



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Commerce

**Doctoral Research on User Studies with Special Reference to Shodhganga Database at Inflibnet**
**KEY WORDS:** Shodhganga, INFLIBNET, Ph.D. Theses, Doctoral Research, User Studies, Use Studies.

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**ABSTRACT**

Users are become fairly standard in everyday planning, and attest to a changing concept of what constitutes effective service. The number of research works reporting on such a work is growing; and user modelling and evaluation are standard tasks within most project developing or enhancing User Studies. "Shodhganga" at INFLIBNET 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. This article describes the several kinds of use studies, and then attempts to appraiser what they contribution from research scholars.

**1. Introduction**

Investigation of use and users are still infrequent in day-to-day library management, but they have appeared with some regularity in state-wide planning and also in commissioned surveys of individual libraries. The increased interest to user studies in the User Studies domain is noticeable in the recent years. The number of research works reporting on such a work is growing; and user modelling and evaluation are standard d tasks within most project developing or enhancing User Studies. However, research on the users, their expectations. Needs and perception has not yet crystallised sufficiently to offer consistent models and recommendations.

Numerous definitions have been evolved, seeking to distinguish, for example, among "data", "information" and "knowledge" Belkin, (1978) and recently there have been attempts at a single concept of information for information science. The word "information" is used, in the context of user-studies research, to denote a physical entity or phenomenon (as in the case of questions relating to the number of books read in a period of time, the number of journals subscribed to, etc.), the channel of communication through which messages are transferred (as when we speak of the incidence of oral versus written information), or the factual data, empirically determined and presented in a document or transmitted orally Farradane, (1979).

**2. Studies of Use**

Users are becoming fairly standard in library planning, and attest to a changing concept of what constitutes effective service. At the same time, too much is often expected of use studies, as of any new planning tool, and disillusionment sets in when a library laboriously gathers extensive data and then wonders what to do with it. The article describes the several kinds of use studies, and then attempts to appraise what they contribute and do not contribute to the planning process. Essentially they are an aspect of community analysis, dealing as they do with the particular fork of functional behaviour of people-their search for information and recorded knowledge- that relates most closely to library service.

**3. Varieties of User Studies**

User studies addressed themselves initially, and in increasingly large numbers, to the "who, what, when and where," of library use. A smaller number of studies have probed the way libraries are used, and with what success.

The literature of user studies is large and varied. It ranges in complexity from detailed research investigations, which model how a user gathers information, to the most elementary, in house, descriptive studies of a single library or institution. "One of the best known, and still most important, of the national user studies was conducted by Campbell and Metzner and was published in 1950. In 1978 the Gallup organization reported the results of a national survey of library users and it has conducted another survey of library survey of library use more recently. In addition to the

various national studies, many user studies have been conducted for states, regions, and local communities. Identification of the many user studies has been aided by the availability of several bibliographies. Among them are publications by Albright, Atkin, Bates, Davis and Bailey, Ford, The International Federation for Documentation, Lubans, Slater, and Wood. In addition, the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology has included a summary and bibliography of the previous year's activities relating to user studies. A useful summary of the findings of several major user studies was published by Zweizing and Dervin in the 1977 volume of Advances in Librarianship.

**4. Shodhganga (INFLIBNET) for Online Ph.D. Theses Databasesm of Indian Universities**

Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source of research work that does not find its way into various publications channels. One of the channel for Ph.D. theses called "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. The Shodhganga (INFLIBNET) is set-up using an open source digital repository software called Dspace. The INFLIBNET Centre promotes setting-up of institutional and ETD repositories in member universities using OAI-PMH compliant software. A number of member universities have already set-up their institutional and ETD repositories using either DSpace or other OAI-PMH compliant Institutional Repository software. It would be possible for universities having sufficient network and computing infrastructure and 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 achieves. 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 din universities with an aim to provided unified access to theses and dissertations through its harvesting server.

**5. Objectives of the Study**

1. To know the doctoral research growth in Indian Universities.
2. To find out the University wise doctoral research by scholars.
3. To find out research work done in various subject fields of Indian Universities.

**6. Data Collection and Methodology**

Finding the right information and creating a strategy is essential for successful search results. Knowledge about information resources and strategies will bring your search to a successful conclusion, even when you are not familiar with the topic at hand. Searching a Shodhganga theses database keywords that I have used for results.

