



National-Level Assessment of LIS Doctoral Theses in Shodhganga: A Metadata driven Study

Vinay Manral
Riya Raj
Vinit Kumar

Abstract

The study assesses the current status and growth of the library and information science (LIS) doctoral-level theses deposited in Shodhganga, India's national digital repository for theses and dissertations. A quantitative metadata-based approach was adopted. Bibliographic records of LIS theses covering the period 2010-2025 were manually extracted from Shodhganga. Initially, bibliographic records of 4,400 LIS doctoral theses from 166 universities were collected. After data cleaning and organizing them in excel sheets, a final dataset of 4,027 LIS theses from 156 universities was analyzed. The analysis reveals that Bharathiar University emerged as the most productive institution by depositing 153 LIS theses, followed by Karnatak University (126) and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (125). State universities contributed more than 3/4th of the total LIS doctoral output, while Central universities contributed 11.62%, Private universities 6.98%, and Deemed-to-be universities 4.77%. The annual distribution of doctoral theses shows fluctuations, with a sharp growth after 2015, peaking in the year 2022 with 532 theses, followed by a marginal decline in 2025, which may reflect incomplete reporting for that year. Tamil Nadu dominates at the regional level with 814 theses, ahead of Maharashtra (506) and Karnataka (452). The geospatial mapping highlights a strong concentration of LIS research in southern and western India, with comparatively lower representation in several northern and central regions. This study provides a significant foundation for policy makers, academic planners and LIS educators to identify leading research universities, address regional imbalances, strengthen doctoral programmes and promote awareness regarding the deposition of doctoral research output in the national repository.

Keywords: Shodhganga, LIS doctoral theses, doctoral research output, electronic theses and dissertation (ETD), output analysis

Introduction

Doctoral research reflects the intellectual maturity and research capability of a discipline at both national and global levels. Doctoral output like theses and dissertations represent a significant component of a university's intellectual output. Powell (1995) emphasized that doctoral work in Library and Information Science (LIS) contribute to the generation of new knowledge, strengthen theoretical base of the discipline, and support the professional development of the field. Similarly, Fox et al. (2001) observed that the quality of a university is often reflected in the quality of its students' intellectual products, particularly theses and dissertations, which show the institution's ability to support original research and scholarly advancement. So, the assessment of doctoral research output has increasingly been

recognized as an important indicator of disciplinary growth, institutional research capacity and regional knowledge production.

The emergence of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) has significantly transformed the dissemination and accessibility of doctoral research. The global ETD movement began during the 1980s and 1990s through early technological experiments in the United States, including the development of SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) based electronic dissertations and the creation of SGML Document Type Definition (DTD) for theses in 1988. Early pilot initiatives at Virginia Tech University converted printed theses into electronic formats and laid the foundation for digital theses submission systems (Cayabyab, 2015; Fox, 2021). In 1997, Virginia Tech mandated electronic-only submission of theses and dissertations. The introduction of Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) in the early 1990s further enabled author-produced ETDs more practical.

The ETD movement scaled globally through the establishment of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) during 1996-1997 (Copeland & Penman, 2004), along with international funding initiatives and policy support from UNESCO, that encouraged the adoption of ETDs in developing countries (Dobratz & Schirmbacher, 2001). Several national and regional ETD programmes were launched, such as Joint Information System Committee (JISC) funded e-theses projects in the United Kingdom, the Australasian Digital Theses programme, and the Shodhganga in India. These initiatives integrated the ETDs into repositories and supported the broader open access movement (Bevan, 2005; Copeland, 2008).

Traditionally, doctoral theses were available only in printed form and largely confined to university libraries, limiting their accessibility and visibility. The transition to ETDs has significantly enhanced the visibility, accessibility and reuse of doctoral research, thereby transforming scholarly communication towards a more open, interoperable and collaborative environment (Schöpfel et al., 2014). Institutional and national ETD repositories have played an important role in making previously inaccessible doctoral research globally discoverable. Global aggregators and directories like OpenDOAR, BASE and NDLTD harvest millions of ETD records from institutional repositories and provide unified access to these research outputs, further boosting their impact worldwide (Schöpfel et al., 2025).

In India, the development of ETD infrastructure began with its first institutional repository established at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in 1999 and the Vidyandhi project launched at the University of Mysore in 2000 (Ghosh, 2009). Although several institutions developed their own individual repositories, there was an absence of a unified national platform. To address this issue, Shodhganga was established in 2010 by the INFLIBNET Center under the University Grants Commission as a national open access digital repository for hosting doctoral theses produced in Indian universities.

Developed using the open-source software DSpace, Shodhganga acts as a centralized repository of Indian doctoral theses (Sheeja, 2011).

