.
  - ◆ Login in as Submitter/ Researcher (Shodhganga User).
  - ◆ Login as University Coordinators
  - ◆ Log in as Administrator
- ❖ **Validation of Account:** As soon as a submitter registers himself/ herself, an e-mail alerts INFLIBNET Staff to validate the registered user and allow him/her to submit his/her thesis. Once submitter's account is validated, an email is sent to the submitter with a web link prompting him/her to change the password and re-login to submit his/her thesis. Submitter may send scanned copy of the certificate of award of Ph.D or any other valid document related to Ph.D which would speed up the validation process.
- ❖ **Submission of Content/Metadata by Registered User:** After validation of account, submitter is prompted to create metadata for his/her thesis and upload the content of his/her thesis chapter-wise using naming convention as elaborated in the manual or metadata link in right panel. In case if user sends his/her thesis via e-mail/CD, the INFLIBNET Centre's staff creates the metadata and uploads the theses on behalf of the submitter.

- ❖ **Verification of Submitted Metadata and Content:** The metadata created and chapters uploaded by the submitter are verified for its completeness and correctness, preferably by the research supervisor or university representative, or alternatively by the INFLIBNET Centre's Staff.
- ❖ **Publish on ETD Repository:** Once the metadata and uploaded content are verified for its completeness and correctness, the INFLIBNET Centre's staff publishes the thesis in the ETD repository. While the metadata of thesis would be made available on submission, the full-text of thesis would be published only after receiving confirmation of award of degree by the University through notification/e-mail confirmation.
- ❖ **Intimation to Stakeholders:** Once full-text of theses is published in the Shodhganga, all stakeholders including researcher, guide(s) and the university will be informed through e-mail. RSS feed technology is also used to disseminate and deliver new content added to the ETD repository to the users.

## Shodhganga Website: Features and Functionality

Shodhganga website works as a comprehensive web portal for providing exhaustive and updated information about ETD initiatives in India as well as worldwide. Besides features and functionalities supported by the DSpace, Shodhganga implementation at INFLIBNET Centre provides the following additional features:

- ❖ Multi-lingual support for theses hosted in the repository. Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Sanskrit, Malayalam, Urdu, Marathi already enabled;
- ❖ Customized ingestion interface for ease of submission of theses;
- ❖ Visually linked browser;
- ❖ Links to national and international ETD initiatives;
- ❖ Integration with Theses Database of IndCat;
- ❖ Tutorials, Manuals, Guideline, FAQ and Guest Book; and
- ❖ Link to Shodhgangotri.

## Type of Access

All theses and dissertations submitted to the Shodhganga are available in open access to the academic community world-wide. However, it is possible to impose restrictions on access as a special case, if so desired by the university/research scholar, such request should be forwarded through competent authority of the University.

## Current Status

Shodhganga has grown both in terms of number of theses deposited in the repositories as well as number of universities who have signed MoU with the INFLIBNET Centre. As on 01<sup>st</sup> June, 2013, 118 universities have signed MoU with the INFLIBNET Centre and numbers of theses in the repository have grown to more than 8000.

## Shodhgangotri: Repository of Indian Research in Progress (<http://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in>)

Under the initiative called “Shodhgangotri”, research scholars/ research supervisors in universities are requested to deposit electronic version of approved synopses or research proposals submitted by the research scholars to the universities for registering themselves for the Ph.D programme. The repository on one hand, would reveal the trends and directions of research being conducted in Indian universities, on the other hand it would avoid duplication of research. Synopses in “Shodhgangotri” would later be mapped to full-text theses in “Shodhganga”

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