CHAPTER - 3

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS
1. Introduction

As mentioned in the Research Methodology, a survey was conducted at national level with focus on Ph D Research Scholars, Research Guides and University Librarians, through specially designed Questionnaires (See Annexure VI at Page 154). Research Scholars and Guides were selected from the participants of INFLIBNET’s E-Resources awareness programmes conducted at INFLIBNET and at various Universities across the country. They were familiar with latest IT developments taking place in Information transfer and working with Universities were electronic information culture has already emerged.

Separate questionnaires were also sent to University Librarians from 87 randomly selected Universities with following criteria;

- Funded under UGC, or
- Connected to UGC Infonet, or
- Getting connected to UGC Infonet, or
- Having sufficient e-resources availability, and
- Equal Geographical Coverage.

The survey was aimed to initiate a discussion and to know the attitude towards going electronic theses among Indian academic and research community, where the idea of electronic theses are gaining much attention day by day. Through this survey and data analysis in this chapter, an attempt is made to reflect the exact picture of doctoral theses collection, its usage, difficulties in access, academic and research community’s attitude towards digital archiving and electronic publishing etc in Indian Universities.
2. **Data Analysis and Discussion**

2.1 **University Librarians**

Questionnaires sent to Librarians of 87 Universities, selected to be surveyed as per the above-mentioned criteria. Librarians from 65 Universities (See Annexure VI at Page 154) participated in the survey and 22 did not responded to the survey due to the unavailability of the responsible persons. A detailed analysis of their responses is given below in tabular and graphical forms from Page 45 to 64).

2.1.1 **Average Number of Doctorates Awarded**

It is found that out of 65 Universities, 29 (44%) awarded more than 2000 Doctorates and 56% Universities awarded less than 2000 Doctorates. Further study though personal communications and Theses database at INFLIBNET shows that, there are Universities who have awarded more than 20,000 Doctorates (like University of Calcutta) and more than 10,000 Doctoral Theses (like Banaras Hindu University). Through further analysis it is learned that newly established Universities or Universities with less number of departments, have less than 200 Doctorates awarded. Through literature search it was found that around 8000 Doctorates are awarded every year in Indian Universities. The data analysis given in Figure 3.1 and further study make it very clear that, Indian Universities altogether hold a huge volume of Doctoral Theses in their Libraries.
2.1.2 Distribution of University Research Departments

Figure 3.1 - Average Number of Doctorates Awarded

Figure 3.2 - Distribution of University Research Departments

Figure 3.2 shows that the departments of 33 Universities (51%) are scattered in Multi Campuses or Regional Campuses. If these Universities do not have a policy to keep all the Theses in Central Library along with copies in
different Campus or Regional Libraries, access to Theses collection from the same University will become more difficult.

2.1.3 Archiving of Ph D Theses collections

![Bar Chart]

*Figure 3.3 - Archiving of Ph D Theses collections*

Figure 3.3 shows that 64 Universities (98%) are archiving Ph D Theses in Central Libraries, only 8 (12%) archive them in Departmental Libraries and only 2 (3%) archive them in campus libraries. This practice underlines that researchers are more dependent to Central Libraries in most Universities for accessing Theses collection. It is also understood that accessing the doctoral theses from the same University becomes difficult, especially for the Universities with Regional or Multi Campuses. From Figure 3.2 and 3.3, it is very clear that Distance will be an obstacle in accessing Theses collection, in most of the Universities.
2.1.4 Access policy for Ph D theses

Among the 65 survey participants, 31 Universities (47%) are providing open access, 27 (42%) Universities are providing closed access and 7 (11%) Universities are providing access based on the user category [See Figure 3.4]. It is a matter of happiness that no Libraries totally restricted access to this valuable collection in Indian Universities.