The growth of Shodhganga boosted with the UGC (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree) Regulations, 2009 and further strengthen by subsequent timely amendments which mandates that before the announcement of the award of the M.Phil/Ph.D. degrees, the concerned institution should deposit an electronic copy of the M.Phil dissertation/ Ph.D thesis to the Shodhganga digital repository (Ministry of Education, 2009, 2016). These regulatory measures significantly increased institutional participation and contributed to the rapid expansion of the repository, as reported by many studies (Chakravarty, 2019; Kalyan, 2021; Panda, 2016). By 2026, the repository hosted more than 660,000 full-text doctoral theses, which highlights its significance among Indian Universities and making it an important platform for dissemination, preservation, and bibliographic control of doctoral research in India (Shodhganga, 2010).

An important feature that enhances the analytical value of ETD repositories is the availability of metadata. Repository metadata elements like author names, institutional affiliations, university categories, geographical locations, date of upload and subject classifications enable analysis of research productivity and institutional participation. Such metadata can be aggregated and analyzed to derive indicators of research productivity, disciplinary growth and institutional research performance (Guerrero-Sosa et al., 2021; Ulrich et al., 2022). The present study utilizes the metadata of LIS doctoral theses available in the Shodhganga to assess the annual growth patterns, institutional contributions, geographical distribution, and distribution among university categories across India.

Review of Literature

Shodhganga has been widely used as a data source for diverse research studies examining repository characteristics, usage patterns, and research productivity. Several studies have focused on repository-level evaluation and user-oriented aspects, highlighting the role of Shodhganga in enhancing scholarly communication and research visibility. For instance, Chakrabarti and Maharana (2025) examined the features and significance of the Shodhganga repository and concluded that it serves as an effective platform for advancing scholarly communication. Similarly, Panda (2016) analysed the growth and development of Shodhganga since its inception and reported a steady increase in institutional participation and thesis submissions over time. User centric studies, such as Sinha & Purkayastha (2018), further indicate growing awareness and utilisation of the repository among academic communities, particularly due to the initiatives undertaken by INFLIBNET. Gopalji et al. (2025) investigated the doctoral thesis trends in top

Centrally Funded Technical Institutions and found major disparities in submission rates and subject focus across institutions.

Other studies have employed Shodhganga data to examine institutional, disciplinary and structural patterns of doctoral research. Nanthini & Varghese (2018) analyzed leading contributing universities, departmental distributions, and subject categories, while Kumar et al. (2023) explored academic genealogy and doctoral supervision patterns using Shodhganga repository data. Similarly, Sivakumaren et al. (2024) examined discipline-wise contributions and language disparities in theses from central universities. These studies collectively demonstrate the potential of Shodhganga metadata for analyzing institutional productivity, research structures and disciplinary trends.

Another important stream of research focuses on metadata-driven and bibliometric analyses of theses and dissertations, both within and beyond Shodhganga. Studies such as Kalyan (2021) have examined overall growth patterns and state-wise contributions, while Mir and Sevukan (2021) analysed LIS doctoral theses to assess their trends, availability and citation impact, revealing relatively low citation visibility (15.68%) of theses. International and institutional-level studies, including Milovanovic et al. (2025) and Pop et al. (2025), have further explored aspects such as thesis quality, gender distribution, keyword co-occurrence and the research output derived from doctoral work. Additionally, institution specific analyses like Maghawry (2025) and Barphe (2023) have provided insights into local research productivity, language patterns and accessibility issues. Collectively, these studies show that ETD metadata can serve as a valuable resource for evaluating research productivity, impact and thematic development.

Despite these contributions, the existing body of literature remains fragmented in scope. Most studies are either limited to repository-level assessments or confined to specific disciplines, institutions or regional contexts. Comprehensive national-level assessment that systematically analyze Shodhganga metadata to know institutional contributions, geographical distribution, university categories and temporal trends within the Library and Information Science (LIS) discipline remain limited. Addressing this gap, the present study provides a metadata-driven assessment of LIS doctoral theses available in Shodhganga to examine their current status, growth trends, institutional distribution and regional disparities.

Objectives

- a) To analyze the annual distribution and trends of LIS doctoral theses uploaded in Shodhganga from 2010 to 2025.

- b) To identify the leading universities contributing to LIS doctoral research in India.
- c) To examine the geographical distribution and regional patterns of LIS doctoral theses across India.
- d) To analyse the contribution of different categories of universities (State, Central, Private, and Deemed-to-be) and determine leading universities within each category.

Methodology

The study is quantitative in nature and based on the analysis of metadata of Library and Information Science (LIS) doctoral theses available in Shodhganga repository. Metadata records of LIS doctoral theses were browsed and extracted through the 'University and Department' category in Shodhganga. Data collection was conducted between 10 August 2025 to 11 September 2025. For each thesis, bibliographic fields were recorded in Microsoft 365 excel worksheet. The universities and their category were cross verified from University Grants Commission, All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) and respective university official websites to ensure accuracy and credibility.

