CHAPTER – IV

PROFILE OF UNIVERSITIES UNDER STUDY
4.0 Introduction

Based on 'Higher Education in Iran: A National Report' (Maftoon, 2006), there are forty nine (49) public universities affiliated with the Ministry of Science, Research & Technology (MSRT) from which top ten universities were selected for this study. Since this study surveyed use pattern of e-journals by the research scholars at ten Iranian universities, it was felt necessary to present an overview of Iran and its higher education system in this chapter. Moreover, a brief description of the universities under study with an emphasis on their central libraries is presented. The following information on each university includes location (city), a brief geographical description of the city and university, population of the city, date of establishment of the university, number of students and faculty members, majors and levels offered, research centres (if any), departments, Ph.D. programmes, and central library (date of establishment, collections, sections, etc.). It should be noted that each department has a separate library, which is affiliated to the central library of the respective university. Moreover, as in university websites in Iran, different terms such as 'school', 'college', 'department' and 'faculty' have been used synonymously, denoting the term 'department'. Because of this and for the sake of homogeneity, the term 'department' is used in this thesis. In addition, the name of the universities, research centres, departments and central library are according to the official website of the universities. For the purpose of this study, the name of the mentioned universities, university website addresses as well as their central library addresses are presented here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of University</th>
<th>University Website Address</th>
<th>Library Website Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(01) Amirkabir University of Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://aku.ac.ir">http://aku.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://library.aut.ac.ir">http://library.aut.ac.ir</a></td>
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<td>(02) Ferdowsi University of Mashhad</td>
<td><a href="http://www.um.ac.ir">http://www.um.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://library.um.ac.ir">http://library.um.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(03) Iran University of Science and Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iust.ac.ir">http://www.iust.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://dl.iust.ac.ir">http://dl.iust.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(04) Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kntu.ac.ir">http://www.kntu.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://library.kntu.ac.ir">http://library.kntu.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(05) Shahid Beheshti University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sbu.ac.ir">http://www.sbu.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://lib.sbu.ac.ir">http://lib.sbu.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(06) Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scu.ac.ir">http://www.scu.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://portal.scu.ac.ir">http://portal.scu.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(07) Sharif University of Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sharif.ac.ir">http://www.sharif.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://library.sharif.ac.ir">http://library.sharif.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(08) University of Guilan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.guilan.ac.ir">http://www.guilan.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://library.guilan.ac.ir">http://library.guilan.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(09) University of Isfahan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ui.ac.ir">http://www.ui.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://library.ui.ac.ir">http://library.ui.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) University of Tehran</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ut.ac.ir">http://www.ut.ac.ir</a></td>
<td><a href="http://library.ut.ac.ir">http://library.ut.ac.ir</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>
4.1 Iran: An Overview

Iran, officially the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country in Central Eurasia and Western Asia. Iran is bordered on the north by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. As Iran is a littoral state of the Caspian Sea, which is an inland sea, Kazakhstan and Russia are also Iran's direct neighbors to the north. Iran is bordered on the east by Afghanistan and Pakistan, on the south by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, on the west by Iraq and on the northwest by Turkey. The Country Iran with 1,648,195 kilometers square areas is located in southern part of north moderate zone between 25 03’ and 39 47’ of northern latitude from equator circle and 44 14’ and 63 20’ eastern longitude from Greenwich meridian.

Nearly 90 percent of Iran territory is situated in Iran Plateau district. Generally, Iran is mountainous and semidry land, which its mean altitude is more than 1,200 meters above sea level. More than one half of Iran consists of mountains, one quarter is plains and deserts and less than one quarter is farming lands. Lut Desert with 56 meters altitude is the lowest internal point and Damavand Summit in central Alborz Mountains with 5628 meters altitude is the highest point of Iran. In southern coast of Caspian Sea, the altitude of the ground is 28 meters lower than sea level. Iran has climatological diversity with several types of climate. Tehran is the capital, the country's largest city and the political, cultural, commercial and industrial center of the nation (National Geoscience Database of Iran, 2011).

Iran has 30 provinces, 368 counties, 1082 cities and 2438 villages. On the basis of 2006 census Iran has 70,495,782 population (50.9% male and 49.1% female, 71% urban, 29% Rural).The population aged six and over is 52,295,000, of which literate population is 41,582,000(79.5%) and illiterate population is 10,713,000 (20.5%) (Iran Statistical Centre, 2010).

Figure 1 presents the Map of Asia and Figure 2 presents the Map of Iran. The location (city) of each university under study is shown in Figure 2.
Figure 1
Map of Asia

Source: http://www.mapsofworld.com/asia/
Figure 2
Map of Iran

Note: 1-Amirkabir University of Technology  
2-Iran University of Science  
3-Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University  
4-Shahid Beheshti University  
5-Sharif University of Technology  
6-University of Tehran  
7-Ferdowsi University of Mashhad  
8-University of Isfahan  
9-Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz  
10-University of Guilan

Source: http://www.mapsofworld.com/iran/maps/iran-political-map.jpg
4.2 Higher Education in Iran

The term higher education in Iran is attributed to the education offered by either a public or a non-public university or an institute at the tertiary level. Higher education in Iran is, however, offered by public and non-public sectors. The public higher education sector includes 105 universities, 16 independent schools, 9 higher education centres and 135 institutes. The non-public higher education sector is run by 39 non-profit institutes, as well as the Islamic Azad University (IAU) with over 150 branches throughout the country and some branches abroad. Public higher education is financed by state funds and includes the programmes offered by Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT), as well as Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MHME), whereas non-public higher education is not funded by the government (Maftoon, 2006).

4.2.1 Types of Higher Education Systems

The type of education offered by the Iranian higher education system is versatile and they come as follows:

(i) **Regular Higher Education** forms the major body of the higher education in Iran. It refers to the kind of education that requires the students to attend classes in two semesters during each school year. The classes are held daytime or in the evening.

(ii) In order to meet the growing public demand for higher education, the facilities of the universities are mobilized to offer education in the evenings. The funding of this kind of education, called *Evening programmes*, is secured through the tuition fees the students pay.

(iii) **Distance Higher Education** is another type of education in which students are not required to attend classes. Instead, they have their hands on the required course books through intermediary links mainly through Payam-e-Noor University.

(iv) **Medical Higher Education** applies to that part of higher education delegated to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education upon parliament ratification in 1985. Ever since, higher education in medicine and related field have been offered by the universities affiliated to MHME, as well as the medical sector of the Islamic Azad University.
(v) *Applied-Scientific Higher Education*, a vocational and technical type of higher education, refers to a particular type of education that aims to upgrade the know-how, productivity and experience in various professions.

(vi) *Technical-Vocational Higher Education*, is mostly provided by the centres affiliated to Ministry of Education. Technical-vocational programmes aim to train, refresh or promote the capabilities of high school teachers who work in specialized vocational fields.

(vii) *Further Education* is a post-secondary education which is offered on the basis of applied, specialized, short term courses. Upon successful completion of the programmes, participants receive a certificate but not a degree. Admissions to the universities are possible through entrance examinations.

The admitted, upon enrollment, are known as 'students' and can major in one of the disciplines (i.e., Humanities, Basic Sciences, Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary, Medical Sciences or Arts).