![Figure 3.4 - Access policy for Ph D theses](image)

2.1.5 User Based Access policy

All Universities participated in the survey provide access to Research Scholars (100%) and 63 Universities provide access to Research Faculty. The problem identified from the policy analysis provided in Figure 3.5 is that, only 29 (44%) Universities provide access to Non-Members, which included Research students from other Universities. In this case, accessing Ph D Theses from other Universities becomes an issue in India.
2.1.6 Technical Processing of Ph D Theses

Technical processing and maintenance help in locating the Thesis from a collection easily and it is found that 57 Libraries (88%) catalogue and 53 Libraries (82%) classify the Ph D Theses. Figure 3.6 shows that most of the Libraries keep well-maintained Theses collection and locating a particular thesis from the collection is easy.
2.1.7 Library Services Based on Ph. D. Collection

As shown in Figure 3.7, only 11 Libraries (17%) provide Inter Library Loan services, 21 (32%) provide Photocopying, 12 (18%) provide only consultation services and 19 (29%) provide Index publication or Bibliography etc based on Ph D Theses collection. There are 2 Libraries (3%) who do not provide any service and 10 Libraries have not responded to this question. The unavailability of Inter Library Loan and Photo copying services in most of the Libraries prevent the access to Ph D Theses by users from other Universities.

![Graph showing library services based on Ph D Collection](image)

*Figure 3.7 - Library Services Based on Ph D Collection*

2.1.8 Obstacles in accessing Ph D Theses

Out of 65 respondents, 53 Librarians (82%) said that there are no obstacles in accessing Ph D Theses in their Libraries, where 7 Librarians (9%) identified Closed Access and another 7 (9%) identified Unavailability are the Obstacles in their Libraries. From Figure 3.8, it is clear that most of the Librarians are in opinion that the access to Theses collection from their own
Libraries are free from obstacles, but from the analysis of earlier figures shows that there are obstacles in accessing Theses of other Libraries.

![Pie chart showing obstacles in accessing Ph.D. Theses](image)

*Figure 3.8 - Obstacles in accessing Ph.D. Theses*

### 2.1.9 Importance of Ph.D. Theses in furthering doctoral research

![Pie chart showing importance of Ph.D. Theses](image)

*Figure 3.9 - Importance of Ph.D. Theses*
Figure 3.9 shows how Librarians rate their Ph D Theses collection, as a source for furthering University research. The value of information containing in these sources is underlined by 46 Librarians (71%), who have rated their collection with High Importance. Only 19 Librarians (29%) rated it with Medium Importance.

2.1.10 Coverage of Ph D Award in AIU University News

![Pie Chart]

Figure 3.10 - Coverage of Ph D Award in AIU University News

Figure 3.10 shows the coverage of the Ph D Awarding in University News published by AIU, which is only available tool in India publishes the Ph D awards through its “Theses of the Month” Column regularly. Only 39 Universities (60%) are regularly covered in it and 26 Universities (40%) are not covered in this quarterly publication. This shows that details of a substantial number of Ph Ds are not being disseminated due to a non-availability of policies and mechanisms to intimate the Ph D awards to the concerned national level agencies like AIU or UGC_INFLIBNET Centre.
2.1.11 Collection of Other Universities’ Theses

Very few Libraries, i.e., 10 Libraries (15%) have a collection of Ph Ds submitted to other Universities, even though they don’t have the entire collection. The unavailability of other Universities’ Ph D Theses in 55 (85%) of Libraries as shown in Figure 3.11 is another obstacle in accessing the Theses Literature.

2.1.12 Availability of Computerised Database of Theses

Out of 65 Libraries, 53 (82%) have already created a computerized Database of their Ph D Theses collection, where 12 (18%) have not done so far. Wide availability of Bibliographic database as shown in Figure 3.12 will definitely create a tendency to shift over to full-text data base and ETDs.
2.1.13 **Awareness about the concept of ETDs**

Figure 3.12 shows that 56 Librarians (86%) are aware and 9 Librarians (14%) are not aware about the concept of ETDs. It is important to notice that Librarians in India are aware about latest developments like ETDs, and it is because of the wide availability of Internet and Electronic resources, which provides up to date information faster than ever before.
2.1.14 Availability of a Policy to collect e-format

Even though 86% of Librarians are aware about ETD Initiatives, only 22 Universities (34%) have adopted a policy to collect e-format of theses along with the submission of print copies. According to Figure 3.14, it has to be implemented in 43 Libraries (66%) and it is sure that they also have to adopt the policy in par with the emerging e-culture in Indian academic arena.

