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Analyzing the Theses & Dissertations to INFLIBNET Shodhganga by Central and State Universities of North East India

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Abstract:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have provided various means to the institutions in carrying out research as for the intellectual output of any academic institution is variably measured, analyzed and interpreted by the quality of contributions through research publications. Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), its creation and use has made the way for more scholarly outreach. The academic institutions are in the process of making these research assets available for public sharing. 'Shodhganga' being one of the crucial projects undertaken by the INFLIBNET center provides a common space for the Indian Universities to upload and share their institutionally published theses and dissertations in electronic form. In this paper, the authors have attempted to assess the contributions of the Central and State Universities of North East India which have signed MoU with INFLIBNET for promoting research by sharing their ETDs in Open Access Repositories.

Keywords: Central University, State University, ETD, Electronic Theses and Dissertations, North East India, INFLIBNET, Shodhganga, Institutional Repository

Introduction :

Today the Information Communication Technology (ICT) has become a bridge between the information explosion and the information seekers. It has drastically changed the traditional way of the library to the electronic/digital library. The use of ETDs in higher academic institutions has been seen widely because of its association with modern ICT applications. The global scenario of research and development has stepped into a new era where knowledge dissemination is freely possible with the creation of Open Access repository software like DSpace, EPrint, Fedora Commons etc. The Indian Institutions are leaning forward to make contributions into these repositories. The first ETD repository in India is developed by the University of Mysore as a project named Vidyanidhi, which is an effort for creating, maintaining and providing the network access to the Indian theses. With this the open access to the Indian theses has started widely. In India, since 2009, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has made mandatory for all the research scholars to submit the print form as well as the electronic form of their theses and dissertations in their respective universities so as to make it. This paper therefore aims at finding out the current scenario of the Central and State Universities of North East India in bestowing their research publications to 'Shodhganga'.

Shodhganga- a Brief Overview:

"Shodhganga" is the name coined to denote the digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations set-up by the INFLIBNET Centre. The word "Shodh" originates from Sanskrit and stands for research and discovery. The "Ganga" is the holiest, largest and longest of all rivers in Indian subcontinent. The Ganga is the symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization, ever-changing, ever-flowing, ever-loved and revered by its people, and has held India's heart captive and drawn uncounted millions to her banks since the dawn of history. Shodhganga stands for the reservoir of Indian intellectual output stored in a repository hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre.

The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is set-up using an open-source digital repository software called DSpace developed by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in partnership between Hewlett-Packard (HP). The DSpace uses internationally recognized protocols and interoperability standards. Shodhganga provides a platform for research scholars to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. The repository has the ability

to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) submitted by the researchers.

It would be possible for universities having sufficient network and computing infrastructure to maintain their own ETD repositories wherein their research scholars could deposit e-versions of their theses and dissertations. Moreover, they can use Shodhganga to host their theses as backup archives. INFLIBNET Centre, besides maintaining the Central ETD Repository (Shodhganga) would also deploy a central server to harvest the metadata from all such ETD repositories distributed in universities with an aim to provide unified access to theses and dissertations through its harvesting server.

Shodhganga replicates the academic structure of each University in terms of Departments/ Centres/ Colleges each University has to facilitate ease of navigation. This structure facilitates research scholars from universities to deposit their theses in the respective Department / Centre / College. The Centre is also developing a semantic web-based interface to facilitate subject-based browsing, navigation, search and retrieval of content available in the repository.

Objectives of the Study:

1. Distinguish the Central and State Universities of North East India which have signed MoU with INFLIBNET to 'Shodhganga' project so far now.
2. Analyze the year wise registration of the Central and State Universities of North East India .
3. Determine the present status of the concerned institutions in submitting the ETDs to 'Shodhganga'.
4. Ranking of institutions based on the 'Shodhganga' ETDs contributions.
5. Evaluate the language predominance in the submitted ETDs.
6. Identify specifically the major subjective contributions by the departments with the greatest number of submissions.

Scope and Coverage:

The study is limited to only the 9 Central and 11 State Universities from North East India which have signed MoU to upload the ETDs to ‘Shodhganga’. Among the selected ones, 9 state universities have actively contributed to the ETDs at ‘Shodhganga’.

