

A Comprehensive Overview of INFLIBNET's Open Access Initiatives for Enhancing Research Quality in Higher Education Institutions

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ABSTRACT

INFLIBNET has been working since 2010 to provide open access platforms for academics, faculty, and information scientists at higher education institutions in India. INFLIBNET is a center that helps libraries share information and resources with each other. Some of its current and future projects are Shodhganga (Reservoir of Indian Electronic Thesis & Dissertations), Shodhgangotri (Repository in research in progress), IR@INFLIBNET (Institutional Repositories), INFOPORT (Subject gateway for Indian Electronic Resources), Research Project Database (provides details of completed and ongoing projects), and Shodh-Chakra (provides a unique space for the researcher, guide/supervisor, and university to manage the research lifecycle). The study primarily examines the implementation of INFLIBNET's open access initiatives to enhance research visibility and foster an effective academic ecosystem that empowers researchers and supports information sharing across institutions of higher learning.

Keywords: INFLIBNET, Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri, IR@INFLIBNET, INFOPORT, Shodh-Chakra.

Introduction

Open access (OA) to scholarly information has become a key part of good research and academic progress in the digital age we live in today. Open access projects seek to eliminate financial, legal, and technical impediments to scholarly communication, guaranteeing universal access to knowledge. The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre in India. It has been a leader in supporting and putting into action open access projects to help higher education and research. INFLIBNET was created to connect universities, libraries, and research institutions using cutting-edge information and communication technology. It has created several digital platforms that make it easier to access academic and research resources.

The open-access projects of INFLIBNET, such as Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri, OASIS (Open Access Repository), and IRINS (Indian Research Information Network System), aim to make research more visible, authentic, and collaborative across Indian higher education institutions (HEIs). Shodhganga is a place where Indian institutions can save theses and dissertations. This makes sure that research material is not duplicated and that everyone can see it. Shodhgangotri is a database for ongoing research that promotes scholarly communication and reduces duplicate study subjects. OASIS makes it easier to find open-access scholarly articles, while IRINS helps schools keep track of and show off the research profiles of their teachers and researchers.

These projects all work together to make knowledge more democratic by making academic resources available to students, researchers, and teachers without any subscription fees. In addition, they encourage academic honesty, make citations more visible, and help the higher education industry come up with new policies. India is an important player in the global open access environment because of INFLIBNET's ongoing efforts, which are in line with worldwide movements like the Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002) and UNESCO's push for open science.

In short, INFLIBNET's open access activities have changed the research environment in Indian higher education by making it more open, accessible, and innovative. The Centre has made quality research stronger, given academic institutions more power, and played a big role in making a more inclusive and collaborative knowledge society through these programs.

Open Access Initiatives of INFLIBNET

- **Shodhganga**

Theses and dissertations are unique scholarly resources. These papers often contain unpublished research. These works are important, yet they are underutilized, resulting in superfluous study. Replicating this research undermines the aim of scholarly inquiry and wastes money and time.

The UGC recognized this issue and required all Indian universities to submit electronic theses and dissertations. The move followed the Notification about Minimum Standards and Procedure for the Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degrees, as defined in the 2009 Regulation and revised in 2016, issued 5 May 2016. The concept promotes open sharing of Indian scientific outputs through centralized digital repositories. Online electronic theses improve research quality and visibility by improving accessibility, preservation, and dissemination. This method solves research duplication caused by the difficulty of finding past work. INFLIBNET Centre hosts, maintains, and provides access to the national repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations, "Shodhganga."

The INFLIBNET Centre runs Shodhganga, a digital repository for Indian theses and dissertations. Sanskrit "Shodh" means "research" or "discovery." The sacred river "Ganga" symbolizes Indian culture's constant knowledge flow. Shodhganga preserves India's intellectual history by aggregating scholarly contributions from many fields and institutes. DSpace, an open-source digital repository software developed by MIT and HP, powers Shodhganga@INFLIBNET. DSpace follows interoperability standards and is OAI-PMH-compatible. Electronic Theses and Dissertations are collected, indexed, stored, shared, and preserved in the repository. To characterize and identify content uniformly, the research uses a qualified Dublin Core metadata model.

INFLIBNET Centre member universities use OAI-PMH-compatible technologies like DSpace to create institutional and ETD repositories. Researchers can post electronic theses to repositories managed by institutions with strong network infrastructure. These repositories can be linked to Shodhganga, which will backup and submit metadata to the central ETD repository using INFLIBNET's metadata harvesting server. The expansive yet interconnected architecture helps researchers find Indian theses and dissertations.

