

ETDs in India: Towards a national repository with value added e-theses service

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Abstract

The paper examines the developments in the ETD scene, in particular PhD thesis repositories in India. The purpose is to do a preliminary study and explore the possibilities for creating a national repository for the deposit, discovery, use and long-term care of research theses in an open access environment. In spite of great interest for e-thesis developments and majority of doctoral students in India get their theses produced electronically, but no wide scale activity is initiated by government in terms of the storage and dissemination of these materials. Furthermore, there are no national-level policies on institutional repository development. Although, initiatives like Vidyandhi-ETD project at Mysore University started in 2000 and aimed to be a national project but offers little and unable to match the expectation of the research community. Till date very few institutes request students to submit electronically their theses and dissertations. This article will propose the construction of a reservoir of extensive doctoral research and an Indian portal, to enable preserving of scientific and technological research materials in the country and a global view of Indian institutional research assets. Few National level institutes like Indian Institute of Science and Indian Institute of Technologies have established ETD repositories and few are at the planning stage. A survey will be carried out with a brief questionnaire to be sent to the project coordinator/investigator of respective libraries to know the current status. The issues and constraints of the ETD projects facing by these institutions will be highlighted. The ETD initiatives taken by two national Higher Education library consortia viz. INDEST, INFLIBNET are also discussed.

This paper is an attempt to do a case study of few major ETD repositories in India as mentioned in the following table:

Name /Year of Establishment	Subject coverage	Software used	No of Item	Availability/Sub mission procedure
IIT Kanpur (2005) http://172.28.64.70:8080/dspace/	Engineering Sciences	DSpace	9289	Full Text/CD Submission Intranet
IIT Mumbai (http://www.library.iitb.ac.in/~mnj/etd/)	Engineering Sciences	Green stone	3000	Full text Online submission Intranet
IIT Kharagpur (2003) http://www.library.iitkgp.ernet.in/usr/elib/digital.htm	Engineering Sciences	Dspace	N/A	Online submission Campus LAN
etd@IISc (2004) (http://etd.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/)	Pure Science Bio Science	Dspace	203	Full Text/online Internet
Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore (http://library.isibang.ac.in:8080/dspace/)	Mathematics and Statistics	Dspace	N/A	N/A
Indian Institute of Astrophysics (http://prints.iiap.res.in/)	Astrophysics and allied subjects	Dspace	83	Full Text
Indian Institute of Astrophysics (http://prints.iiap.res.in/)	Astrophysics and allied subjects	Dspace	83	Full Text

Recently National Knowledge Commission has submitted a report to the Prime minister of India, (December,2006) for establishing a national level institute namely Indian Institute of Library and Information Science (ILIS) in pattern of Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)in India. It is expected that this proposal will be implemented soon. In that case a national E-theses repository under the aegis of ILIS will be an ideal solution to information poverty in a vast country like India where around three hundred Universities and hundred R&D laboratories are producing a sizable number of research theses and dissertations. The author comments on general ETD awareness in India and examine ETD release policies in higher education institutes especially at IIT libraries. The constraints are highlighted and a conceptual model has been proposed.