Methodology

In this study survey method of research was used. The data have been collected through observation methods from the Shodhganga repository. An extensive survey and analysis of the Shodhganga repository (<http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>) was conducted from 22th June to 25th June, 2021 for mapping the contribution of theses & dissertations to Shodhganga by Central and State Universities of North East India. The collected data was analyzed and presented in tabular form using Microsoft Excel.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Central Universities of North East India signed MoU to Shodhganga

There are thirteen (13) Central Universities from North East India. Table 1 shows the MoU signed Central Universities from North East India for submitting the Electronic Theses and Dissertations in Shodhganga. A total of nine Central Universities from North East India has signed with MoU. All the central universities have deposited their research reports to Shodhganga. Central Agricultural University, National Sports University, Sikkim University, Tripura University are the remaining four universities who haven’t signed with MoU.

Table-1: List of Central Universities of North East India signed MoU to Shodhganga

Sl. No.	Central University	State	Established	MOU Signed with Shodhganga
1.	Assam University	Assam	1994	31st Jan 2013
2.	Manipur University	Manipur	1980	17th March 2011
3.	Mizoram University	Mizoram	2000	17th Oct. 2013
4.	Nagaland University	Nagaland	1994	11th Aug. 2015
5.	North Eastern Hill University	Meghalaya	1973	9th March 2011
6.	Rajiv Gandhi University	Arunachal Pradesh	1985	17th Oct. 2014
7.	Sikkim University	Sikkim	2007	1st March 2012
8.	Tezpur University	Tezpur	1994	1st Aug 2013
9.	Tripura University	Tripura	1987	21st Jan 2013

Contribution of Central Universities of North East India to Shodhganga

Table 2 shows the contribution of Central Universities from North East India to Shodhganga. North Eastern Hill University has the maximum contribution and it has submitted 2256 ETDs to Shodhganga. Assam University has the second place with 1436 contribution followed by Manipur University with 1147 contribution. Tezpur University (614), Mizoram University (440), Rajiv Gandhi University (432) are placed in fourth, fifth and sixth rank respectively.

Table 2: Contribution of Central Universities of North East India to Shodhganga

Sl. No	Name of the University	Total No. of Theses uploaded	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Assam University	1436	21.67	2
2.	Manipur University	1147	16.90	3
3.	Mizoram University	440	6.48	5
4.	Nagaland University	205	3.02	7
5.	North Eastern Hill University	2256	33.25	1
6.	Rajiv Gandhi University	432	6.36	6
7.	Sikkim University	52	0.76	9
8.	Tezpur University	614	9.05	4
9.	Tripura University	202	2.97	8