### 4.2.2 Levels of Study

Higher education programmes are offered at various levels of study. There are a specific number of credit hours for each level of study that must be covered within a certain time limit. (i)The undergraduate students, based on their study level, can receive an *Associate’ Degree* (68-72 credits, normally covered in four semesters) or a *Bachelor’s Degree* (130-145 credits, normally covered in eight semesters). (ii)The graduate students receive a *Master’s Degree* upon completion of 28-32 credits, normally covered in four semesters, a *Professional Doctorate Degree* or a *Ph.D. Degree* which requires 42-50 credits, normally covered in eight to nine semesters. Graduate students must submit a thesis or dissertation in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master’s and doctoral degrees respectively. All collegiate degrees are conferred by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology upon successful completion of the programmes.

### 4.3 Ten Iranian Universities under Study

Here, the profile of ten university libraries with an emphasis on their central libraries is provided. This profile will come alphabetically according to the universities
name i.e., Amirkabir University of Technology, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran University of Science and Technology, Khaj-e-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Sharif University of Technology, University of Guilan, University of Isfahan and University of Tehran.

4.3.1 Amirkabir University of Technology

Amirkabir University of Technology is located in Tehran. Tehran is the capital and largest City of Iran and the administrative centre of Tehran Province. Tehran is a sprawling City at the foot of the Tochal mountain range with an immense network of highways unparalleled in Western Asia. The City is famous for its numerous resorts on the Alborz slopes, large museums, art centres and palace complexes (Wikipedia, 2010).

Tehran is one of Iran's largest urban areas with the population of 7,088,287 on the basis of 2006 census (Iran Statistical Centre, 2010). Most Iranian industries are headquartered in Tehran, including the manufacturing of automobiles, electrical equipment, military weaponry, textiles, sugar, cement, and chemical products.

Amirkabir University of Technology (formerly named Tehran Polytechnic) was established in 1958 as the first technical university of Iran. Through its rapid educational and research expansion, the university was able to gain a high rank among all other universities and research centres. The achievements of this university in the area of research are evident from the many publications and the national and international prizes awarded for research activities. The most important achievements are: (1) The university was selected as Centre of Excellency by the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology in the fields of electrical and electronics engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, textile engineering, medical engineering, civil engineering and aerospace engineering. The Department of Computer and Information Technology is also nominated for such honor. (2) The university received the National Distinguished Award from Kharazmi Prize Winning Award (National Award for the best-qualified scientific activities) and so far, has been granted more than 20 prizes from KPWA. (3) The university received the first rank for industry related activities. (4) The university has the highest ratio of the number of academic staff to the number of students
amongst all other universities within the country. (5) The university gained the first rank at several National Olympiads between students of all universities and also it has the honor of allowing all the first rank students to study in two different fields, simultaneously. The university has established educational and research collaboration with international universities and based on its high quality performance was able to sign mutual agreements for joint scientific activities with well-known universities. Currently, with its 15 departments at the campus and 2 other affiliated centres, located in Bandar Abbas and Mahshahr, the university enjoys collaborating of 450 full time academic staff. Furthermore, an international branch has been established in the university in order to present a collaborative program with Birmingham University.

According to its evident goals and missions, this university plans to be among the world's 300 best universities and is going to be one of the three outstanding universities of the Middle East in the next 20 years.

Altogether, there are more than 9,000 students majoring in B.S. degree in 35 different fields, M.S. degree in 56 fields and Ph.D. in 35 fields in this university. The Research Department of Amirkabir University of Technology decided to establish some well-equipped research centres in order to create a proper correlation with the industry and to promote the university's dignity in the world. In this way, organisation of 9 research centres and 200 laboratories and workshops in different fields helps this university to be one of the country's leading universities in research area, and one of the pioneers of industry related activities (Amirkabir University of Technology, 2010).

4.3.1.1 Research Centres

Research centres of the university are as follows:

1. Advanced Textile Materials and Technology Research Institute (ATMT)
2. Concrete Technology & Durability Research Centre
3. Electrical Engineering Research Centre
4. Energy Research Centre
5. Environment Research Centre
6. Food Industry Research Centre
7. Industrial Engineering and Productivity Research Centre
8. New Technologies Research Centre
9. Synthetic Fibers & Textile Research Centre

4.3.1.2 Departments

Departments of the university are as follows:

01. Aerospace Engineering
02. Biomedical Engineering
03. Chemical Engineering
04. Civil Engineering
05. Computer Engineering and Information Technology
06. Electrical and Electronics Engineering
07. Industrial Engineering
08. Marine Technology and Ship Engineering
09. Mathematics and Computer Science
10. Mechanical Engineering
11. Mining and Metallurgical Engineering
12. Nuclear Engineering and Physics
13. Textile Engineering
14. Petroleum Engineering
15. Polymer Engineering

4.3.1.3 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Basic Sciences and Engineering. It should be noted that at present 44 and 414 research scholars are studying in these disciplines, respectively (Amirkabir University of Technology, 2010).

4.3.1.4 Central Library

The Central Library of Amirkabir University was established in 1958 with a limited number of dedication books. Increasing the number of book collections, it has been started its major activity in 1961 by using book classification methods. In 1986, the bibliographic of some sources were computerised by library software. Finally, in 1994,
the library brought comprehensive scientific library software into use, as a result, an important step was taken to mechanize the library services. At the present time, all sources are saved and retrieved in computer. The major purpose of the library and scientific documentation centre of Amirkabir University is to provide educational and researching demands of its staff and students. It also services to external readers of educational and research institutions throughout the country. Right now, the library and scientific documentation centre is one of the country’s richest libraries in the area of basic sciences and technology, and covers a central and 15 departmental libraries. This automated library with collection of 148,000 information resources including books, journals, Compact Discs (CDs), films, slides, etc. meet information needs of its patrons. Students, faculty members and staff have access to different scientific databases such as ACM, ACS, AIP, ASCE, ASME, EBSCO, Emerald, IOP, and so on (Central Library, Amirkabir University of Technology, 2010).

4.3.2 Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM)

Ferdowsi University of Mashhad is housed in Mashhad. Mashhad (literally the place of martyrdom) is the second largest City in Iran and a holy City in the world. It is located 850 kilometers east of Tehran, at the centre of the Razavi Khorasan Province close to the borders of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. Mashhad has a population of 2,427,316 based on 2006 census (Iran Statistical Centre, 2010).

Geographically, the City is located in the valley of the Kashaf River near Turkmenistan, between the two mountain ranges of Binalood and Hezar-masjed. The City benefits from the proximity of the mountains, having very cold winters, pleasant springs, mild summers, and beautiful autumns.

Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUM) is a state university named after the great epic poet and scholar Ferdowsi whose Shahnameh (The Book of Kings) is a well-known classical chef-d’oeuvre in Persian literature. The university was established in 1949, making it the third oldest major state university in Iran. It is the largest university in the northeast of Iran, and has a large faculty.
Encompassing currently 15 departments, 2000 staff, 650 faculty members, and an official enrollment of 19,000 students, FUM is one of the most comprehensive universities in Iran and neighboring countries. The university offers 180 majors and admits over 3,500 students each year at the Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. levels.

At FUM, many departments are considered as Centres of Excellence in different specializations nationwide viz., the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Statistics, the Department of Animal Sciences, the Department of Geology, the Department of Persian Language and Literature, the Department of Veterinary Medicine, and finally the Department of Agronomy.

The university is regarded as a prominent institution in attracting international students of different nationalities. At present, FUM is a major university in recruiting international students from 17 nationalities, all of which add greatly to the educational and social experience available at the university. Furthermore, the university is ranked 3rd in Iran amongst other universities in recruiting foreign students.