Initially, 4400 bibliographic records of LIS doctoral theses from 166 universities were retrieved. Subsequently, the dataset underwent cleaning procedures, which included:

- Removal of duplicate entries
- Standardization of university names and state identifiers
- Elimination of incorrectly indexed non-LIS theses
- Verification and correction of incomplete metadata

After cleaning, the final dataset comprised 4027 LIS doctoral theses from 156 universities, which formed the basis for analysis. Descriptive and comparative statistical techniques, including frequency distribution, cross-tabulation and annual trend analysis were employed to analyze the metadata.

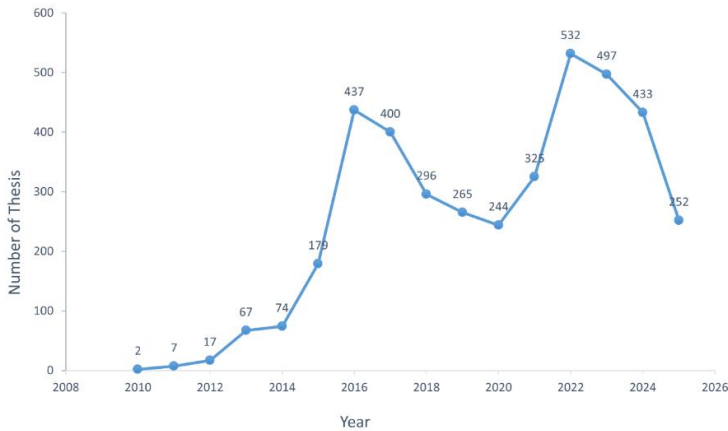
Findings

Annual Distribution of LIS Doctoral Theses (2010–2025)

Fig. 1 represents the year-wise distribution of LIS doctoral theses uploaded in Shodhganga from 2010 to 2025. The chart indicates growth of LIS doctoral research over time, though the growth is not uniform across the years. During the initial years from 2010 to 2012, the number of uploaded theses remained extremely low, ranging from only 2 theses in 2010 to 17 in 2012. From 2013 onwards, a gradual rise is observed, followed by a sharp surge between 2015 and 2016, where the number of theses increases from 179 to 437. This period marks the significant expansion in doctoral thesis deposition.

Moderate fluctuations have been observed since 2017 but the annual productivity stabilizes at relatively higher levels. A sharp peak occurs in 2022 with 532 theses, representing the highest annual output of the study period. The marginal decline observed in 2023-2025 likely reflects incomplete reporting for the recent years.

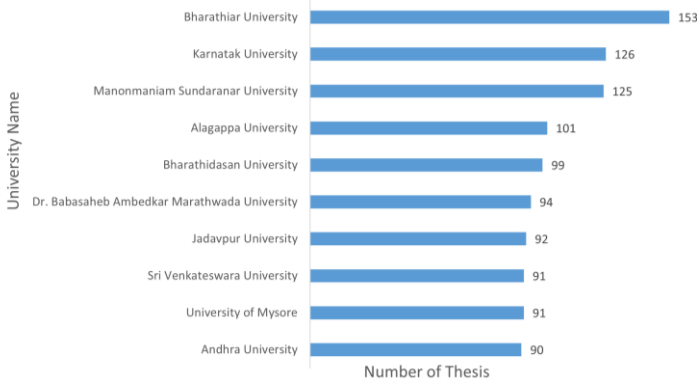
Fig. 1. Annual Growth of LIS Doctoral Theses uploaded on Shodhganga



Leading Universities Contributing to LIS Doctoral Theses

Fig. 2 shows the top ten universities contributing LIS doctoral theses in Shodhganga. A total of 156 universities has contributed theses to Shodhganga. The findings indicate that Bharathiar University ranks first with 153 theses uploads, followed by Karnatak University with 126 and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University with 125 theses. Other top contributors include Alagappa University (101) and Bharathidasan University (99). A noticeable pattern is observed that all the top ten contributing institutions are state universities.

Fig. 2. Top Universities doctoral contribution in Shodhganga



A highly uneven pattern of doctoral research upload on Shodhganga is seen across institutions as evident in Table 1. Only one university has produced more than 150 theses, while three universities fall within the 100-150 range. A limited number of 7 universities produced between 90-99 theses. Fewer institutions appear in the higher output categories, with a total of 24 universities uploaded between 50 to 150+ thesis. A majority of universities fall within the lower productivity range, particularly 44 universities producing only 1-4 theses, followed by 19 universities in the 5-9 range and 29 universities in the 10-19 range. A total of 132 universities produced between 1 to 49 theses.

