A Study of LIS On-going Research at Shodhgangotri Portal

Vrushali Rane*

* Deputy Librarian
SNDT W U, KRC,
 Juhu Branch, Mumbai,
Maharashtra, India

QR Code

Abstract: - *The paper deals with the Library and Information Sciences ongoing research submitted at Shodhgangotri portal. Out of the total 3899 research proposals submitted from all the subjects only 20 research proposals were found to be from LIS. Though librarianship is a female dominated profession, 12 research proposals were of male and 8 were of female. Maximum proposals were submitted during 2015. The major subject areas covered were Information technology and library management. More and more research needs to be uploaded on Shodhgangotri portal for the benefits of LIS community. There are ways to tackle problem of plagiarism by use of anti plagiarism software's. But the need of the hour is to accept the challenge to make Shodhgangotri a real time ongoing research portal and gain the huge benefit it carries.*

Keywords: INFLIBNET, ShodhGangotri, Research in Progress, Electronic Thesis & Dissertation, Open Access Repositories.

Introduction

ShodhGangotri stands for primary research. Shodh is a Sanskrit work which means to find out, to discover or research. Gangotri is one of the primary sources of Ganges and one of the largest glaciers in the Himalayas.

ShodhGangotri is a repository of ongoing Indian research at Inflibnet. The portal has each University's name and its departments, colleges, centres or school. The arrangement makes it possible for a research scholar from the university to deposit theses in the respective department. At the same time the platform is easy to access any theses world wide as it is open access. However, a researcher or the university is free to restrict access to their theses. The synopsis or the research proposals for PhD available on ShodhGangotri portal provides the trends of research that are ongoing in Indian universities. It also helps to avoid duplication of research work. The researcher, research supervisor or the university representative has to deposit on the ShodhGangotri portal a soft copy of the research proposal which the researcher has submitted for PhD programme to the university. The research proposal can be submitted online or off line but is completely on voluntary basis. At the end of the research the proposal in ShodhGangotri is linked

to full text theses in ShodhGanga. ShodhGanga is a repository of full text theses submitted to Indian universities.

Review of related literature

Several researches were found on Shodhganga but not many on Shodhgangotri. A few related articles are reviewed below –

The study by Chinnadurai and Suresh (2016) reveals steady growth in the PhD output during the period of 2010 and 2011 and thereafter a decline and sharp growth has been noticed. Although the reason for the decline is not clear, the negative trend needs to be addressed and corrective action taken. From universities in India that are involved in LIS education and research, there should be more doctoral research output especially in the fields such as electronics resource management, digital library and application of information and communication technologies in library is very important.

Sengupta's (2013) paper provides a brief picture of the current status of ShodhGangotri of Indian Research in Progress is found to be satisfactory. Although, a lot of research work is presently on-going in several universities and institutes, they don't get a global exposure in the E-thesis repositories due to lack of proper system and stringent rules and regulations for maintaining their record. ShodhGangotri, being the only Research in Progress Database of Indian Universities must get a nationwide submission of synopsis of on-going doctoral research projects in order to avoid duplication of research and to let the researchers know about the new areas of research.

The study by Shashi Prabha Singh and Parveen Babbar (2014) reveals that research in LIS was low up to late 1970s, but after that the number of PhDs has been continuously increasing decade by decade. But in the year 2010-2012, the number of PhDs has increased at the highest average rate of 144 PhDs/year. Probably this increase is happening because the majority of the departments now have qualified research guides and are paying due attention on developing adequate infrastructure for research.

Sivalingaiah (2009) reports that the output of doctoral researches in LIS field is increasing since 1980 and the growth is significant from 1990s. A steady development has been observed till 78 while the maximum number of Doctoral dissertations was during 1995 and 2003, the minimum was found during 1998 and 2000-01. Universities in South India have produced more doctoral researches as compared to North India.

Thavamani and Pushparaj (2013) show that the maximum research was done in the area of Information Sources and Services i.e. 47.61% and the state of Meghalaya is the highest contributor i.e. 38.09% to the field of LIS in terms of doctoral research productivity.

