

Integrating E-theses into Local Services: A Case Study of Srm University (Chennai) India

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Abstract

In recent years, the research activities of the Universities became very active and the dissemination of information to the scholars becomes necessary. Automated information retrieval systems, enable to identify the availability of the information. It is necessary to integrate all theses collection of the universities, to avoid the duplication of research activities within the universities as well as in the global level. An electronic thesis is one more way to provide improved services to the users and offer them to access the information for their research work. SRM University campuses are located in three different places such as Chennai Campus-1, Campus-2 (50 Km away from campus-1) and Delhi (2000 Km away from both campuses) are de-linked from one another. This study was carried out to integrate the e-theses at SRM University and the feedback was collected from the users about the effectiveness.

Within the university, the results of research undertaken by Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctoral students presented in theses and dissertations are important information sources not only for researchers within the university but also in global level. A survey has been conducted about the user group opinion on electronic theses usage in all the campuses of SRM University and the results were analysed in detail. From the analysis, most of the users are preferred and appreciated the e-thesis network among the university and do away with the printed version. This study based on the authors' experience, briefly summaries the e-thesis networking process, providing a viable solution both for the library user groups and librarians. This study will be helpful or the librarians addressing the long term preservation needs in an academic environment. Further, this study also evaluates the utility of the converted electronic thesis and dissertations (ETD) too.