![Figure 3.14 - Availability of a Policy to collect e-format](image)

2.1.15 Support to Online Access of Ph D Theses

Figure 3.15 reveals that 34 Librarians (52%) are still not supporting the idea of online access to the Ph D Theses and 31 Librarians (48%) are strongly supporting the idea. The confusions created by the fetus nature of ETDs and the gap in national level policies and frame works in this direction may be the reasons for their non-supportiveness. But it is sure that online access will be the ideal solution, which will be supported by all Librarians in near future.
2.1.16 **Online Access Policy of Ph D Theses**

Analysis in Figure 3.16 shows that out of 31 Librarians supported Online Access, 12 (39%) suggested the access can be provided only on Library LAN, 9 (29%) suggested Campus Intranet and only 10 (32%) are suggesting...
for Internet (Global Access), which is the only solution to avoid current difficulties in accessing Ph D Theses of Indian Universities. If we consider the total number of participants in this survey, only 10 out of 65 (15%) supporting Global access to their theses collection. If we analyse the existing ETD systems at International level, the Global access is provided by only 50% of the Institutions where others have restricted the access only to their campuses. Open Access Initiatives are getting momentum in India and it is therefore can be predicted that Global access will emerge as the choice for avoiding the obstacles in physical access.

2.1.17 Obstacles in Creating ETD System

Figure 3.17 shows the obstacles identified by Librarians in the creation of ETD System in India. Out of 65, 33 Librarians (51%) identified Copyright Problems are the main obstacles to create ETD Systems. 25 (37%) identified Infrastructure Problems, 23 (35%) identified Plagiarism, 20 (31%) identified Lack of Funding, 15 (23%) identified Lack of Expertise or Lack of Administrative supports as the obstacles. Few of them identified Lack of Supports from Students and Faculty and a very few declared that there are no obstacles in creating ETDs in their Universities. The above mentioned problems need to be resolved by Governmental agencies like UGC, ICAR, ICMR, AICTE etc by having common accepted policies and frame work, sufficient financial support and spreading the benefits of ETDs among academic and researcher community. There may be obstacles which has to be addressed at Institutional level or regional level.
2.1.18 Benefits of ETD System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced image in Information Technology advancements</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased visibility of University Research</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding Duplication in Research</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expertise in building Digital Libraries/Institutional Repositories</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Electronic Publishing</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries role in content development</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Responded</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 3.1 – Benefits of ETDs*

It shows that, except 4 Librarians, all are well aware about the benefits of ETDs given in the Table 3.1, which are also widely agreed by ETD
communities at International level. The greater awareness about the benefits will definitely help in initiating this new idea in Indian Universities.

2.1.19 Policy in Hosting ETD in other Digital Archives

Figure 3.18 shows that only 12 Universities (18%) adopted a policy to host their own ETDs in another digital archives, where the majority of 48 (74%) have not adopted a policy. There are 5 Universities, who have not responded to this question.

![Pie chart showing policy in hosting ETD in other digital archives.]

*Figure 3.18 - Policy in Hosting ETD in other Digital Archives*

If we compare the statistics, only 15% of Librarians supporting access to ETDs outside campus Intranet and only 18% Universities have a policy to provide their ETDs to any national level agency to host it for the benefit of academic and research community. These two are the important issues, which need to be resolved through national level policies and frame works with mandatory stipulations from Governmental agencies.
2.1.20 Selection of a Digital Archive

Out of 12 Universities who have a policy to host their ETDs in another Digital Archives, 11 (92%) Librarians are willing to provide its ETDs to a Digital Archive created by any UGC designated national Agency and 9 (75%) will select any University designated by UGC, as per the Figure 3.19. There are 5 Universities (42%) are not responded to this question. Few are either ready to provide its ETDs to Private Agencies or not ready to provide to any one of the suggested bodies. This highlights the role of UGC to be played in this important area with new stipulations and regulations.