4.3.2.1 Departments

Departments of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad are as follows:

01. Agriculture
02. Architecture and Urban Planning
03. Economics and Business Administration
04. Education and Psychology
05. Engineering
06. Letters and Humanities
07. Mathematical Sciences
08. Natural Resources and Environment
09. Sciences
10. Sports and Physical Education
11. Theology
12. Veterinary Medicine
In addition to 'Herbaceous Sciences Research Centre' in the university campus, 'Neyshabour Department of Arts' and 'Shirvan Higher Education Centre' are located in Neyshabour and Shirvan towns.

4.3.2.2 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. The number of research scholars in the above mentioned disciplines is 181, 231, 212 and 135, respectively (Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, 2010).

4.3.2.3 Central Library and Information Centre

Ferdowsi University includes central library and 14 departmental libraries. The central library started functioning in the year 1971. Now with an area of more than 2,400 square meters, it is one of the largest university libraries in the country and in particular, the largest of all libraries in Razavi Khorasan State and in the northeast of Iran.

Central Library and Information Centre, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad is a place that scientific documents, books, magazines, research documents, etc., were gathered and ready to be served to students, teachers and staff.

At present central library collection has grown into 40,425 Persian books and 14,708 other language books. Central library also has 445 Persian journals including 46 current journals and 6 other language journals (including 6 current journals), 1,104 dissertations and research projects. Central library reference materials consist of more than 4,500 Persian and non-Persian books such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, biographies, yearbooks, indexes and so on in various fields. Full bibliographic information of all books available in different libraries of Ferdowsi University can be searched through the computerised catalog (OPAC).

The Central Library and Information Centre uses Library of Congress (LC) classification and it has library management software (Simorgh). Furthermore, it has different sections: 'Acquisition', 'Organisation', 'Reference', 'Circulation', 'Information Centre', 'Audio-Visual', 'System Support', 'Professor Shanehchi Collection' and 'office'.

Ferdowsi University libraries have many facilities and information sources organised in a way to help students fulfilling different information needs such as Internet facilities, OPAC and CD-ROM databases (Central Library and Information Centre, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, 2010).

4.3.3 Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST)

Iran University of Science and Technology is located in the northeast of Tehran. It was originally founded in 1929 as the first Iranian institution to train engineers. It was initially named the 'Governmental Technical Institute'.

Iran University of Science and Technology is one of the major technical universities in Iran, with its main campus composed of 14 departments. Altogether, the main campus as well as its two branches in Arak and Behshahr Cities, enjoys services of 380 members of the academic board. Just on main campus, more than 9,900 students are studying in more than 90 specialised fields of engineering and sciences, out of which 3700 are M.Sc. and Ph.D. students.

Over 32,000 students have been graduated from this university since 1932, starting with the first engineer educated in Iran who attained his bachelor's degree from the so called Institute. The main campus is located in the northeast of Tehran, expanded in 42 acres. The campus includes colleges and departments, research centres, the main library, residential halls, the mosque, administrative buildings, several sport playgrounds and covered spaces for varieties of sports such as football stadium, volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts. The facilities and the landscaped area of the main campus provide lively and pleasant environment for the students to pursue their education and enjoy their life.

4.3.3.1 Research Centres

The research centres of Iran University of Science and Technology are as follows:

01. Electronic Research Centre
02. Green Research Centre
03. Cement Research Centre (CRC)
04. Asphalt mixtures and Bitumen Research Centre (ABRC)
05. Research Centre of Information Technology
06. Centre of Excellence for Power System Automation and Operation
07. Centre of Excellence for Advanced Materials
08. Centre of Excellence for Fundamental Studies in Structural Engineering
09. Materials Research Group
10. Power Electronic and Electric, Magnetic Fields Research Lab

4.3.3.2 Departments

Departments of Iran University of Science and Technology are as follows:

01. Architecture and Urban Studies
02. Automotive Engineering
03. Chemical Engineering
04. Chemistry
05. Civil Engineering
06. Computer Engineering
07. Electrical Engineering
08. Industrial Engineering
09. Mathematics
10. Mechanical Engineering
11. Metallurgy and Materials Engineering
12. Physical Training
13. Physics
14. Railway Engineering

4.3.3.3 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Basic Sciences and Engineering. According to current statistics, 46 and 452 research scholars are studying in these disciplines, respectively (Iran University of Science and Technology, 2010).
4.3.3.4 Central Library

The central library of IUST is located in a two-story building placed at the central part of the university in an area of about 2,000 square meters. This centre was established in 1958, a part of it was restored and expanded in 1997, and finally, the main parts of the building were thoroughly renovated, designed, and constructed according to the daily necessities of the library.

The central library along with 19 departmental libraries has a very rich collection including books, publications, micro movies, theses, and online information databases. The library also has good facilities such as Information department, Scanning, Audio-video, IT laboratory, Computer site for using databases, and two study halls for males and females, the former being open round the clock and on holidays. The central library of the university has 47,771 titles and 108,321 copies of general, academic, and reference books, 70% of which are specialised English engineering and technical books. Clients can search the title in the computer site, and then borrow the books or use them in the study hall. The library encompasses approximately 1,033 Persian and English journals (including current and previous publications). Furthermore, the services of audio-visual section contains 3,000 Video Compact Discs (VCDs) in different fields such as management, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, art, architecture, and so on. There are also 2,300 CDs including software, movies, books, and conferences which university professors have attended. The list of these CDs can be searched in the CD section of the library's software (dl.iust.ac.ir). The micro movie part of this section has very rich and unique information bank and includes 690 basic journals in engineering and technical field. Among the most important ones, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) can be named available from the first year of publication (1883) to 1993 in 2,857 micro movies. Moreover, clients can have access to the original articles by scanner. It worth mentioning that the services of this section are sent for other universities in case of any request.

Digital library has initiated its activity since 2001. Users can have access to the central library as well as the departmental library in their own departments.
In order to giving information correctly and continuously, the library presents online technical and engineering information databases services through internet such as ASCE, ASME, ACM, ACS, IEEE, IOP, ISI, Proquest, Scopus, and so on (Central Library, Iran University of Science and Technology, 2010).

4.3.4 Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology

Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology with more than 220 full-time faculty members and 3,600 students takes pride in as one of the highest instructors to student ratio in Iran. This individual attention from expert instructors, most of whom are as experienced in the industry as they are academically, has attracted some of the country’s most talented students to K. N. Toosi University. Consequently, the university is known for its excellent track record of research output and industrial connections (K. N. Toosi University, 2010).

Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology (K. N. Toosi) was founded in 1928 in Tehran. There are currently seven departments within the university which are located in five different campuses spread across the downtown of Tehran. Due to the varied origins of K. N. Toosi University, the departments are not concentrated in one campus. However, the plan for centralizing the university is currently underway. This plan is intended to accommodate the ambitions of this ever-growing university in the near future. Each department has its own computer centre, library and educational services office. All libraries are attached to the Simorgh library network. Several housing facilities are available for men, women and couples.

The university is currently programming the development of a branch in Venezuela and also several research centres in Tehran. The central building which is located at Mirdamad Ave., Tehran, is actually the managing body of the university and the presidency, all vice presidencies, the central academic services and registrar’s office are located at this building. Management of educational services happens through the Golestan educational management system, while research is managed via the Sepid research management system (Wikipedia, 2010).
During the past few years, a number of international joint programmes have been established with universities from UK, the Netherlands and Russia. The virtual programs of the university have also recently started in the fields of industrial engineering and computer science. These programmes are expanding very quickly and the number of students has grown significantly with the commencement of these new programs.