Table 1. Distribution of Universities by LIS doctoral output

Thesis Range	Number of Universities	Thesis Range	Number of Universities
150+	1	40-49	12
100-150	3	30-39	11
90-99	7	20-29	17
80-89	3	10-19	29
70-79	2	5-9	19
60-69	3	1-4	44
50-59	5		

Geographical Distribution and Regional Patterns of LIS Doctoral Theses

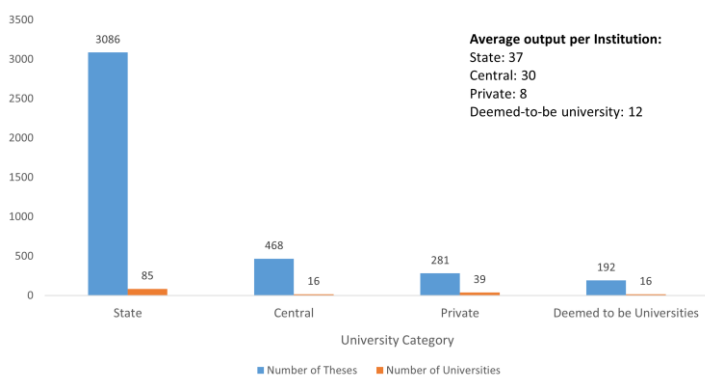
Table 2 and Fig. 3 show the geographical distribution of LIS doctoral theses across Indian states and Union territories. Tamil Nadu emerges as the most productive state with 814 theses contributed by 20 universities, indicating both high and broad institutional participation. It is followed by Maharashtra (506 theses from 16 universities) and Karnataka (452 theses from 12 universities). Other significant contributors include West Bengal (316 theses from 7 universities), Uttar Pradesh (303 theses from 12 universities) and Gujarat (230 theses from 18 universities). States such as Kerala (106 theses from only 3 universities) and Assam (92 theses from 2 universities) indicate that doctoral research is concentrated within a limited number of institutions. Regions such as Puducherry (17 theses from 1 university), Uttarakhand (10 from 2 universities), Jharkhand (6 from 2 universities), Bihar (5 from 1 university) and Tripura (1 from 1 university) show minimal doctoral upload of thesis.

Fig. 3 reveals that several southern and western states maintain stronger research ecosystems, while many northern and central states exhibit comparatively lower research uploads and institutional involvement. Similarly, the northeastern region reflects emerging yet comparatively limited LIS doctoral research activity.

Contribution of LIS Doctoral Research by Different Categories of Universities

Fig. 4 categorizes the LIS doctoral theses across university types and reveals a clear dominance of state universities in doctoral research production. State universities account for more than 3/4th (3086 theses) of the total number of LIS doctoral theses uploaded on Shodhganga by 85 institutions, followed by Central universities' contribution of 468 theses (11.62%) from 16 institutions. Private universities, despite having 39 institutions, contribute only 281 theses (6.98%), indicating least average output per institution of 8. Similarly, deemed-to-be universities produce 192 theses (4.77%) from 16 institutions, which is the smallest share of LIS doctoral output.

Fig. 4. Contribution by different University Categories



Leading Central Universities

The leading top 10 Central universities in LIS doctoral research is clearly identified from Fig. 5. Aligarh Muslim University ranks first with 68 theses, followed by University of Delhi (57) and Mizoram University (52). Other significant contributors include North-Eastern Hill University (51) and Banaras Hindu University (49). A notable representation of universities from the North-Eastern region such as Mizoram University, North-Eastern Hill University, Manipur University and Assam University indicates the expansion of the institutions beyond traditional dominant metropolitan centers. The remaining institutions, including Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (45), Manipur University (36), Indira Gandhi National Open University (32), Guru Ghasidas University (26) and Assam University (19) contribute a significant number of doctoral theses, in contrast to the doctoral theses they awarded.

Leading State Universities

Fig. 6 shows the dominant position of State universities in LIS doctoral research. Bharathiar University leads with 153 theses, followed by Karnatak University (126) and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (125). Other major contributors include Alagappa University (101) and Bharathidasan University (99), highlighting the significant role of universities from Tamil Nadu in LIS doctoral research. The remaining significant contribution is from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (94), Jadavpur University (92), Sri Venkateswara University (91), University of Mysore (91), and Andhra University (90).