![Figure 3.19 - Selection of a Digital Archive](image)

2.1.21 Awareness about INFLIBNET Theses Database

Figure 3.20 shows that 62 Librarians (95%) are aware and 3 of them (5%) are not all aware about the INFLIBNET Theses Database. It shows the popularity of this database among the Librarians.
2.1.22 Contribution to INFLIBNET Theses Database

Regarding contribution of Ph D Theses data to INFLIBNET Figure 3.21 shows that 48 Librarians (74%) are regularly contributing and 17 (26%) are not contributing.
Most of the participants are members of INFLIBNET and they have a mandate to supply the data regularly. Necessary steps have to be taken by INFLIBNET to increase the coverage of its databases by including all Universities under its umbrella.

2.1.23 Present Availability of ETD System

![Pie Chart showing 28% Yes and 72% No]

*Figure 3.22 – Present Availability of ETD System*

It is a matter of happiness that 18 Indian University Libraries (28%) already started creation of ETD Systems, but the majority of 47 (72%) still have not started. The unavailability of Infrastructure and technical expertise are the reasons for the gap shown in Figure 3.22, and it is sure that it will be vanished along with the emergence and full operation of projects like UGC Infonet.
2.1.24 Future Plans for ETD System

From Figure 3.23 it is clear that the majority of 30 Librarians (61%) are planning to create ETD System by the year 2005 and 19 (39%) do not have immediate plans to go for ETD System. It is a matter of fact that the wide awareness of ETDs and its benefits among Librarians and the ever demanding electronic culture in Universities accelerate them to go digital in terms of resources and services.

![Pie Chart]

Figure 3.23 – Future Plans for ETD System

2.1.25 Supports Needed for ETD System

The supports required for ongoing and upcoming ETD Projects in Indian Universities are grouped in Table 3.2. Out of the 65 respondents, 36 Librarians (19%) demand sufficient policies from Universities, 32 (17%) demand Infrastructure support, 28 (15%) demand Policies from Government bodies like UGC and 27 (15%) demand for Technical expertise. Few of them also demand supports from academics and financial support, where 12
Librarians said they do not require any kind of supports. These Universities have sufficient infrastructure, funding and technical expertise, which are in forefront of digital revolution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supports Needed</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governmental Policies (UGC etc)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Policies</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Support</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Expertise</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
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<td>Support from Academics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Supports</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Support Required</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Responded</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 2.2 - Supports Needed for ETD System*

2.2 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GUIDES

Separate survey has done with 88 Ph D Research Guides from various disciplines, covering 27 Universities (See Annexure VI at Page 154) across the country. A detailed analysis of their response is given below in tabular and graphical form

2.2.1 Advise to Consult Ph D Theses

Figure 3.24 shows how Research Guides are treating the Ph D Theses as an information source. Out of 88 Guides, 87 (99%) are advising their research scholars to consult the Ph D Theses collection for their study, where only one guide never advised the researchers to do so. This shows the high
value of information contains in Ph D Theses and its importance in identifying the problems, carrying out literature search and further research, in respective area.

Figure 3.24 – Advise to Consult Ph D Theses

2.2.2 Obstacles in Accessing Ph D Theses

Regarding the present obstacles in accessing Ph D Theses, 36 Guides (41%) identified Distance and 28 (32%) identified the non-availability of a mechanism to get Ph D Theses (See Figure 3.25). Closed Access is identified by 25 (28%), 22 (25%) identified the Unavailability and 18 (20%) could not identify any obstacles in accessing theses. A very few of 5 (5%) identified Language as a problem to access the theses literature. The Distance and Non-availability are mostly related to Theses from other Universities, which can be solved through ETDs.
2.2.3 Importance of Ph D Theses in Furthering Research

![Graph showing obstacles and importance of Ph D Theses]

Figure 3.25 – Obstacles in Accessing Ph D Theses

Figure 3.26 – Importance of Ph D Theses in Furthering Research
Figure 3.26 shows that 45 Guides (51%) rated the Ph D Theses with High Importance and 43 (49%) rated them with Medium Importance, in furthering research in their disciplines. But we should understand the fact that most of them consult the Ph D Theses during the conceptualization of research problems and literature research.