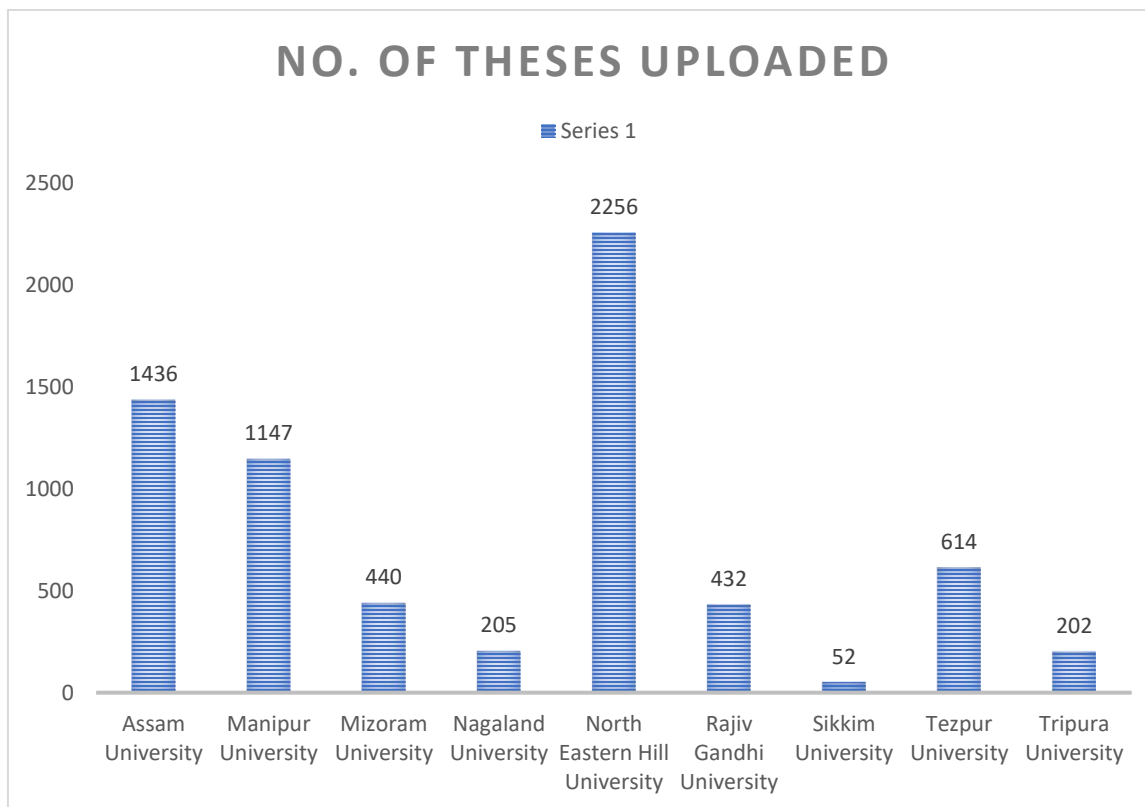


Figure 1: Contribution of Central Universities of North East India to Shodhganga

Language predominance contributed in ETDs

Table 5 shows that a total of 6784 number of theses were uploaded by the central universities of North East India. There are 6269 theses which are written in English language. 629 theses were written in Bengali language, which is the official language of West Bengal.

Table 3: Language predominance contributed in ETDs

Sl No.	Name of the University	Theses in English	Theses in other languages
1	Assam University	1125	311
2	Manipur University	1066	81
3	Mizoram University	436	4
4	Nagaland University	204	1

5	North Eastern Hill University	2210	46
6	Rajiv Gandhi University	394	38
7	Sikkim University	47	5
8	Tezpur University	607	7
9	Tripura University	180	22
	Total	6269	515