Fig. 5. Top 10 Central Universities contribution

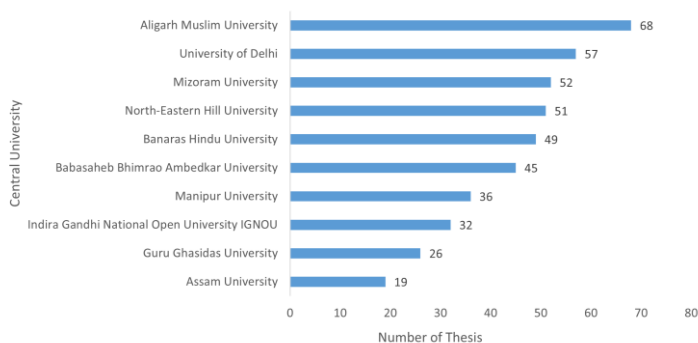
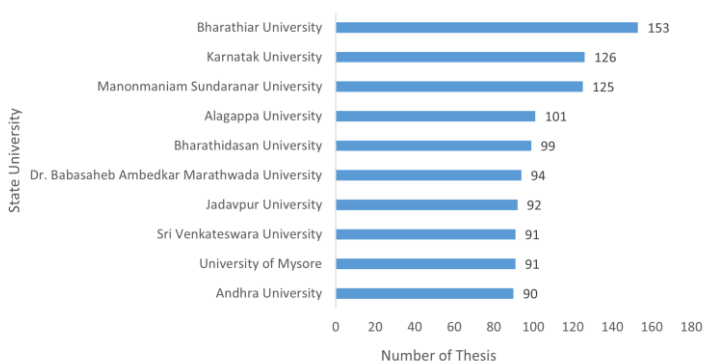


Fig. 6. Top 10 State Universities contribution

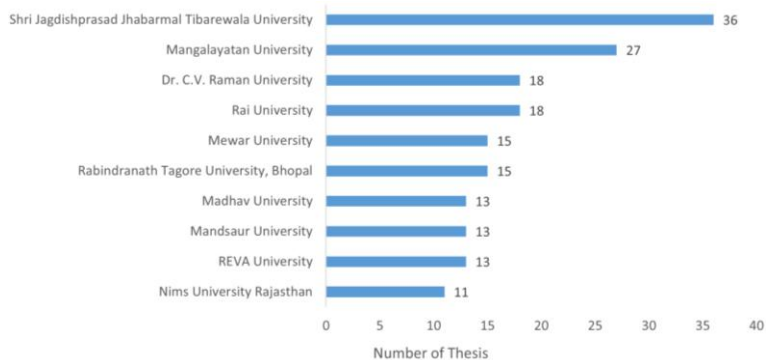


Leading Private Universities

Fig. 7 presents the leading Private Universities contributing to LIS doctoral research. Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibarewala University leads among the private institutions with 36 theses, followed by Mangalayatan University (27). Other universities such as Dr. C.V. Raman University and Rai University each contribute 18 theses, while Mewar University and Rabindranath Tagore

University contribute 15 theses each. The remaining institutions like Madhav University, Mandsaur University and Reva University contribute 13 theses each while Nims University contribute 11 theses, which show comparatively smaller contributions. However, the output remains relatively low compared to central and state universities.

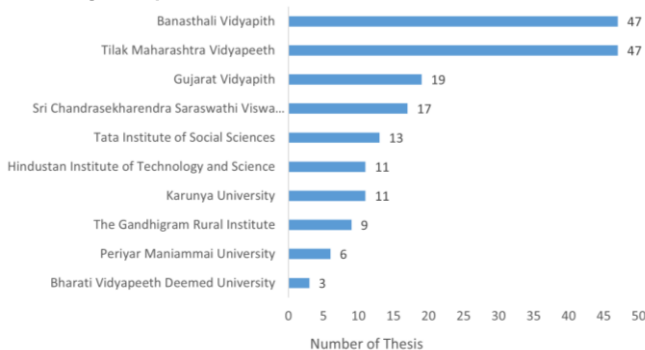
Fig. 7. Top 10 Private Universities contribution



Leading Deemed-to-be Universities

Fig. 8 highlights the contribution of deemed-to-be universities to LIS doctoral research in Shodhganga. Banasthali Vidyapith and Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth jointly lead with 47 theses each. They are followed by Gujarat Vidyapith (19) and Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya (17), while TISS ranks fourth with 13 theses. Other institutions such as Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science and Karunya University have produced 11 theses each, whereas The Gandhigram Rural Institute (9), Periyar Maniammai University (6) and Bharati Vidyapeeth University (3) contribute comparatively lower. The LIS doctoral research by deemed-to-be universities is relatively less as compared to other university categories.