**Keywords that I have Used**

S. No.	Keywords	S. No.	Keywords
1	Academic Libraries	44	Library and Information Networks
2	Academic Motivation	45	Library and Information Products
3	Academic Needs – teachers	46	Library and Information Science
4	Academic Performance	47	Library and Information Services
5	Academic Problems	48	Library Automation
6	Academic Programmes	49	Library Building Infrastructure
7	Academic Services	50	Library Classification
8	Academic Skills	51	Library Committee
9	Academic Streams	52	Library Consortium
10	Academic Stress	53	Library Digitisation
11	Academic Websites	54	Library Environment
12	Activities, School	55	Library Finances
13	Behavioural Problems	56	Library History
14	Behavioural Study	57	Library Information Services
15	Electronic Resources	58	Library Information System
16	Engineering Colleges	59	Library Legislation
17	Information Needs	60	Library Management
18	Information Resources Facilities	61	Library Networking
19	Information Seeking Behaviour	62	Library Periodicals
20	Information Services	63	Library Professionals
21	Information Sources	64	Library Science
22	Information Use Behaviour	65	Library Services
23	Learning Approach	66	Library Skill Development
24	Learning Chemistry	67	Library Software
25	Learning Design	68	Library Technology
26	Learning Difficulties	69	Library Users
27	Learning Disability	70	Library Utilization
28	Learning English	71	Library Websites
29	Learning Environment	72	Professional Needs-Teachers
30	Learning Method	73	Reading Habits
31	Learning Methodology	74	Reading Interests
32	Learning Models	75	Resource Sharing
33	Learning Modules	76	Scholars Behaviour
34	Learning of English	77	School Adolescents
35	Learning Organisation	78	School Age Children
36	Learning Package	79	Study and Teaching
37	Learning Software	80	Teaching Skills
38	Learning Strategies	81	User Awareness
39	Learning Strategy	82	User of Fantasy
40	Learning Style	83	User Participation
41	Learning Task Packages	84	User Satisfaction
42	Learning Teaching	85	User Services
43	Library Information Centre	86	User Studies

In this work, the data for analysis was downloaded from SHODHGANGA produced by INFLIBNET. It covers about 40443 theses as on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. From more than 40 top universities are reported their theses data rescors in different languages. The retrieved data were only 119 theses were found on "User Studies". These records are further analysed using Microsoft Excel and Access for getting further research on User Studies.

**6.1. Growth of Research on User Studies**

Table 6.1 shows the growth of awarded Ph.Ds on user studies, the Shodhganga started indexing theses data in 2009 but the submitted theses few at that time later on database were growing tremendously. Out of 119 Ph.D. theses in year 2012 there was a highest number of 25(21.01%) awarded. Usually a new subject field produce a huge amount of research at the initial stage of its growth causes exponential research growth. In the year 2013 there were 22 (18.49%) Ph.Ds awarded in different subjects. And the year 2011 there were 15 (12.61%) awarded Ph.Ds. About 1986, 1991, 1995 and 2000 years there is only a single Ph.D. awarded.

**Table-6.1**  
**Year-wise Awarded Ph.Ds**

S. No.	Year	Awarded Ph.Ds	%
1	1986	1	0.84
2	1991	1	0.84
3	1994	2	1.68
4	1995	1	0.84
5	2000	1	0.84
6	2001	3	2.52
7	2002	6	5.04
8	2004	3	2.52
9	2005	5	4.20
10	2006	3	2.52
11	2007	3	2.52
12	2008	8	6.72
13	2009	6	5.04
14	2010	9	7.57
15	2011	15	12.61
16	2012	25	21.01
17	2013	22	18.49
18	2014	5	4.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>	<b>100</b>

**6.2. University-wise Distribution of Theses**

Table 6.2 gives the details of university wise distribution of Doctoral Research from Shodhganga database. There are about 40 universities only 119 Ph.Ds are awarded. It is found from the study Manonmaniam Sundaranar University 14(11.76%) and Mahatma Gandhi University has 13(10.92%) awarded the maximum number of PhD are awarded, followed by University of Calicut 8(6.72%) awarded, Bundelkhand University and Chaudhary Charan Singh University each of 7 (5.88%) Ph.Ds are awarded. About Guru Ghasidas University has 6(5.04%), University of Mysore 5(4.20%) and Kurukshetra University 4(3.36%) are awarded. Remaining 4 of universities has 3(2.52%), from 16 universities has 2(1.68%) and 12 universities has only single Ph.D. is awarded during the period under the study.