Shodhganga's departments, centers, and linked colleges help students navigate and submit research. Users can perform basic and complex searches on the platform. Users can browse articles by institution or department. A semantic web-based interface is being created to help users browse research materials by subject, making resource discovery and repository navigation easier.

- **Shodhgangotri (Repository of Research in Progress)**

The Sanskrit term "Shodh" signifies "research and discovery." The Gangotri glacier is one of the largest glaciers in the Himalayas. It is the origin of the Ganges River, the longest, most sacred, and largest river in India. The Ganges represents a longstanding culture and civilization, perpetually flowing, consistently nurturing, and cherished by its populace.

The "ShodhGangotri" initiative requests research scholars and their supervisors at universities to submit an electronic copy of the authorized synopsis that research scholars provided for Ph.D. program registration. This has now been broadened to encompass MRPs, PDFs, Emeritus Fellowships, and additional elements. The repository would illustrate the patterns and trajectories of research conducted in Indian universities. Conversely, it would prevent the repetition of research efforts. The synopsis in "ShodhGangotri" will subsequently be associated with the complete theses in "ShodhGanga." Upon submission of the whole thesis to ShodhGangotri for summarization, a link to the full-text thesis will be forwarded from ShodhGangotri to "ShodhGanga".

- **Shodh-Chakra**

Shodh-Chakra, a UGC-supported project administered by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, assists researchers throughout their study life cycle. Shodh-Chakra helps researchers, guides/supervisors, and universities manage research scholar lifecycles. This digital workplace will help scholars organize, save, and cite their work. Researchers could utilize the Shodh-Chakra to profile and follow individual preferences. Using the portal requires signing an MoU between the

University and the INFLIBNET Centre. The university or institute must provide correct researcher and supervisor information. Researchers can utilize all Shodh-Chakra capabilities by logging in. University, supervisor, and researcher login information will be provided by the system.

- **IR@INFLIBNET**

The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre created IR@INFLIBNET (Institutional Repository at INFLIBNET) to gather, preserve, and share Indian universities' and research institutions' intellectual output. It houses theses, dissertations, research articles, conference proceedings, and other academic publications. The effort promotes open access to make Indian research more visible, accessible, and influential. Researchers, students, and academics can access free academic content on IR@INFLIBNET. This promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration between fields. This platform makes academics more transparent and improves and makes India's higher education research more accessible worldwide.

- **INFOPORT**

INFLIBNET Centre's Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic Resources promotes free access to Indian academic content. The UK-based MIMAS subject gateway, Intute, is used and promoted by the Centre. The InfoPort provides access to all Indian scholarly content. The gateway aggregates Indian scholarly literature from across the Internet into a single search, browse, and list interface. Through extensive testing and assessment, the InfoPort lists Indian-origin online resources on a wide range of topics that are freely available to the public. The Center intends to help college and university librarians and scholars choose resources.

The world of knowledge has different subjects. The Dewey Decimal Classification places all knowledge between 000 and 999. InfoPort is categorized by DDC and alphabetized by subject.

- **INFLIBNET's Open Access Initiatives to Enhance Research Quality in Higher Education**

INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network Centre) has initiated multiple Open Access (OA) programs to improve research quality and accessibility in higher education institutions throughout India. INFLIBNET offers free access to an extensive collection of Indian theses and dissertations via platforms such as Shodhganga, thereby fostering transparency, innovation, and academic integrity. Shodhgangotri enhances this by hosting research ideas and synopses, promoting collaboration and preventing redundancy in research endeavors. The Open Access Repository of Indian Research Data (ORDiN) and OJAS (Open Journal Access System) facilitate effortless access to scientific papers, datasets, and academic journals. INFLIBNET's open access efforts enhance research visibility, foster knowledge sharing, and elevate the overall quality of research and innovation in Indian higher education institutions by providing unfettered access to high-quality academic resources.

Conclusion

The INFLIBNET Center has made a big difference in the research environment of Indian higher education by making scholarly resources available to everyone. With its many programs, such as Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri, Shodh-Chakra, IR@INFLIBNET, and INFOPORT, it has made academic research more accessible, visible, and trustworthy. These platforms not only make it easier for information to flow freely, but they also cut down on research duplication and promote academic honesty. In short, INFLIBNET's open access programs have greatly improved the quality and reach of research in Indian colleges and universities, creating a more open, welcoming, and innovative academic environment.

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