Fig. 8. Top 10 Deemed-to-be Universities Contribution



Discussion

By analysing the metadata of the LIS doctoral theses uploaded on Shodhganga, the present study provides insights into the current status, growth, institutional structure and geographical distribution of LIS doctoral research across Indian states and Union Territories. The temporal distribution of theses indicates a substantial expansion of LIS doctoral thesis upload during the last decade. The very low number of theses upload between 2010 and 2012 reflects the initial phase of repository adoption and incomplete archival coverage of earlier doctoral work. A sharp rise after 2015 suggests that universities increasingly complied with electronic thesis submission mandates introduced by the UGC and began depositing doctoral theses in the repository, along with improved digitization practices. Similar observations have been reported by (Esh & Ghosh, 2021), who determined that institutional compliance and digitization initiatives significantly contributed to increased thesis submissions in Shodhganga, particularly among Northeastern Universities. The peak observed in 2022 reflects the growing scale of doctoral completions in LIS, while the slight decline in recent years is influenced by incomplete repository reporting. The temporal trend indicates a substantial growth in LIS doctoral research over the past decade, which aligns with the findings of (Dora et al., 2024; Khan & Tariq, 2021).

Institutional distribution reveals a highly uneven pattern of doctoral research uploads across universities. A strong representation of universities from Tamil Nadu among the leading contributors is observed. Geographically, majority of the contributing universities are located in southern India, reflecting the regional compliance towards the UGC mandates. The analysis further revealed that only 24 institutions produced between 50 and more than 150 theses each, whereas the majority of institutions (132 universities) contributed between 1 and 49 theses each. This pattern clearly shows that LIS doctoral research in India is concentrated within a limited number of established universities, while a large number of institutions contribute only marginally.

The geographical distribution of LIS doctoral theses reveals significant regional disparities in LIS doctoral research uploads across India. The top 10 states together contribute 3220 theses, accounting for 79.96% of the total doctoral output, which shows a strong geographical concentration of doctoral research in few states. Southern and western states particularly Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka are the major centers of doctoral research activity, reflecting the presence of multiple universities with active LIS programmes. States such as Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal also contribute significantly, indicating the role of historically established universities supporting LIS research in northern and eastern India. Several Northeastern states like Tripura and Puducherry show comparatively lower

research productivity and institutional involvement. The uneven distribution of research across regions is closely associated with the established LIS institutions and doctoral supervision infrastructure. This observation supports earlier studies by Mundhial et al., (2022) and Ghatowar and Kalita, (2023), who reported that age and maturity of LIS department significantly influence the research productivity.

The analysis of university categories signifies the dominant role of the public university system in LIS doctoral research in India. State universities contribute more than 75% of the total doctoral output, which is attributed to their large number, wider geographical distribution, and greater responsiveness to UGC regulations and repository submission mandates. Central universities contribute a smaller but significant share of doctoral theses (11.62%), with notable participation from institutions located in the northeastern region such as Mizoram University, North-Eastern Hill University and Manipur University. The private and deemed-to-be universities contribute comparatively less number of theses, despite the increasing number of higher education institutions in these categories, which aligns with the findings of Kumar (2025), who observed that publicly funded universities continue to dominate doctoral level research in India. Although LIS doctoral research in India has expanded both institutionally and geographically, it continues to be concentrated within a limited number of established public universities and specific regions.

Limitations and future directions

The present study is limited to the analysis of metadata of LIS doctoral theses available in Shodhganga and therefore reflects patterns specific to this discipline and repository. Similar metadata-driven analyses could be extended to other disciplines to understand broader doctoral research trends in India. The study also relies on a single ETD database Shodhganga and future investigations should incorporate other national or international repositories to provide a more comprehensive perspective. Future research could examine growth phase analysis, doctoral supervision patterns, gender disparity of researchers and supervisors of doctoral research. Deeper analytical approaches using metadata elements such as titles, abstract, keywords and citations could help explore research themes, citation impact, collaboration networks and the thematic evolution of LIS doctoral research. Comparative studies between Indian ETD repositories and international ETD systems may also provide valuable global research insights. Focused investigations on underrepresented regions and emerging universities may help identify barriers and opportunities. Some universities do not fully comply with UGC mandates for timely thesis submission to Shodhganga, leading to incomplete data coverage. Inclusion of such missing theses metadata may have altered the study findings.

Conclusion

This study examines the current status and growth of LIS doctoral research available in Shodhganga through a metadata-based analysis of 4027 theses submitted by 156 universities during 2010-2025. Early phase of the repository shows less number of thesis uploads but with certain fluctuations, it substantially increased overtime. This indicates growing awareness and compliance about thesis submission in the Indian national doctoral repository. However, the analysis also highlights a highly uneven distribution of doctoral research productivity across institutions and regions. Majority of state universities and southern and western regions such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka contribute a large share of LIS doctoral research output in Shodhganga. The study found that while LIS doctoral research in India has expanded considerably through Shodhganga, but it is institutionally and regionally concentrated. These findings provide evidence for the need to strengthen LIS research ecosystems in underrepresented institutions and regions to ensure a more balanced and inclusive development of LIS doctoral research in India.