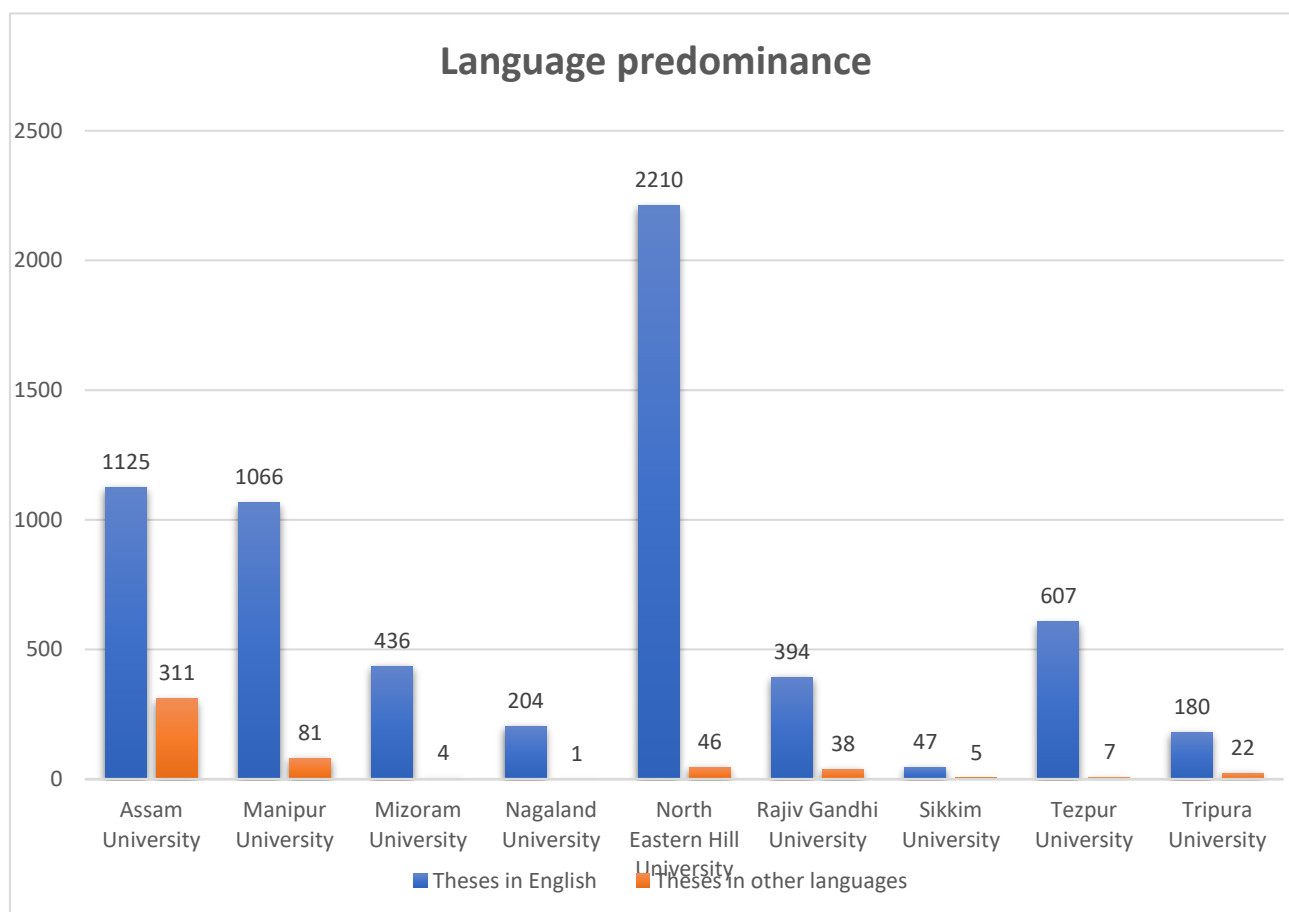


Figure 2: Language predominance

Contributions on ETDs by top departments of the Central Universities of North East India

Table 6 shows the highest number of theses deposited by the top departments of each central universities. The Department of Botany, North Eastern Hill University has deposited the highest number of theses i.e 249. Department of Bengali, Assam University has made 209 contributions. Department of Life Science, Manipur University made 184 contributions. Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University made 116 contributions.

Table 4: Contributions on ETDs by top departments of the Central Universities of North East India

Sl. No.	Name of the University	Top Department	Dept Theses Count
1	Assam University	Department of Bengali	209
2	Manipur University	Department of Life Science	184
3	Mizoram University	Department of Physics	35
4	Nagaland University	Department of English	30
5	North Eastern Hill University	Department of Botany	249
6	Rajiv Gandhi University	Department of Education	81
7	Sikkim University	Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management	9
8	Tezpur University	Department of Chemical Sciences	116
9	Tripura University	Department of Physics	26

State Universities of North East India signed MoU to Shodhganga

There are seventeen (17) State Universities from North East India. Table 1 shows the MoU signed State Universities from North East India for submitting the Electronic Theses and Dissertations in Shodhganga. A total of eleven State Universities from North East India has signed with MoU. Assam Women’s University, Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, Sri Sri Aniruddhdeva Sports University, Rabindranath Tagore University, Majuli University of Culture, Madhabdev University, Bhattadev University, Dhanamanjuri University, Manipur University of Culture, National Sports University, Maharaja Bir Bikram University are the remaining universities from North East India who haven’t signed with MoU.

Table 2: List of State Universities of North East India signed MoU to Shodhganga

Sl. No.	State University	State	Established	MOU Signed with Shodhganga
1.	Gauhati University	Assam	1947	18th July 2011

1.	Assam Agricultural University	Assam	1994	19th Nov. 2020
2.	Assam Don Bosco University	Assam	2009	27th Sept,2011
3.	Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-operative Management	Assam	2010	10th Oct. 2020
4.	Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University	Assam	2011	8th Oct. 2020
5.	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	Assam	2005	23rd Dec 2011
6.	Dibrugarh University	Assam	1965	30th Jun 2015
7.	Bodoland University	Assam	2009	08th Sept 2015
8.	Cotton University	Assam	2017	10th Oct. 2018
9.	National Law University and Judicial Academy	Assam	2009	30th May,2019
10.	Assam Science and Technology University	Assam	2010	24th Oct. 2019
11.	Manipur Technical University	Manipur	2016	18th February, 2019

Contribution of State Universities of North East India to Shodhganga

Table 2 shows the contribution of State Universities from North East India to Shodhganga. Gauhati University has the maximum contribution and it has submitted 5695 ETDs to Shodhganga. Dibrugarh University has the second place with 407 contributions followed by Assam Don Bosco University with 60 contributions. Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-operative Management, Cotton University, Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University, Manipur Technical University haven't done any contribution yet.