Objectives

1. To find out the number of research proposals in LIS from Shodhgangotri.
2. To analyse the ongoing research gender wise.

3. To find out the registration year of ongoing research in LIS.

4. To find out the major topics in which LIS research is being carried out

Methodology

Data was taken from Inflibnet Shodhgangotri website from 1-3 December 2017 and presented here. Tables were prepared to obtain a clear understanding for fulfilling the set objective. This could be considered as a pilot study on the basis of which further in depth research may be carried out on similar portals.

Findings

51 universities are listed on Shodhgangotri with 3899 synopses or research proposals from all subjects. There are 8 universities with 20 synopses or research proposals from Library and Information Sciences (LIS).

However Table 1 shows a total of 52 Universities in Shodhgangotri as University of Calicut, Department of LIS and C H Mohammed Koya Library of University of Calicut are separately listed.

Table 1: University LIS and subject synopsis

Sr. No.	Name of the University	No. of synopsis or research proposals from all subjects	No. of synopsis or research proposal in Library and Information Sciences
1.	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (University)	5	-
2.	Andhra University	73	2
3.	Anna University	1	-
4.	Arni University	12	-
5.	Avinashilingam Deemed University for Women	10	-
6.	Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University	29	-
7.	Babu Banarasi Das University, Lucknow	1	-
8.	Bharathidasan University	1	-
9.	Career Point University	3	-
10.	Dayalbagh Educational Institute	312	-
11.	Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya	48	-
12.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	38	1
13.	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidhyalay	2	-
14.	Eternal University	2	-
15.	Gujarat University	1	-
16.	Himachal Pradesh University	11	-
17.	Jain University	1	-
18.	Jamia Milia Islamia University	2	-
19.	Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's University	65	-
20.	Jaypee Institute of Information Technology	6	-
21.	JECRC University	4	-
22.	Jiwaji University	1	-
23.	JK Lakshmipat University	45	-

24.	Kushabhau Thakre Patrakarita Avam Jansanchar Vishwavidyalaya	2	-
25.	Kuvempu University	5	1
26.	Lovely Professional University	47	-
27.	Madurai Kamraj University	5	-
28.	Maharishi Markandeshwar University	14	-
29.	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya	1	-
30.	Mahatma Gandhi University	179	-
31.	Manav Rachna International University	66	-
32.	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	1	-
33.	Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University	153	-
34.	Rajiv Gandhi University	4	-
35.	Rama University Uttar Pradesh	22	-
36.	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	2	-
37.	Saurashtra University	2	2
38.	Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University	2432	-
39.	Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University	9	-
40.	Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit	1	-
41.	Sri Devaraj URS University	2	-
42.	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	7	-
43.	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	7	-
44.	Symbiosis International University	51	-
45.	Tamil University	1	-
46.	The IIS University	35	-
47.	The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences	9	-
48.	University of Calicut - C H Mohammed Koya Library		7 (+3 synopsis are of

			sociology)
49.	University of Calicut	16	4
50.	University of Kerala	2	2
51.	Veer Narmad South Gujarat University	135	1
	Vivekananda Global University	16	-
	Total	3899	20

It is observed that the ongoing theses entries of Sociology department are made under University of Calicut - C H Mohammed Koya Library hence the number is not 10 but 7. As theses of other subjects are found in LIS, there may be LIC theses mentioned in some other subjects.

It is also observed that a few completed theses are found in both Shodhganga and Shodhgangotri.

There is a lot of research going on in the participating Universities but is not listed on Shodhgangotri. The main reason for this could be the open access nature of this portal. Anyone may plagiarise by picking up the research idea or may even reconstruct it to develop another research topic. Use of anti-plagiarism software can help to overcome this issue. Another reason is that submission of synopsis is not a mandate but it is on voluntary basis. There are ways to tackle those few problems that the researcher may come across. The benefits are however much larger as this is the only portal available in India to know about the ongoing research.

The portal needs to be upgraded at the University level and the same may also be looked into by Inflibnet.