Declaration on use of generative AI tools

The authors confirm that ChatGPT, an AI tool, was utilised to enhance, paraphrase, and revise sentences and paragraphs within the manuscript for improved readability and grammatical accuracy.

References

- Barphe, V. U. (2023). Web citation and decay of URLs: A case study of library and information science theses uploaded on Shodhganga under the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. *Journal of Indian Library Association*, 59(3), 15–22. <https://journal.ilaindia.net/index.php/lib/article/view/45>
- Bevan, S. J. (2005). Electronic thesis development at Cranfield University. *Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems*, 39(2), 100–111. <https://doi.org/10.1108/00330330510595689>
- Cayabyab, T. A. C. (2015). A Review of Emerging ETD Initiatives, Challenges and Future Developments. *International Journal of Information and Education Technology*, 5(10), 772–777. <https://doi.org/10.7763/IJiet.2015.V5.609>
- Chakrabarti, A., & Maharana, B. (2025). A Brief Overview of Open Educational Resources Accessible in Indian Digital Learning Repositories. *International Journal of Digital Curation*, 19(1), 7–7. <https://doi.org/10.2218/ijdc.v19i1.1013>
- Chakravarty, R. (2019). Status of Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs) in India. In *Advances in Library and Information Science* (p. 35). IGI

- Global Scientific Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-5225-5840-8.ch003>
- Copeland, S. (2008). Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Promoting 'Hidden' Research. *Policy Futures in Education*, 6(1), 87–96. <https://doi.org/10.2304/pfie.2008.6.1.87>
- Copeland, S., & Penman, A. (2004). The development and promotion of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) within the UK. *New Review of Information Networking*, 10(1), 19–32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13614570412331311978>
- Dobratz, S., & Schirmbacher, P. (2001). *Knowledge Transfer: The UNESCO guide for developing countries on electronic theses and dissertations*. 11–13. <https://doi.org/10.18452/1025>
- Dora, M., Kanagasabai, K., Zala, L. N., & Kampa, R. K. (2024). Exploring the research domains, gender gap and labour market perspectives of doctoral research in library and information science in India. *IFLA Journal*, 50(2), 310–321. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03400352231222043>
- Esh, M., & Ghosh, S. (2021). Role in Contribution to Open Access Repository by the Northeast Universities in India: A Case Study of Shodhganga. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 41(6), 448–454. <https://doi.org/10.14429/djlit.41.6.17027>
- Fox, E. (2021). Welcome to the Journal of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (J-ETD). *The Journal of Electronic Theses and Dissertations*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.52407/CRPO5075>
- Fox, E., Moxley, J., & Pavani, A. (2001). *The Guide for Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. English Faculty Publications. https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/eng_facpub/163
- Ghatowar, N. K., & Kalita, D. (2023). An Empirical Evaluation of Research on "Library Management" at the Doctoral Level in India: A Study of the Last 50 Years from 1971 to 2020. *Open Information Science*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.1515/opis-2022-0138>
- Ghosh, M. (2009). E-theses and Indian academia: A case study of nine ETD digital libraries and formulation of policies for a national service. *The International Information & Library Review*, 41, 21–33. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iilr.2008.08.002>
- Gopalji, Madalli, D. P., Kumar, V., & Saurav, S. K. (2025). Doctoral-Level Research in Indian CFTIs: Current Status and Future Prospects. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 45(6), 511–519. <https://doi.org/10.14429/djlit.21110>
- Guerrero-Sosa, J. D. T., Menéndez-Domínguez, V. H., & Castellanos-Bolaños, M. E. (2021). An indexing system for the relevance of academic production and research from digital repositories and metadata.