K.N. Toosi University of Technology is committed to being an internationally recognised university by advancing knowledge through research and educating students in science, technology and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the country and the world. K.N. Toosi University of Technology is determined to provide its students, faculty and staff with the best possible resources and conditions for learning and research and to create a respectful and nurturing, yet challenging work environment. It will cooperate with the community, other educational institutions, and the industry to discover and apply new knowledge and technologies. It is committed to preparing its students for fulfilling careers, and improving the quality of life through leading-edge research and unrelenting innovation (K.N. Toosi University of Technology, 2010).

4.3.4.1 Research Centres

The research centres of the university are as follows:

1. Space Systems Research Centre
2. Propulsion and Combustion Research Laboratory
3. Multidisciplinary Design Optimization (MDO) Research Laboratory
4. Space Research Laboratory
5. Actuators Research Laboratory (Wikipedia, 2010).

4.3.4.2 Departments

Departments of the university are as follows:

1. Aerospace Engineering
2. Civil Engineering
3. Electrical Engineering
4. Geodesy Engineering
5. Industrial Engineering
6. Mechanical Engineering
7. Sciences

**4.3.4.3 Ph.D. Programmes**

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Basic Sciences and Engineering. It should be noted that at present 55 and 129 research scholars are studying in these disciplines, respectively (Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology, 2010).

**4.3.4.4 Central Library and Documentation Centre**

Central Library and Documentation Centre of Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology started its activities with an area of 160 square meters in 1991. Central library of the university is in charge of supplying and providing information in science and technology for all library branches to support educational and research activities of teachers and researchers. The library contains 9,809 volumes Persian books, 23,641 volumes non Persian books, 106 titles of English journals, 50 titles of Persian journals, and 4,000 volumes theses. Furthermore, the library includes 20,000 microfilms, 200 software packages, 35 Video Home System (VHS) Tape films and CDs.

Central library of the university provides timely and effective access to information resources, specially, books, journals, etc. for all library branches to support educational and research activities of teachers and researchers. The central library is responsible for creating records for books and also maintaining library databases and it uses LC classification and it has library management software (Simorgh).

The Central Library and Documentation Centre offers access to different scientific databases such as ACS, ASCE, ASME, IOP, Elsevier, IEEE, EBSCO, Proquest, and so on (Central Library and Documentation Centre, Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology, 2010).

**4.3.5 Shahid Beheshti University (SBU)**

Shahid Beheshti University, is located in Evin and Darake District, and extends into the Velenjak District of northern Tehran, Iran on a main campus of approximately one million square meters (Wikipedia, 2010).
Shahid Beheshti University, established in 1959 as the National University of Iran, started its academic life in 1960 with only 174 students in two departments: (i) Department of Architecture and Urban Planning. (ii) Department of Banking and Economics. The first Master's course at SBU was offered in the Department of Architecture in 1961, while the first Ph.D. program was introduced in the Department of Economics in 1991.

The students are selected through the National Entrance Exam in B.A./B.S., M.A./M.S. and Ph.D. degree programmes, as there are more than 12,000 students in different levels in Shahid Beheshti University.

Development of new facilities in the main campus paved the way for increased academic activities, so that by 1978 several other departments became active at SBU, e.g., Departments of Literature and Foreign Languages, Basic Sciences, Law, Earth Sciences, Statistics and Informatics and Education and Psychology.

Shahid Beheshti University combines the tradition of a classical university with the dynamic character of a modern and interdisciplinary scientific enterprise. Since 1990, the university has placed more emphasis on postgraduate, in particular Ph.D. and research programmes, while still aiming to enhance the quality of its well-established undergraduate courses.

Students at the university are inspired by an outstanding and rewarding academic environment not only in Iran but also in the region. The university and the members of the academia are at the forefront of world research in many fields and the teaching is informed by the very latest developments in each discipline.

4.3.5.1 Research Centres

The research centres of the university are as follows:

1. Environmental Sciences Research Institute
2. Family Research Institute
3. Laser and Plasma Research Institute (LAPRI)
4. Medicinal plants and drugs
5. Quran Miracle Research Institute

4.3.5.2 Departments

Departments of Shahid Beheshti University are as follows:

01. Architecture and Urban Planning
02. Biological Sciences
03. Earth Sciences
04. Economics and Political Sciences
05. Education and Psychology
06. Electrical and Computer Engineering
07. Law
08. Letters and Human Sciences
09. Management and Accounting
10. Mathematical Sciences
11. New Technologies and Energy Engineering
12. Physical Education and Sport Sciences
13. Sciences
14. Theology and Religions Studies

4.3.5.3 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. It is interesting to note that at present 182, 70 and 150 research scholars are studying in these disciplines, respectively (Shahid Beheshti University, 2010).

4.3.5.4 Central Library and Document Centre

Central Library and Document Centre started its activities with the establishment of the university in 1960. In 1970, it was moved to the current building. The old building was replaced in an area over 3,800 square meters in 1970. A new large building with an area over 6,800 square meters was added to this library in 2001.

The central library provides technical services to the departmental libraries and research institute libraries. The library collection consists of hundred thousand books and
periodicals in different languages of English, Persian, Arabic and some other languages in specialized categories. Moreover, there are 6,300 dissertations and reports, scientific and educational films, microfilms, microfiches, CDs and reference books.

The central library has different divisions: 'Acquisition Division', 'Cataloguing and Processing Division', 'Reference', 'Circulation', 'Periodical and Information Centre', 'Dissertations and Document Centre', and 'Blinds Information Centre'.

In the central library, book cataloging is based on Dewey Decimal System. The software system of central library is Simorgh. Cataloging and circulating books, and doing search services are done through computer. The library also subscribes to e-journals and bibliographic databases from several publishers such as ACS, AIP, EBSCO, Emerald, Proquest, John Wiley, JSTOR, Springer, etc.

The central library has twenty affiliated libraries in different departments and research centres managed in a semi-centralised way. Cataloging and processing of resources are performed in the central library and each of the libraries provides specialised services. Students can have membership in the central library besides their departmental library. Each departmental library is shown in the computerised catalogue card in Latin alphabets.

The central library is member of electronic databases throughout the world viz., ScienceDirect, Kluwer, Interscience Wiley, Emerald, IOP, EBSCO, ACS, MathSciNet, Philosopher’s Index, ICONDA, and GeoRef (Central Library and Document Centre, Shahid Beheshti University, 2010).

4.3.6 Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz (SCU)

Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz is located in Ahvaz. The City of Ahvaz is the Capital City of the province of Khuzestan in the southwest of Iran. It is built on the banks of the Karun River and is situated in the middle of Khuzestan Province. The City has an average elevation of 20 meters above sea level having a population of 985,614 on the basis of 2006 census (Iran Statistical Centre, 2010).
Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz was established in 1955. Prior to the Islamic revolution, it was first known as Jundi Shapour University, a name that in the past years was known as a supreme centre of science and technology in the Middle East. After the Islamic revolution the name of the university changed into Shahid Chamran University, in behalf of the great Dr. Mustafa Chamran who was a Persian martyr professor who devoted his life to defend the country in the 8 year war against Iraq and his lifetime achievements of scientific work.

Today because of the industrial background of the area of Khuzestan province the research and development activities of Shahid Chamran University has an important role and therefore every hundreds of research work, literary work, compilations and scientific translations are done by Shahid Chamran University researchers. Shahid Chamran University has an extensive amount of educational space and is known as one of the four largest universities in the country, and is the largest university in the southwest region of the country.

Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz currently encompasses 500 faculty members and 15,000 students in 170 majors in Associate degree program, B.A./B.S. degree program, M.A./M.S. degree programs and Ph.D. degree programmes.

