Exploratory Practice on ETDs for Better Information Literacy

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A set of abilities whereby an individual is able to recognize the need for information, as well as to locate, evaluate, and use the needed information effectively (American Library Association Presidential Committee 1989)

Lack of knowledge on adoption & development of ETD programs

No in-depth research on the enablers and barriers

Study aims to address the gap in the system (in India)
Objectives of Study

- Explore the extent and success of using ETDs for research in India
- Perceived enablers and barriers influencing the adoption and development of ETD

Objectives:

1. Explore the perceived enabling factors in using ETDs
2. Understand essential features of ETDs.
3. Evaluate the success in discovering ETDs by determining the:
   i. Efficacy of ETD use
   ii. User interaction with the ETD databases
   iii. Technical aspects of ETD databases
Using a cross sectional research design and mixed methods, this study attempts to fill this knowledge gap.

- Librarians & information scientists
- Research supervisors
- Research candidates

Compare at same time
How Data was Collected?

- Research study conducted from February 2017 – June 2017

- Using *End Master Software* with power of 80% and alpha error 5% with the influence rate of 85%, we arrived at the sample size of 45 per group.

- This was rounded to 50 samples each.

- Total: One hundred and fifty (150) participants.
Online Questionnaire
Print Surveys
Quantitative structured questionnaire with open-ended questions

https://docs.google.com/a/drmgrdu.ac.in/forms/d/1FNg11QYvLQbl2s26Ic5QrYmTDvXWMtgehmkXbVZkU/edit

19 questions with 30 sub-questions as prompts were used.

Questions were categorized as following:
1. Importance of ETDs
2. Success in finding the ETD tools
3. Efficacy of ETDs
4. User interaction with ETDs
5. Technical aspects of ETD & databases
Research Study by Participants

- Librarians & information scientists (n=50) - L
- Research supervisors (n=50) - S
- Research candidates (n=50) - C
Key Findings of the Study
Study Findings

Exploratory Practice on ETD

Benefits of ETD

Enabling factors of ETD use

Gaps in effective use of ETD

Common purposes of ETD

Recommendations
How often were the ETD Databases used?

- Never: 34.0%
- Occasionally/rarely: 18.0%
- Daily: 26.0%
- Weekly: 10.7%
- Monthly: 6.7%
- Others: 4.7%
Research Study Findings – Most Widely Used Type of ETD Database

Most widely used academic ETD database

A preprint database

Research student Librarian Supervisor

Other

Research student Librarian Supervisor
Why One Database Better than Another?

- I get BETTER results
- I get MORE results
- It has more options to REFINE or SORT my search results
- It has more SEARCH OPTIONS
- It's FAMILIAR to me
- It's EASIER to use
- It's FASTER
- It's FREE

Research student    Librarian    Supervisor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Research student</th>
<th>Librarian</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have used it and found it useful</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have used it and found it NOT useful</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have NOT used it, and I don't plan to use it</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have NOT used it, and I would like to try it</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits of ETDs in Research

- ETDs can be accessed easily, any time (C8, C11)
- Easy to refer (C52)
- Provide information about any topic of interest along with the current literature (C21)
- They are accessed to learn about research done on the subject worldwide (C41)
- To know latest development on different subjects (L2, L23)
How Essential are ETD Features?
Technical Aspects of Finding ETDs

- Research student: 44% Medium, 56% High
- Librarian: 28% Medium, 72% High
- Supervisor: 44% Medium, 56% High
Efficacy of ETD use

- Research student: Medium (18), High (82)
- Librarian: Medium (56), High (44)
- Supervisor: Medium (28), High (72)

Efficacy in ETD Usage

- ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) usage and its efficacy across different roles.
Gaps in Effective Use of ETDs:

- Not aware of ETDs (C42)
- Never used ETDs (C3, C26)
- Got no opportunity to be acquainted on ETDs (C19)
- Unable to locate ETDs (S1)
- Lack of awareness among researchers about benefits of ETD (L6)
Overall Success in ETD Usage (Kruskal-Wallis Test)

- Important features of ETD
- Efficacy of use
- Users interaction with the ETD database
- Technical Aspects ETD database
- Successful are the tools for finding ETD

Research student
Librarian
Supervisor
ETDs to be listed in popular search engines (C43, C49)

Accession based survey link should be included (C15)

Need to create awareness among the young graduates (C52)

Teach do-able criteria’s to explore ETD databases on the web (C34)

Recent ETD articles are needed. Always showing up only the old researches done before the year 2005 (C44)

Text retrieval in case of Indian regional languages (C8)

ETD Research Impact Factor to be listed (L13)
Conclusion

Understanding the factors influencing the use of ETDs will enable Universities and academic institutions to be well placed to plan and make informed decisions in adoption and development of ETD programs.