2.2.4 Access of INFLIBNET Theses Database

![Access of INFLIBNET Theses Database](image)

Out of 88 Guides, 51 (58%) accessed INFLIBNET’s Theses database, but 37 (42%) never accessed it, as shown in Figure 3.27. This may be because of less awareness about this database among faculty members or unavailability of 100 percent coverage in terms of Ph Ds awarded. Sufficient steps have to be initiated to address these problems.
2.2.5 Sources Consulting for Avoiding Duplication

Figure 3.28 shows that 66 Guides (75%) consult Journals or Newsletters from their discipline, 31 Guides (35%) consult INFLIBNET Theses Database, 20 (23%) consult AIU University News, 10 (11%) consult AIU Hand Book and 7 (8%) consult other sources during the conceptualization of the research topic to avoid duplication in research topic.

![Bar Chart: Sources Consulting for Avoiding Duplication](Image)

*Figure 3.28 - Sources Consulting for Avoiding Duplication*

2.2.6 Awareness about ETDs

It is a good sign that 53 Guides (60%) are aware about ETD initiatives as shown in Figure 3.29, but 34 (39%) are still not aware about the concept. This shows that enough awareness programmes are required before initiating ETD programmes in campuses.
2.2.7 Support to Collect E-Format of Ph D Theses

The support from Faculty members towards ETD programme is shown in Figure 3.30, which indicates that 75 Guides (85%) are supporting and 12 (14%) are not supporting in collecting the e-format of their student’s Ph D Theses during the submission.
2.2.8 Support to Provide Online Access to Ph D Theses

Figure 3.31 shows the faculty support in providing online access to their student's Ph D Theses, through a Digital Library. The majority of 78 Guides (89%) are supporting and only 9 (10%) are not supporting online access. One Guide did not respond to this question. This shows that the fear of academic resistance towards ETDs is not an issue in India.

![Figure 3.31 - Support to Provide Online Access to Ph D Theses](image)

2.2.9 Online Access Policy to Ph D Theses

Regarding the access policy, out of 78 Guides supporting online access, 50 Guides (64%) are supporting for Global access over Internet, 19 (24%) are supporting access on Campus Intranet and 9 (12%) are supporting access only on Library LAN, to their student's Ph D Theses. Figure 3.32 clearly indicates that majority of faculty members supports Global access to Indian Theses literature, and the negative opinions will get vanished along with the emergence of digital information environment in Indian campuses when they are fully covered under UGC Infonet programme.
2.2.11 Reasons to avoid Online Access to Ph D Theses

Out of 9 Guides, who are not supporting online access, 7 (78%) identified Chances of Plagiarism, 6 (75%) identified Copyright issues and 4 (50%) identified lack of expertise as the reasons to avoid online access to their students.
Ph D Theses, as shown in Figure 3.33. Lack of Faculty support, Lack of funding and Lack of Administrative supports are also identified by few Guides and one guide did not respond to this question.

2.2.12 Publication Practices of Ph D Research

The analysis in Figure 3.34 shows that Ph D Research results of 69 Guides (78%) are published in Journals, 65 (74%) are published in Conference Proceedings, 10 (11%) as book and 3 (3%) are not published any where. 11 Guides (13%) are not responded to this question. This shows that Indian Ph D research are being published any other forms, but the time gap in traditional publication and the availability of those publications in Libraries again stand as an obstacle in disseminating the research out puts. Another observation is that no thesis will be published in its fullest form, or in other words, part of the thesis may not get published in any form.

Figure 3.34 – Publication Practices of Ph D Research
2.3 University Research Scholars

In the next survey through separate Questionnaire, 173 Ph D Research Scholars participated from various disciplines, covering 27 Universities across the country (See Annexure VI at Page 154). A detailed analysis of their response in tabular and graphical form is given below.