The main campus is now located in the southwest of Ahvaz. The whole campus area is 176 acres and houses the central administration buildings and 10 faculties, plus other buildings such as the Central Library, Sports Complex, Office of Publications and Printing, Office of Motoring, Office of Constructional Projects, Office of Green Environment and the Office of Watch Guard, two banks, a shopping centre, a kindergarten, two excellent school and high school for children, and a well equipped Golestan Hospital.

4.3.6.1 Departments

Departments of the university are as follows:

01. Agriculture
02. Behbahan Department of Natural Resources
03. Economics and Social Sciences
04. Education and Psychology
05. Engineering
06. Letters and Humanities
07. Mathematical Sciences
08. Sciences
09. Shushtar Department of Arts
10. Sports and physical education
11. Theology
12. Veterinary Medicine
13. Water Sciences Engineering

4.3.6.2 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. The number of research scholars in the above mentioned disciplines is 81, 39, 7 and 61, respectively (Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, 2010).

4.3.6.3 Central Library and Document Centre

Central Library and Documentation Centre of Shahid Chamran University was founded in 1975. It is housed in five floor building with the area of 15,000 square meters. The library contains 95,085 Persian books, 20,494 English books, 1,200 Persian journals, 40 English journals, 3,000 theses and dissertations, 2,700 reports and different reference books. In addition, it encompasses a rich collection of Iranology (Iranian studies) and Khuzestanology and art books.

The library subscribes e-journals and databases in various fields such as EBSCO, Emerald, Oxford journals, ScienceDirect, Scopus, Springer, etc.

Central library of the university is in charge of supplying and providing information in for all library branches to support educational and research activities of teachers and researchers.

Full bibliographic information of all books available in different libraries of Shahid Chamran University can be searched through the computerised catalog (OPAC).
These libraries have many facilities and information sources organised in a way to help students fulfilling different information needs such as Internet facilities, OPAC, and CD-ROM databases.

The Central Library has different divisions: 'Acquisition', 'Cataloguing and Processing', 'Circulation', 'Document Supply Centre', 'Information Centre', 'Periodicals', 'Reference', 'Registration', 'Reports and Khuzestanology' and 'Management' (Central Library and Document Centre, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, 2010).

4.3.7 Sharif University of Technology

The university is located in Tehran, the capital and largest City of the Islamic Republic of Iran. More importantly, Tehran is the industrial nerve centre of Iran. It is the ideal location for a technical institution such as SUT, which seeks to orient its scholarly pursuits toward the satisfaction of the scientific and technological needs of industry and society as a whole (Wikipedia, 2010).

The fundamental aims of Sharif University of Technology are three. The first is the creation of an institution where students can be instructed in both theoretical and applied sciences with special emphasis on the particular needs of the society. The second is to teach students the advanced knowledge and techniques required to participate in the fields of engineering and technology and to cultivate them into creative engineers, good scientists and innovative technologists. The third is to educate engineers who are ready to be employed, who contribute significantly to their jobs, who have a strong sense of public responsibility and a desire to continue to learn. Particular emphasis is placed on the promotion of multi-disciplinary research at the graduate and doctoral levels.

Sharif University of Technology (SUT) is one of the largest engineering schools in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was established in 1966 under the name of Aryamehr University of Technology and at that time, there were 54 faculty members and a total of 412 students who were selected by national examination. In 1980, the university was renamed Sharif University of Technology. SUT now has a total of 300 full-time faculty members, 430 part-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000.
Originally, the 20 hectare university campus housed four departments; Electrical, Metallurgical, Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry. Since then, SUT has expanded its services until, today it comprises ten different departments in science and engineering. All departments offer B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degree programmes.

The university has established several research centres. These centres, while maintaining their own separate identities, co-exist within the university system. This arrangement gives individual researchers the opportunity and flexibility to conduct research while establishing a working relationship between the university and industry. The campus is situated in the southwest part of the City, near Azadi Square and Mehrabad International Airport. This location provides easy access to the university from all points in Iran and the world.

Sharif University of Technology also includes facilities such as the Office of International and Scientific Cooperation (OISC), which is responsible for establishing and maintaining relations with academic and scientific institutions abroad and for organising events related to the advancement of scientific cooperation. OISC is in charge of the preparation and global distribution of university publications in English and Persian.

Sharif University of Technology is also a member of the International Association of Universities (IAU), the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Sharif University of Technology has earned a respected reputation and rank among institutes of higher learning in the Middle East. It strives to continue improving its standards.

The university also offers seminars and off-campus programmes designed to allow professional engineers to keep pace with the technological changes in their particular fields of endeavor. Students may supplement their classroom work with laboratory courses, independent study and research under the supervision of the faculty. Each department is equipped with its own library, workshops, laboratories and computer sites (Sharif University of Technology, 2010).
4.3.7.1 Research Centres

Research centres of the university are as follows:

01. Advanced Communications Research Institute
02. Advanced Information & Communication Technology Centre
03. Alborz Observatory
04. Biochemical and Bioenvironmental Engineering Research Centre
05. Biomedical Engineering Interest Group
06. Centre for Technology Studies
07. Economical and Industrial Studies research Centre
08. Electronic Research Centre
09. Energy Technology Research Centre
10. Green University
11. Hi-Tech Industrial Systems Research Centre
12. Institute for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
13. Institute for Transportation Studies and Research
14. Shahid Rezaee Research Centre
15. Sharif Applied Physics Research Centre
16. Tolou Technology Development Institute
17. Water and Energy Research Centre

4.3.7.2 Departments

Sharif University of Technology consists of the following departments:

01. Aerospace Engineering
02. Chemical Engineering and Petroleum
03. Chemistry
04. Civil Engineering
05. Computer Engineering
06. Electrical Engineering
07. Energy
08. Industrial Engineering
09. Management and Economics
10. Materials Science and Engineering
11. Mathematical Sciences
12. Mechanical Engineering
13. Philosophy of Science
14. Physics

4.3.7.3 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Basic Sciences, and Engineering. The number of research scholars in the above mentioned disciplines is 100 and 580, respectively (Sharif University of Technology, 2010).

4.3.7.4 Central Library

Central library of the university is in charge of the supplying and providing information in science and technology to support lectures and researches at the departments. Central Library, Sharif University of Technology has 11 branches, one in each department.

Purchasing and preparing of the books, periodicals and other documents are performed by central library for all library branches. All libraries are attached to the Simorgh library network. Moreover, the central library consists of the following departments: 'Audio-Visual', 'Cataloging', 'Circulation', 'Document Supply Centre', 'Interlibrary Loan', 'Journals', 'Periodicals', 'Purchasing and Acquisition', and 'Theses and Reports'.

Number of books in service are about 130,000 volumes in English and 12,000 titles in Persian language. Furthermore, there are a collection of 200,000 journals volumes in the archives and current subscriptions are 500 titles. Moreover, a collection of 4,400 volumes of graduate students' theses are in service. Also most of the governmental reports could be studies in the library. The bibliographic of sources are searchable via catalogue in the library main page. Some databases and electronic journals have been subscribed for retrieval scientific information such as ACS, AIP, APS, IOP, EBSCO, Econlit, Emerald, Nature, Oxford, SCOPUS, ScienceDirect, Scientific Information Database (SID), Magiran and so on. The users can retrieve the bibliographic details of the
libraries sources through library OPAC (Central Library, Sharif University of Technology, 2010).