Table 2: Contribution of State Universities of North East India to Shodhganga

Sl. No	Name of the State University	Total No. of Theses uploaded	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Assam Agricultural University	1	0.02	8
2.	Assam Don Bosco University	60	0.96	3
3.	Assam Science and Technology University	2	0.03	7
4.	Bodoland University	41	0.66	4
5.	Dibrugarh University	407	6.53	2

6.	Gauhati University	5695	91.37	1
7.	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	12	0.19	6
8.	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya	13	0.21	5
9.	National Law University and Judicial Academy	2	0.03	7

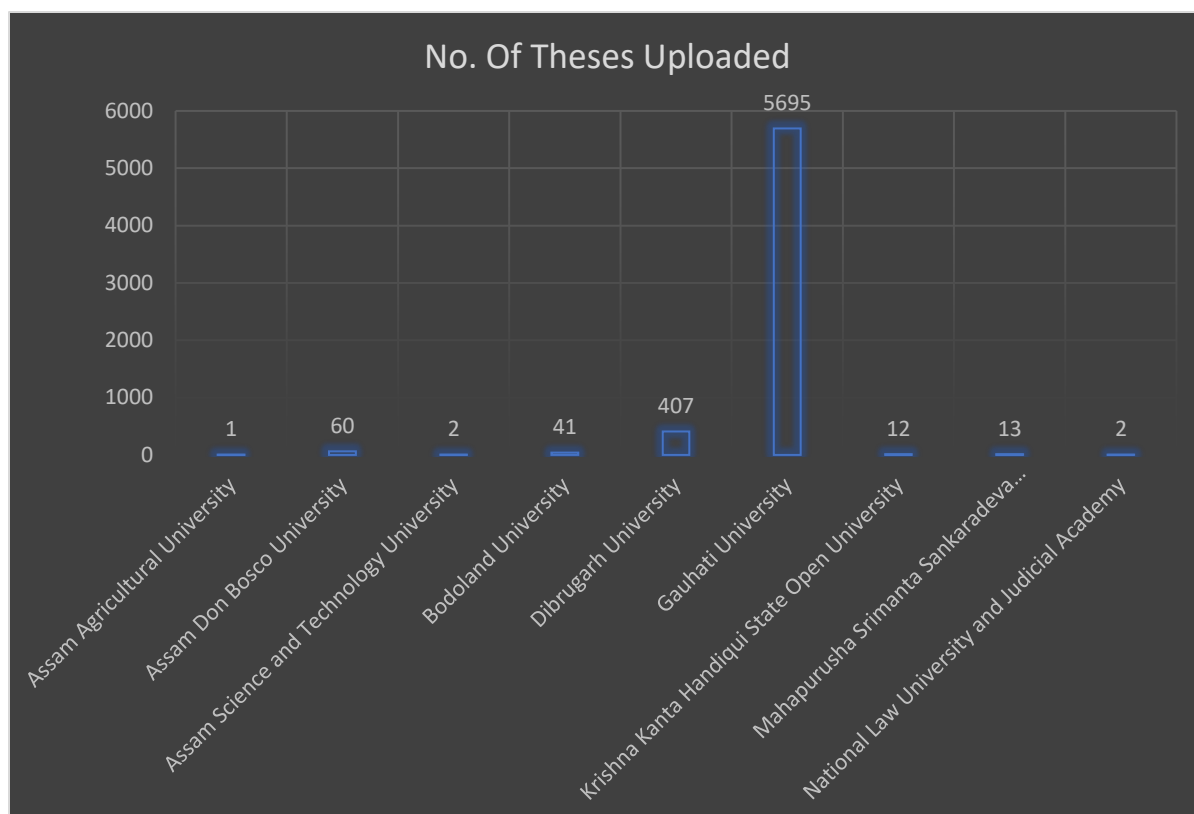


Figure 3: Contribution of State Universities of North East India to Shodhganga

Language predominance contributed in ETDs

Table 5 shows that a total of 6233 number of theses were uploaded by the state universities of North East India. Out of 5695 theses of Gauhati University, 169 theses are written in English language, 368 in Assamese language and 428 in other language. Other language includes Bodo, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Persian, Manipuri, Arabic, Foreign Language and Linguistic only.