- The Electronic Library*, 39(1), 33–58. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-06-2020-0160>
- Kalyan, K. N. (2021). Bibliographic control of Ph. D. theses in India. *Pearl : A Journal of Library and Information Science*, 15(1), 35–45.
- Khan, M. Y., & Tariq, H. (2021). Library and Information Science research in India: A bibliometric overview of theses from Shodhganga (2010–2020). *ShodhKosh: Journal of Visual and Performing Arts*, 2(2), 372–379. <https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v2.i2.2021.4776>
- Kumar, A. (2025). Why deemed and private universities are lagging in publishing their research online with India's national repository? *Iberoamerican Journal of Science Measurement and Communication*, 5(1), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.47909/ijsmc.233>
- Kumar, D., Bhowmick, P. K., Dey, S., & Sanyal, D. K. (2023). On the banks of Shodhganga: Analysis of the academic genealogy graph of an Indian ETD repository. *Scientometrics*, 128(7), 3879–3914. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-023-04728-z>
- Maghawry, A. A. (2025). Knowledge Production and Development Trends: Bibliometric Analysis of Theses and Dissertations at AlWasl University. *Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Science*, 2(3), 134–142. <https://doi.org/10.69739/jahss.v2i3.1135>
- Milovanovic, P., Stankovic, R., Ivanovic, V., Petrovic, A., Nikolic, V., Milutinovic, K., Jeremic, M., Davidovic, L., Lalic, N., & Pekmezovic, T. (2025). Evaluating award-winning doctoral theses to reveal PhD research landscape: A case study of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade. *European Science Editing*, 51, e136050. <https://doi.org/10.3897/ese.2025.e136050>
- Ministry of Education. (2009, July 11). *The Gazette of India, No. 28, Part III-Section 4. Government of India*. <https://www.ugc.gov.in/oldpdf/regulations/mphilphdclarification.pdf>
- Ministry of Education. (2016, July 5). *The Gazette of India, No. 278, Part III-Section 4. Government of India*. [https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4952604_UGC-\(M.PHIL.-PH.D-DEGREES\)-REGULATIONS,-2016.pdf](https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4952604_UGC-(M.PHIL.-PH.D-DEGREES)-REGULATIONS,-2016.pdf)
- Mir, A. A., & Sevukan, R. (2021). Library and information science theses in shodhganga repository: A study. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 68(2), 95–100.
- Mundhial, S., Sahoo, J., Dash, N. K., & Mohanty, B. (2022). Indian Doctoral Research in the Field of Library and Information Science: An Empirical Analysis. *The International Information & Library Review*, 54(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10572317.2020.1849914>
- Nanthini, R., & Varghese, D. R. R. (2018). Growth of ETDs in India: An analytical study of top contributing Universities of Shodhganga.

- Library Herald*, 56(1), 152–163. <https://doi.org/10.5958/0976-2469.2018.00014.3>
- Panda, S. K. (2016). Shodhganga – a national level open access ETD repository of Indian electronic theses: Current status and discussions. *Library Hi Tech News*, 33(1), 23–26. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LHTN-09-2015-0062>
- Pop, A. I., Florea, M., Mirel, S., Lotrean, L. M., Pop, A. I., Florea, M., Mirel, S., & Lotrean, L. M. (2025). Assessment of Productivity and Quality of Publications Derived From Doctoral Theses and the Scientific Performance of Graduates at a Romanian Medical and Pharmacy University. *Cureus*, 17. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.86947>
- Powell, R. R. (1995). Research Competence for Ph.D. Students in Library and Information Science. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 36(4), 319–329.
- Schöpfel, J., Boock, M., Rasuli, B., & Wyk, B. van. (2025). New Frontiers of Electronic Theses and Dissertations. *Encyclopedia*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.3390/encyclopedia5010006>
- Schöpfel, J., Chaudiron, S., Jacquemin, B., Prost, H., Severo, M., & Thiault, F. (2014). Open access to research data in electronic theses and dissertations: An overview. *Library Hi Tech*, 32(4), 612–627. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LHT-06-2014-0058>
- Sheeja, N. K. (2011). The Development of an Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations Repository: An Overview. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 37(6), 546–547. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2011.08.011>
- Shodhganga. (2010). Shodhganga: A Reservoir of Indian Theses. <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>
- Sinha, M. K., & Purkayastha, N. (2018). Awareness and Use of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) with Special Reference to Shodhganga and Shodhgangotri of INFLIBNET: A Study of Scientific Community Library Users of Assam University, Silchar. *2018 5th International Symposium on Emerging Trends and Technologies in Libraries and Information Services (ETTLIS)*, 240–247. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ETTLIS.2018.8485256>
- Sivakumaren, K. S., Bharanidharan, S., & Rajkumar, T. (2024). Metric Analysis on Electronic Theses and Dissertations of Central Universities, India in INFLIBNET Shodhganga Repository. *Journal of Indian Library Association*, 60(3), 410–418.
- Ulrich, H., Kock-Schoppenhauer, A.-K., Deppenwiese, N., Gött, R., Kern, J., Lablans, M., Majeed, R. W., Stöhr, M. R., Stausberg, J., Varghese, J., Dugas, M., & Ingenerf, J. (2022). Understanding the Nature of Metadata: Systematic Review. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 24(1), e25440. <https://doi.org/10.2196/25440>

Corresponding Author

Vinit Kumar can be contacted at: mailvinitkumar@gmail.com

Author Biographies

Vinay Manral is a Junior Research Fellow at the Department of Library and Information Science at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University), Lucknow, India. His research interests are text analytics, knowledge discovery systems and Scientometrics.

Riya Raj completed her Masters in library and information from the Department of Library and Information Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University), Lucknow, India.

Vinit Kumar is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Library and Information Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University), Lucknow, India. He holds a PhD degree in the area of linked data application in library online services. He has more than 15 years of experience in teaching and research in Library and Information Science. His research interests are text mining, linked open data, research methods, cultural heritage information and social media analytics.