4.3.8 University of Guilan

Only 30 km away from the Caspian Sea, the University of Guilan is particularly fortunate in its position in the Capital City of Guilan Province, Rasht in northwestern Iran. Rasht is the largest City along the Caspian sea coast. It is a major trade centre between Caucasus, Russia and Iran using the port of Bandar-e Anzali. Rasht is also a major tourist centre with the resort of Masouleh in adjacent mountains and the beaches of Caspian the major attractions. Rasht had an estimated population of 557,366 based on 2006 census (Iran Statistical Centre, 2010).

The University of Guilan is the largest academic institution in the north of Iran. The University’s fundamental mission is the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and its understanding. The University of Guilan aims to improve the range and quality of the education it offers, as well as the research activities, and to enhance the environment in which students and staff work. It is committed to reinforcing its reputation as a centre of excellence.

The University of Guilan originally was founded in 1975 and started its academic activities two years later with 120 students in seven departments of Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Agronomy, Animal Husbandry and German Literature.

Today, with more than 350 academic staff, 7 departments and three research centres, there are nearly 380 faculty members, and 11,000 students in 130 fields of study at the University of Guilan, leading to B.Sc., B.Eng., M.Sc., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. These courses aim to combine a traditional academic approach with new knowledge, methodology and technology, wherever appropriate.

4.3.8.1 Departments

Departments of the university are as follows:

1. Agricultural
2. Architecture and Arts  
3. Engineering  
4. Humanities  
5. Natural Resources  
6. Physical Education  
7. Sciences  

4.3.8.2 Ph.D. Programmes  

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. It should be noted that at present 15, 74, 15 and 10 research scholars are studying in these disciplines, respectively (University of Guilan, 2010).  

4.3.8.3 Central Library and Documentation Centre  

The Central library was founded with small collection (7,000 books) in 1976. At the beginning, it was a small library located at Lakani Street. It then was moved to its present location. The central library is responsible for providing (non-Persian Journals) for all the departmental libraries in Guilan University. It uses LC classification and it has library management software.  

The central library has different divisions: 'Collection Development Division', 'Technical Services Division', 'Loan Division', 'Periodicals Division', 'Reference Division' and 'Information Services Division'.  

The total books present in the library are 102,481 volumes which are increased by about 5% annually. There are also 140 current and 1,212 archived Persian journals, and 801 non-Persian journals (Including 29 current). Other resources include 1,989 dissertations and about 2,539 different documents such as research papers and reports. Reference books are used in the library and they cannot be borrowed for out of the library use. The Central library non-printed materials consists of microfilm, cassettes, and CD-ROMs. Furthermore, Central Library and Documentation Centre, University of Guilan offers access to scientific databases including ACS, EBSCO, Elsevier, IEEE, IOP, ISI Knowledge, Mathscinet, Oxford University Press (OUP), Scopus, Proquest, Persian
Journal Citation Report (PJCR), Scientific Information Database (SID) and Namamatn (Central Library and Documentation Centre, The University of Guilan, 2010).

4.3.9 University of Isfahan

University of Isfahan in located in Isfahan. Isfahan is located about 340 km south of Tehran and is the capital of Isfahan Province and Iran's third largest City (after Tehran and Mashhad). Isfahan City had a population of 1,602,110 in 2006 census (Iran Statistical Centre, 2010). It is one of the largest cities in the world. It flourished from 1,050 to 1,722, particularly in the 16th century under the Safavid dynasty, when it became the capital of Persia for the second time in its history. Even today, the City retains much of its past glory. It is famous for its Islamic architecture, with many beautiful boulevards, covered bridges, palaces, mosques, and minarets. This led to the Persian proverb "Esfahan nesf-e jahan ast" (Isfahan is half of the world) (Wikipedia, 2010).

University of Isfahan, one of the oldest scientific and cultural centres of the country was founded in 1946. University of Isfahan with more than 60 years experience is one of the major universities in the fields of science, human science and engineering. The University of Isfahan provides services to over 14,500 students, 2,000 of which are postgraduates and includes more than five hundred full time academic members. Students come from all over the world to study a wide variety of courses at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels in full time and part time. The university offers Master degree in 72 fields of study and Ph.D. programmes in 35 fields of study.

The University of Isfahan is proud to be among the prominent teaching and research universities in Iran. The university, with its very nice campus, has excellent academic facilities in its libraries, laboratories and information technology centres. However, students can particularly benefit from good quality accommodation, social, cultural and sports facilities that are available in the university and the City of Isfahan as well. The university prides itself on its flourishing links with universities and other international academic institutions around the world, many of which have been deeply in collaborating with Isfahan University through joint research projects and exchange programs.
The University of Isfahan is very active in international affairs having scientific cooperation with more than 20 universities from Germany, Italy, France, Russia, Romania, Spain, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, etc.

4.3.9.1 Departments

Departments of the university are as follows:

1. Administrative Science and Economics
2. Educational Sciences and Psychology
3. Engineering
4. Foreign Languages
5. Literature and Humanities
6. Mathematic and Computer (unit of Khansar),
7. Physical Education and Exercise Sciences
8. Sciences

4.3.9.2 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. According to current statistics, 196, 55 and 486 research scholars are studying in these disciplines, respectively (University of Isfahan, 2010).

4.3.9.3 Central Library and Documentation Centre

Central Library and Documentation Centre, the University of Isfahan started its activities in 1969. Now with an area of more than 22,000 square meters and a seven-story building is one of the largest university libraries in the country. Policy making about the library is done by 'Book Council' and 'Libraries Council' and purchasing of foreign journals is done under supervision of 'Committee for Providing Latin Resources'.

The library encompasses 150,000 volumes Persian and English books, 10,000 volumes reference books, including encyclopedias, biographies, and dictionaries, etc. Furthermore, it has 4,200 Persian and 700 English theses and they are searchable in the library OPAC. In newspaper archives, in addition to the current newspapers, relatively full collection of some other major newspapers are kept such as Keyhan, Ayardegan, Iran
and Salam. Furthermore, over one hundred current Persian journal titles, some of the past prestigious journals are kept in the library. There are 9,000 foreign journals in the field of basic sciences and 400 journal titles are purchased every year. Also, in this library 1,200 manuscripts, 1,400 lithography, and 4,000 rare English books and some documents such as photos, reports about sixty-year-history of The University of Isfahan are available.

The Central Library and Documentation Centre offers access to international scientific databases such as EBSCO, Springer, ISI, and IOP and so on for students and faculty members and staff. The Central Library and Documentation Centre uses Dewey Decimal System and it has library management software. Furthermore, it has different sections: 'Acquisition', 'Circulation', 'Documents', 'Dissertations and theses', 'Document Supply Services', 'English Journals', 'Manuscripts', 'Newspaper Archive', 'office', 'Persian Journals', 'Registration', 'Reference', and 'Technical Services' (Central Library and Documentation Centre, The University of Isfahan, 2010).

4.3.10 University of Tehran (UT)

University of Tehran (UT), with nearly 32,000 students and over 1,550 faculty members, is the oldest and largest scientific, educational and research centre of the country which is called the 'Mother University' and the 'Symbol of Higher Education of the Country'. University of Tehran, located in Tehran, is one of Iran’s leading universities with an international reputation for its research and training quality.