**Table-6.2**  
**University wise Distribution of Awarded Ph.Ds**

S. No.	University	Awarded Ph.Ds	%	University Rank
1	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	14	11.76	1
2	Mahatma Gandhi University	13	10.92	2
3	University of Calicut	8	6.72	3
4	Bundelkhand University	7	5.88	4
5	Chaudhary Charan Singh University	7	5.88	5
6	Guru Ghasidas University	6	5.04	6
7	University of Mysore	5	4.20	7
8	Kurukshetra University	4	3.36	8

9	Aligarh Muslim University	3	2.52	9
10	Jawaharlal Nehru University	3	2.52	9
11	Manipur University	3	2.52	9
12	University of Pune	3	2.52	9
13	Andhra University	2	1.68	10
14	Anna University	2	1.68	10
15	Bharathidasan University	2	1.68	10
16	Cochin University of Science and Technology	2	1.68	10
17	Gauhati University	2	1.68	10
18	Gulbarga University	2	1.68	10
19	Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University	2	1.68	10
20	Maharshi Dayanand University	2	1.68	10
21	Periyar University	2	1.68	10
22	Punjabi University	2	1.68	10
23	Saurashtra University	2	1.68	10
24	SNDDT Womens University	2	1.68	10
25	Sri Krishnadevaraya University	2	1.68	10
26	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth	2	1.68	10
27	University of Delhi	2	1.68	10
28	Alagappa University	1	0.84	11
29	Bharathiar University	1	0.84	11
30	Gujarath University	1	0.84	11
31	Guru Nanak Dev University	1	0.84	11
32	Hemachandracharya North Gujart University	1	0.84	11
33	Jiwaji University	1	0.84	11
34	Karnatak University	1	0.84	11
35	Karunya University	1	0.84	11
36	Madhya Pradesh Bhoji (Open) University	1	0.84	11
37	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	1	0.84	11
38	Shri Jagadishprasad Jhabarmal Tibarewala University	1	0.84	11
39	SRM University	1	0.84	11
40	University of Kerala	1	0.84	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

**6.3. Subject-wise distribution**

Table 6.3 reveals the subject wise distribution of successful doctorates awarded from Shodhganga database. All 119 theses have been distributed in 14 subject areas. Out of 119 theses, 56(47.06%) were awarded in the field of Library Science. About 31(26.05%) were awarded in Education, 10(8.40%) were awarded in Psychology, 7 (5.88%) were in Sociology, 4(3.36%) awarded in Computer Science, 2(1.68%) were awarded in English and Linguistics and remaining Behavioural Sciences, Management Studies, Fine Arts, Human Biology, Food and Nutrition, Criminology and Chemistry subjects each 1(0.84%) were Ph.Ds in awarded.

**Table-6.3**

**Subject wise Distribution**

S. No.	Subject	Awarded Ph.Ds	%	University Rank
1	Library Science	56	47.06	1
2	Education	31	26.05	2
3	Psychology	10	8.40	3
4	Sociology	7	5.88	4
5	Computer Science	4	3.36	5
6	English	2	1.68	6
7	Linguistics	2	1.68	6

8	Behavioural Sciences	1	0.84	7
9	Management Studies	1	0.84	7
10	Fine Arts	1	0.84	7
11	Human Biology	1	0.84	7
12	Food Nutrition	1	0.84	7
13	Criminology	1	0.84	7
14	Chemistry	1	0.84	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>	<b>100</b>	

**6.4. Guide-wise Distribution**

Table 6.4 indicates that 119 research scholars were guided by as many as 99 guides. Dr. Balasubramanian, P. and Sudharma, A. guided each of 4 research scholars, which is highest number and 3 research scholars were guided by the Pereira, Singh, U.N. and Singhal, Sushila, followed by Bavakutty, M, Chinnasamy, K., Joshi, Manoj K., Ravindar, D., Thulsidharan, T. V., Tiwari, Brajesh, Venkatesha, Y. and Singh, U N who have guided 2 research scholars each. About 78 research scholars are single guided and there were Co-guided by 8 research scholars.

**Table-6.4**  
**Guide wise Distribution**

S.No.	Guide	N0s.
1	Balasubramanian, P	4
2	Sudharma, A	4
3	Pereira, Celine	3
4	Singh, U N	3
5	Singhal, Sushila	3
6	Bavakutty, M	2
7	Chinnasamy, K	2
8	Joshi, Manoj K	2
9	Ravindar, D	2
10	Thulasidharan, T V	2
11	Tiwari, Brajesh	2
12	Venkatesha, Y.	2
13	Singh, U N	2
14	Single Ph.D. Guided	78
15	Co-Guided (Two)	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>

**7. Conclusion**

Doctoral theses are the primary source of data for further research on that specific area. But doctoral theses of Indian Universities are distanced from users as well as from their awareness due to the traditional ways in which we handle them. As per previous work and on the basis of collected data, it is found that, research activities are increasing every year. We hope to see this trend continue in the years to come. For the benefit of the student and research scholars of various subjects and information science full text databases of PhD theses should be compiled by the Shodhganga through cooperative efforts. We hope it will be possible in future.

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