It is found from Table 2 that out of 20 ongoing researchers there are 12 Males and 8 Females. The

number is not at all satisfying as there are many universities where research is going on and it can be assumed that as it is a female dominated profession the number of females doing research would be more than the number of males doing research.

Table 2: Gender wise analysis

Name of the University	research as seen on	Male	Female	Total
University of Calicut - C H Mohammed Koya Library	10	2	5	7 (+3synopsis are of sociology)
University of Calicut	4	3	1	4
Andhra University	2	1	1	2
Saurashtra University	2	2	0	2
University of Kerala	2	2	0	2
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	1	1	0	1
Kuvempu University	1	1	0	1
Veer Narmad South Gujarat University	1	0	1	1
Total	23	12	8	20

From Table 3 it is found that 2015 is the year when maximum ongoing research was loaded on Shodhgangotri portal.

Table 3: Registration Year of Research

Name of the University	2010	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
University of Calicut - C H Mohammed Koya Library			3	3	1	7
University of Calicut				4		4
Andhra University		2				2
Saurashtra					2	2

University						
University of Kerala	2					2
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University		1				1
Kuvempu University	1					1
Veer Narmad South Gujarat University			1			1
Total	3	3	4	7	3	20

The major subject areas in which the research is going on is -

1. Vangmaysuchi (Gujarati)
2. Networking and resource sharing
3. Research Data Repository
4. Professionalism
5. Scientometric Analysis
6. Role of Prison Library
7. Web based Knowledge Management System
8. Information needs and information behaviour
9. Collection management of e- information resources
10. Information technology
11. Information use and awareness
12. Library Management
13. Information behaviour

Initiatives need to be taken by the universities to upload ongoing research on Shodhgangotri. The responsibility may be given to the researcher to upload when the thesis is registered. This will avoid duplication of work and others may also get

idea about what new research is going on and may get a lead to select one's topic.

Way forward

A study of ongoing research in Indian universities may be carried out and compared with what is available on Shodhgangotri. Studies of Shodhganga have been carried out by several eminent authors. Similar studies can be carried out with latest available data on the website. Studies of other ETDs and repositories like Vidyanidhi, MG University Theses (Nitya), ETD@IISc, ETDs@Pondicherry University, Dyuthi@CUSAT etc. may be studied and comparisons made.

Conclusion

Shodhgangotri portal has the capacity to provide vital information about the ongoing research not only in the field of LIS but all the subjects. The data if uploaded with care and updated on time will be beneficial to many researchers around the globe. However it is observed that the present status of the portal is satisfactory. Few responsible steps in developing the portal will definitely make Shodhgangotri a good reservoir of ongoing research in India.

References

1. Chinnadurai, D. & Suresh, B. (2016). A Study on Doctoral Research Output in Library and Information Science in India during 2010-2014: with special reference to Association of Indian Universities (AIU). International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science, 6(4), 652-663. Retrieved from https://search.proquest.com/openview/b9bbda7d 226b79ba0b2682bac5ea97c7

2. Kaba Abdoulaye, (2002). Research trends in library and information science at the International Islamic University Malaysia. *Library Review, 51*(1), 32-37. Retrieved from

3. https://doi.org/10.1108/00242530210413922

4. Sengupta, Shantashree S. (2013). Current Status of ShodhGangotri: Repository of Indian *Research in Progress, Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). 997.* Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/997

5. Shivalingaiah, D., Sheshadri, K.N & Manjunatha Keralapura, (2009). LIS Research in India 1980-2007: An Analysis of Doctoral Dissertations. Asia-Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education & Practice, 409 – 420.

6. Singh, Shashi Prabha & Babbar, Parveen (2014). Doctoral Research in Library and Information Science in India: Trends and Issues. *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology, 34* (2), 170-180.

7. Thavamani, K & Pushparaj, A (2013). An analysis of Research output of Library and Information Science (LIS) Subject in terms of Doctoral Degrees awarded (PhD) in India during 2007 – 2011: Special Reference to Northeastern Region. International Research: *Journal of Library & Information Science, 3* (1),77-87.