Table 3: Language predominance contributed in ETDs

Sl.No.	State University	Theses in Assamese	Theses in English	Other language
1.	Assam Agricultural University	-	1	-
2.	Assam Don Bosco University	-	55	5
3.	Assam Science and Technology University	-	2	-
4.	Bodoland University	2	3	4
5.	Dibrugarh University	33	3	
6.	Gauhati University	368	169	428
7.	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya	3	-	-
8.	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	-	4	8
9.	National Law University and Judicial Academy	-	2	-

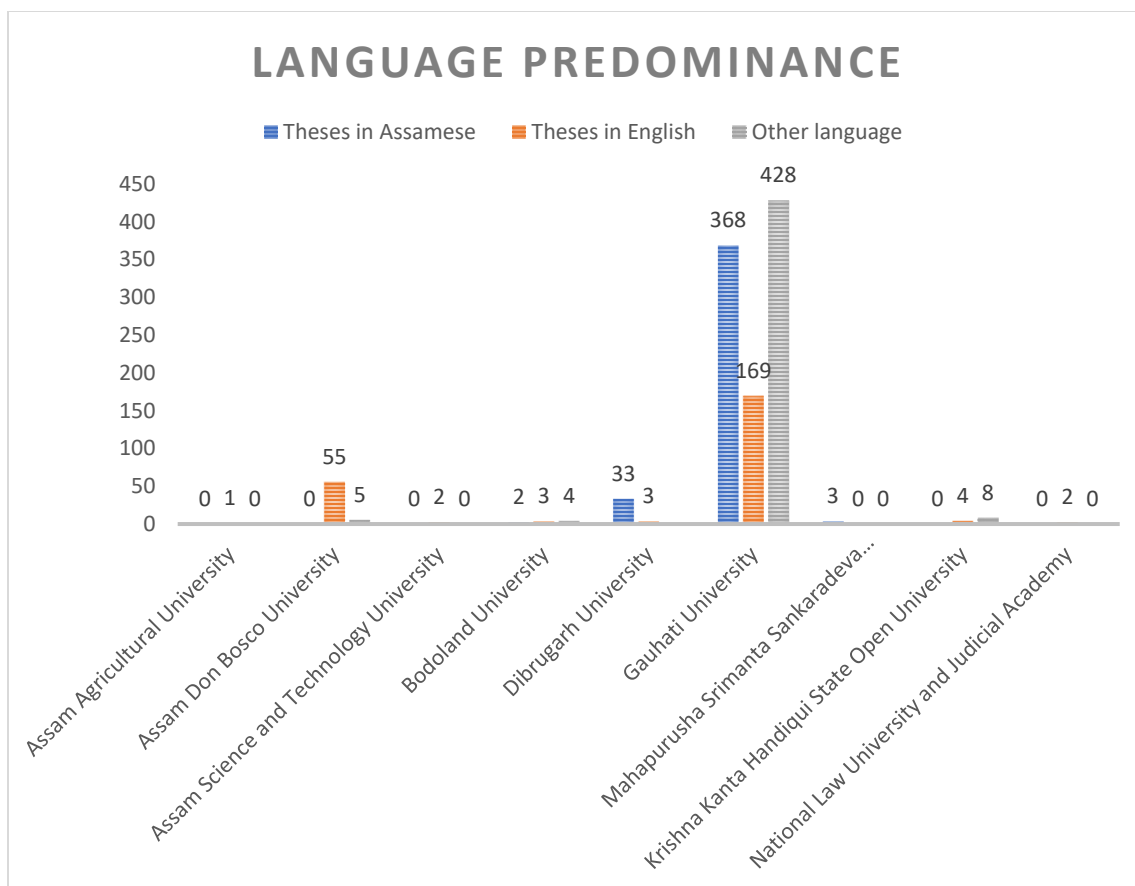


Figure 4: Language predominance

Contributions on ETDs by top departments of the State Universities of North East India

Table 6 shows the highest number of theses deposited by the top departments of each state universities. The Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University has deposited the highest number of theses i.e 384. Department of Life science, Dibrugarh University has made 35 contributions. Department of Biotechnology, Bodoland University made 11 contributions.