This scientific centre is the gateway of Iran into the new civilization. University of Tehran is also considered as one of the pioneers of the society in important scientific, cultural, political and social affairs. It is such that besides its old role in political and social changes of the country, its remarkable impact on the scientific-cultural development of the society is also undeniable. Since its foundation in 1934, University of Tehran (UT) has played an important role in academic, social and cultural life of Iranians. During this period, University of Tehran has also contributed enormously in educating many leaders in the wide spectrum of areas including political, economic, financial, technical, medical and scientific fields. These leaders have played paramount roles in shaping the Iranian society as well as abroad.
The valuable role of the faculty members of the university in scientific and research development of the country and training the specialized and qualified forces to serve Iran, along with the global new advancements is considerable. Enjoying the specific international scientific, cultural and political position, besides training the necessary specialized human forces in different fields and sectors, UT has had a considerable impact in flourishing ideas and preparing grounds for political and social moves. Also having active students’ institutions and their impact on political and social changes has been unique in the region.

In addition to a long and wide experience in providing high quality teaching and research facilities and generating ground breaking technologies, the university has an impressive record in training international students. Currently, there are over 350 foreign students from a variety of countries studying in different fields both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The language of instruction inside Iran is Persian except for a number of academic programmes. To prepare foreign students for academic training and living in Iran, the university offers needed courses through its International Centre for Persian Studies.

The students are selected from among the best candidates in the country and are admitted through the National Entrance Exam in 111 Bachelor programmes, 177 Master programmes and 156 Ph.D. programmes. The educational capacity of this university is about thirty two thousand (32,000) students. The International Students Office offers information regarding different academic programmes to foreign applicants. Internet facilities are available in all departments and all students, research scholars and teachers and also, there is library in each department. Furthermore, the university has modern sports and health facilities along with well-equipped dormitories.

The University of Tehran is a comprehensive university comprised of six campuses, 35 departments, complexes, institutes, research and educational centres. The main campus of the University of Tehran is located at the heart of Tehran while its numerous campuses spread throughout Tehran and beyond. Furthermore, Tehran University has 3 branches in Pakdasht, Qom and Kish.
In addition to scientific centres, treasures and different cultural, welfare and treatment centres such as Moqadam Museum, Negarestan Garden, Students Dormitories Complex and Centre for Health and Treatment and also Khazar Abad Cultural-Recreational complex are offering services to the society.

The University of Tehran is a member of many international associations such as International Association of Universities (IAU), International Council for Science (ICSU)\(^1\) and Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP).

### 4.3.10.1 Research Centres

The research centres of Tehran University are as follows:

01. Biochemistry and Biophysics Research Centre
02. Biomaterials Research Centre
03. Centre for Graduate International Studies (CGIS)
04. Centre for International Religious Studies
05. Centre for North American and European Studies
06. Centre for Women's studies
07. Central Eurasia Program
08. Industry Clinic
09. Informatics Centre
10. Institute of Archaeology
11. Institute of Geography
12. Institute of Geophysics
13. Institute of Petroleum Engineering
14. Institute of Water
15. International Centre for Persian Studies
16. International Research Centre for Coexistence with Desert
17. Management Applied Research Centre
18. Nano Science and Technology Research Centre (NSTRC)
19. Research Centre for History of Science

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\(^1\) The International Council for Science (ICSU) formerly was called the International Council of Scientific Unions.
The university is comprised of the following departments:

01. Agricultural Economics and Development
02. Agricultural Engineering and Technology
03. Agricultural Sciences and Engineering
04. Architecture
05. Biology
06. Chemical Engineering
07. Chemistry
08. Civil Engineering
09. Economics
10. Electrical and Computer Engineering
11. Entrepreneurship
12. Environment
13. Foreign Languages and Literature
14. Geodesy Engineering
15. Geography
16. Geology
17. Industrial Engineering
18. Law and Political Science
19. Letters and Humanities
20. Management
21. Mathematics and Computer Science
22. Mechanical Engineering
23. Metallurgy and Materials Engineering
24. Mining Engineering
25. Music
26. Natural Resources
27. Performing Arts
28. Physical Education and Sport Science
29. Physics
30. Psychology and Education
31. Social Sciences
32. Theology and Islamic Studies
33. Urban and Regional Planning
34. Veterinary Medicine
35. Visual Arts

4.3.10.3 Ph.D. Programmes

The university offers Ph.D. programmes in Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities. It is interesting to note that at present 210, 170, 250 and 650 research scholars are studying in these disciplines, respectively (University of Tehran, 2010).

4.3.10.4 Central Library and Documentation Centre

The Central Library and Documentation Centre of the University of Tehran is the largest academic library in the region and a major source for students and academicians throughout the country. The library subscribes to a wide range of international journals and has a unique collection of hand written manuscripts, which are also available in electronic format.

The library includes rich and broad various resources in different fields of science, techniques and literature. This library along with professional libraries of departments which have been established on the basis of their specific scientific and educational needs is predominantly allocated to research. The library collects the works related to the Islamology (Islamic studies), Iranology (Iranian studies) and oriental studies.

The main core of the Central Library and Documentation Centre of the University of Tehran was formed in 1950 with the donation of a collection by Seyed Mohammad Meshkat, a professor at the University of Tehran which included 1,329 volumes of
manuscripts. The present building of the library was opened on 23 September 1972. During this period (1950-1972), the technical affairs of the library, establishing links with the world scientific and academic centres, selecting and employing expert librarians were being conducted in the venues of the underground floor of the University Administration Building, the underground floor of the Department of Sciences and the rooms of the University Mosque.

In 1974, the 'Centre of Documentations' was founded and its name was also added to the 'Central Library' in order to collect, maintain and organise the non-book form publications which were being donated to the central library by organisations, ministries, universities, cultural associations, local and foreign centres and institutions.

The library has an area of more than 22 thousand square meters and is a nine-story building. It includes two underground floors, ground, the first floor, and five stories of book stacks, press and documents. In recent years, the Central Library and Documentation Centre has offered services to more than 65 thousand members. It receives more than 5,000 users daily who are the students of the University of Tehran, other universities, higher education institutes, local and foreign researchers and scholars.

All the in-house library operations are fully computerised. The collections and services are widespread and meet the needs of almost all users visiting the library.

Since 1967, the Central Library and Documentation Centre has become a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and institutions (IFLA).

4.3.10.4.1 Central Library and Documentation Centre Collections

According to the Law of Book Granting which was approved in 1989 by the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance (ershad.gov.ir) donates a copy of all books with more than 2000 editions (circulation) in Iran to the Central Library and Documentation Centre. Meanwhile, the Central Library and Documentation Centre has joined the Project of Granting Periodical of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance since 22 June 2000. According to this project, the editors of journals in the country are bound to send a copy of their publications to the
The Collection of the Central Library and Documentation Centre holds over one million copies including printed books, periodicals, manuscripts, microfilms, pictorial copies, documents and historical photos, lithography books, academic dissertations[theses], scientific documents, maps, textbooks, electronic references and resources.

4.3.10.4.2 Printed books

At present, the collection of the Persian and Arabic printed books holds over 200,000 volumes, which include more than 110,000 titles, and it is added day by day. This collection is so diverse in subjects in different scientific, literary and artistic fields.

The collection of Latin printed books is mostly in English and also in French, German, Russia and Italian and some other languages. It contains over 100,000 volumes and about 80,000 titles. This collection includes mostly subjects related to oriental studies, Iranian studies (Iranology), Islamic studies (Islamology), manuscript studies, librarian and information and reference books. It is accessible in Stacks Nos. 3 and 4 of Reference Hall (Abureihan) and Iranian Studies Hall (Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh) through card holders which are located in the first floor and Computer Network of the Library. The number of English books and books in other Latin languages are 120,000 volumes.

4.3.10.4.3 Periodicals

The collection of Persian periodicals of the Central Library and Documentation Centre is one of the most important and largest Persian periodicals nationwide. At present it holds about 1,600 titles of journals and about 3,000 titles of Persian newspapers. The total Latin periodicals includes about 3,600 titles of Journals, mostly in English and some also in French, German, Italian, Russian and other languages and 15 newspapers titles. This collection has been gathered on the basis of academic demands of different
academic disciplines and various research fields. The binding series of the Persian and Arabic periodicals including over 300,000 volumes and Latin periodicals including more than 150,000 volumes are kept in the stack of the library.

4.3.10.4.4 Manuscripts

This collection includes about 17,000 volumes of manuscripts in Persian, Arabic and Turkish. There are many valuable old copies and copies in the original handwriting of the scholars and celebrities in this collection. This collection is accessible through eighteen volumes of the list of manuscripts of central library and published lists of the manuscripts collection of Departments of Literature and Humanities, Theology and Islamic Sciences, Medical Sciences, Law and Political Sciences and also the computerised network of the library.

4.3.10.4.5 Historical Documents

The collection of historical documents includes commands, decrees, letters, deed, pious endowment, marriage deed, financial documents and so on. It encompasses about 60,000 pages. The existence of a page of document dated 866 A.H., related to the management of endowed property of Sultan Sheikh Mahmoud, two series of documents related to Safavid period and a collection of documents and letters written by some of the contemporary figures including Seyed Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh are among the valuable characteristics of this collection. At present, this collection is under re-developing and cataloguing processes. Some of its papers are accessible through the printed list of manuscripts.

4.3.10.4.6 Microfilms and Manuscripts

This collection includes about 8,500 reels of microfilms and 7,500 volumes pictorial copies. A great part of this collection has been prepared on the basis of the local and foreign manuscripts of the library. An immense number of the microfilms of this collection have been prepared in order to preserve the existing valuable manuscripts and also to present an image to the users of the library. In this collection, there is also a microfilm from a part of the Iranian old journals and newspapers. This collection is
accessible via three volumes of the list of microfilms in the Central Library and Documentation Centre.

4.3.10.4.7 Historical Photos

This collection includes 22,000 pieces of photos from the distinguished personalities, sights and monuments of Iran in the Qajar and Pahlavi periods. Some of these photos have been prepared on the basis of the photo collections belonging to the offices in charge of royal buildings of Naseruldin Shah and albums of some eminent men of Qajar period and that of contemporary as well.

4.3.10.4.8 Lithography Books

This collection holds over 9,000 volumes of lithography books in Persian, Arabic, Turkish and Urdu. The method of classification of the lithography books is on the basis of the size of the book. This collection is accessible through specific card holder which is located in the manuscript Department of the Central Library and Documentation Centre and the computerised network of the library.

4.3.10.4.9 Academic Dissertations and Theses

This collection has more than 45,000 titles of academic theses and dissertations of the students of the University of Tehran from 21 affiliated departments, institutes and centres in undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate levels. The number of dissertations and theses are added to the collection daily. The oldest existing dissertations are related to Dar-al Moalamin Ali (Higher Teacher Training House) and to the year 1932-1933. This collection is available through existing cardholders beside the documents and dissertation department and through computerised network of the library.

4.3.10.4.10 Scientific Documents and Credentials

This collection includes reports, papers of seminars, organisational publications, rules and directions, constitutions, statistics, almanacs, calendars and so on. It encompasses about 40,000 scientific documents in Persian, Arabic and about 20,000 documents in other languages. At present, cataloguing and re-developing of this
collection in the documentation and dissertations department of the library is under processing.

4.3.10.4.11 Textbooks

This collection contains a collection of textbooks of Dar-al-Fonoon (House of Techniques) and the textbooks of different periods of the Ministry of Culture (up to the year 1991) with over 5,000 volumes.

4.3.10.4.12 Maps

This collection includes the old and new maps of Iran, different provinces and Cities, world maps and different countries. These maps are mostly in Persian, English and French. There are five old maps in this collection in lithography printing. The operation of cataloguing and redeveloping of this collection is in process in the documents and dissertations department.

4.3.10.4.13 Tehran University Digital Library

Digital Library of Tehran University was established in 2005 in order to integrate all library services, which have been offered through the Web. In-house library software was designed and produced by Informatics Centre, University of Tehran. At present this software is used in Tehran University libraries. The Digital Library provides the following services to the users:

1. Access to information of all libraries of The University of Tehran.
2. Access to the University of Tehran Journals and search the database and reading and downloading articles.
3. Access to students’ electronic theses and dissertations of the University of Tehran.
4. Access to electronic version of some books which have been published by Tehran University Press Institute.
5. Access to scientific databases and electronic journals subscribed by Tehran University such as ACM, ACS, APS, ASCE, AIP, EBSCO, IOP, IEEE, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Thieme Journals, John Wiley, Sage Journals, Magiran and so on (Central Library and Documentation Centre, The University of Tehran, 2010).
4.4 Summary

This chapter gives a brief introduction of Iran country and ten Iranian universities under study with an emphasis on their central libraries. *University of Tehran* as a mother university has the highest number of students and faculty members, majors and levels offered, research centres, departments and Ph.D. programmes. About 1,280 Ph.D. research scholars are studying in several disciplines (viz., Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities).

*Ferdowsi University of Mashhad* (FUM) is one of the most comprehensive universities in Iran and in the neighboring countries. FUM encompasses currently 15 departments, 2000 staff, 650 faculty members and an official enrollment of 19,000 students. About 759 research scholar are studying in several disciplines.

*University of Isfahan* is one of the oldest scientific and cultural centres of the country. Moreover, it is one of the major universities in Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities with approximately 737 research scholars.

*Sharif University of Technology* (SUT) is one of the largest engineering schools in the Islamic Republic of Iran. SUT has several research centres and departments which offer services to the 680 research scholars in Basic Sciences and Engineering.

*Iran University of Science and Technology* is one of the major technical universities in Iran. Just on the main campus, there are more than 9,900 students in more than 90 specialised fields in Engineering and Basic Sciences. About 498 of the total are research scholars.

*Amirkabir University of Technology* is the first technical university of Iran. Through its rapid educational and research expansion, the university was able to gain a high rank among all the other universities and research centres which offer services to the 458 research scholars in Basic Sciences and Engineering.

*Shahid Beheshti University* and the members of the academia are at the forefront of world research in many fields and the teaching is informed by the very latest developments in each discipline. There are more than 12,000 students at different levels
at Shahid Beheshti University. About 402 of the total are research scholars in Basic Sciences, Engineering and Humanities.

Shahid Chamran University has an extensive amount of educational space and is known as one of the four largest universities in the country and is the largest university in the southwest region of the country, encompassing 500 faculty members and 15,000, out of which 188 research scholars are studying in Agriculture, Basic Sciences, Humanities and Engineering.

Khaje-Nasir-Toosi University of Technology is known for its excellent track record of research output and industrial connections. With more than 220 full-time faculty members and 3,600 students takes pride in as one of the highest instructors to student ratio in Iran, out of which 184 Ph.D. students are studying in Basic Sciences and Engineering.

University of Guilan is the largest academic institution in the north of Iran. There are nearly 380 faculty members, and 11,000 students, out of which 114 research scholars are studying in several disciplines.

Each department has a separate library, which is affiliated to the central library of the respective university. Among the libraries, the Central Library and Documentation Centre of the University of Tehran is the largest academic library in the region and a major source for students and academicians throughout the country with the largest collection of different information resources and services.