Table 4: Contributions on ETDs by top departments of the State Universities of North East India

Sl.No.	State University	Name of the Top department	Dept. Theses Count
1.	Assam Agricultural University	Department of Agriculture Biotechnology	1
2.	Assam Don Bosco University	Department of north east India studies, Department of Social Work	10

3.	Assam Science and Technology University	Department of Management and Mathematics	1
4.	Bodoland University	Department of Biotechnology	11
5.	Dibrugarh University	Department of Life science	35
6.	Gauhati University	Department of Chemistry	384
7.	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	Surjya Kumar Bhuyan school of Social Science	5
8.	Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya	Sankardeva Studies	8
9.	National Law University and Judicial Academy	Department of Law	2

Findings

1. There are thirteen (13) Central Universities from North East India. A total of nine Central Universities from North East India has signed with MoU.
2. Central Agricultural University, National Sports University, Sikkim University, Tripura University are the remaining four universities who haven't signed with MoU.
3. Among the Central Universities from North East India, North Eastern Hill University has the maximum contribution and it has submitted 2256 ETDs to Shodhganga. Assam University has the second place with 1436 contribution followed by Manipur University with 1147 contribution. Tezpur University (614), Mizoram University (440), Rajiv Gandhi University (432) are placed in fourth, fifth and sixth rank respectively.
4. A total of 6784 number of theses were uploaded by the central universities of North East India. There are 6269 theses which are written in English language. 629 theses were written in Bengali language, which is the official language of West Bengal.
5. The highest number of theses deposited by the top departments of each central universities are the Department of Botany, North Eastern Hill University that has deposited the highest number of theses i.e 249. Department of Bengali, Assam University has made 209 contributions. Department of Life Science, Manipur University made 184 contributions. Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University made 116 contributions.
6. There are seventeen (17) State Universities from North East India. A total of eleven State Universities from North East India has signed with MoU.

7. Assam Women's University, Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, Sri Sri Aniruddhdeva Sports University, Rabindranath Tagore University, Majuli University of Culture, Madhabdev University, Bhattadev University, Dhanamanjuri University, Manipur University of Culture, National Sports University, Maharaja Bir Bikram University are the remaining universities from North East India who haven't signed with MoU.

8. The contribution of State Universities from North East India to Shodhganga shows that Gauhati University has the maximum contribution and it has submitted 5695 ETDs to Shodhganga. Dibrugarh University has the second place with 407 contributions followed by Assam Don Bosco University with 60 contributions. Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-operative Management, Cotton University, Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University, Manipur Technical University haven't done any contribution yet.

9. A total of 6233 number of theses were uploaded by the state universities of North East India. Out of 5695 theses of Gauhati University, 169 theses are written in English language, 368 in Assamese language and 428 in other language. Other language includes Bodo, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Persian, Manipuri, Arabic, Foreign Language and Linguistic only.

10. The highest number of theses deposited by the top departments of each state universities shows the Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University has deposited the highest number of theses i.e 384. Department of Life science, Dibrugarh University has made 35 contributions. Department of Biotechnology, Bodoland University made 11 contributions.

Conclusion

The institutional repositories in India are in the developing stage. Many institutions are on the verge of developing their repositories. Through the Shodhganga project, UGC provides a platform to the research students in depositing their Ph.D. theses and taking the research output beyond the library walls at the national level by making it open access. Shodhganga is a most admired & resourceful repository in Indian which provides a podium to Indian universities to deposit the electronic version of theses and make available for the entire scholarly community of the world through open access. The central universities of North East India have made their way and contributing to a good extent. Some state universities of North East India were doing well and contributing their theses to Shodhganga but some universities are still in the beginning stage of

contributions. Out of 17 universities, 11 have signed though only 9 have contributed to Shodhganga. Eight state universities have not yet started to upload theses. The library professionals and the University authority should take initiatives to create access and awareness of ETD and sort out the problems and try to increase the contribution of their respective universities.

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