2.3.1 Consultation of Ph D Collection

![Bar Graph]

*Figure 3.35 – Consultation of Ph D Collection*

Figure 3.35 shows the usage of Ph D Theses by Research scholars, and it shows that 121 Research Scholars (67%) consult Ph D Theses in their own University, 51 (30%) consult Ph D Theses of other Universities and 24 Scholars (14%) never consulted Ph D Theses during their research period. This shows that the seriousness of Research scholars in consulting old research, but due to various obstacles they are not able to access Theses from other Universities.
2.3.2 Obstacles in Accessing of Ph D Collection

As obstacles in accessing the Ph D Theses collection, 47 Scholars (28%) identified the Distance, 36 (21%) identified Closed Access, 34 (20%) identified the unavailability of a mechanism to get them, 22 (13%) identified Unavailability and 14 (8%) identified Language in their responses. Even though 58 Scholars (35%) are in opinion that there are no obstacles faced while trying to access the Ph D Collection, Figure 3.36 clearly indicates that Research scholars face various obstacles in accessing Ph D Theses, most from other Universities.

![Figure 3.36 - Obstacles in Consulting Ph D Collection](image)

2.3.3 Importance of Ph D Theses in Furthering Research

In Figure 3.37, 99 Scholars (57%) rated Ph D Theses with high importance, 67 (39%) rated with Medium Importance and 6 (3%) said that it does not have any importance in furthering the research. 2 Scholars have not
responded to this question. Further analysis shows that Research scholars from Science and Engineering faculties, especially from Chemical Sciences, rated Ph D Theses with Medium importance or no Importance. The factual and experimental based research style in these faculties can be the reasons or the less usage of Ph D Theses in these disciplines.

![Pie chart showing importance ratings of Ph D Theses in Furthering Research]

*Figure 3.37 – Importance of Ph D Theses in Furthering Research*

### 2.3.4 Access to INFLIBNET Theses Database

The popularity of INFLIBNET Theses Database is shown in Figure 3.38, where 122 Researchers (71%) accessed it and 51 (29%) have not accessed it so far. The facility for online searching of available records through various parameters in one place will be the reasons for its wide popularity, but more initiatives are to be taken for creating more awareness and coverage to this online tool.
2.3.5 Sources Referred to Avoid Duplication

Figure 3.39 – Sources Referred to Avoid Duplication

Figure 3.39 highlights the sources referred by Researchers while conceptualizing the research topic, to avoid duplication in research. Out of 173, 133 Scholars (77%) refer Journals or Newsletters and other sources in
their own discipline, 40 (23%) refer INFLIBNET Theses Database, 38 (22%) refer AIU University News and 30 (17%) refer AIU Handbook.

2.3.6  **Awareness about ETD**

![Pie chart showing awareness of ETDs: 43% Yes, 56% Not Responded, 1% No](image)

*Figure 3.40 – Awareness about ETDs*

Figure 3.40 indicates the awareness of ETDs, where 96 Scholars (56%) are aware and 75 (43%) are not aware about this concept. This data is entirely different from Faculty members because most of the Researchers are in their initial stages of work and they are not used to electronic information resources widely.

2.3.6  **Willingness to Provide E-Format of Ph D Theses**

Out of 173, 148 Scholars (86%) have shown their interest to provide e-format of their Thesis during submission, but a minority of 25 (14%) is still not willing to provide e-format of their theses to the University (See Figure 3.41). This is a good sign and Universities will not face any resistance from Researchers in initiating ETDs in India.
2.3.7 Support to Online Access to Ph D Theses

Figure 3.42 – Support for Online Access

Figure 3.42 shows that 144 Research Scholars (83%) are willing to provide online access to their Ph D thesis through a Digital Library, but a minority of 26 (15%) are not willing to do so. 3 Scholars (2%) have not responded to this question.
2.3.8 Online Access Policy for Ph D Theses

Out of 144 Scholars who support online access, 96 Scholars (66%) preferred the Global access through Internet, 27 (19%) preferred access on Library LAN and 21 (15%) preferred Access on Campus Intranet. Figure 3.43 shows that 44% Scholars are still not ready to provide Global Online access to their Theses. They may be ready to provide online access after a time gap, to publish articles, papers or books based on their research. If somebody wants to apply for a patent based on the research, especially in Technology disciplines, the research has to be kept unpublished.

![Pie Chart showing access preferences](image)

*Figure 3.43 — Online Access Policy for Ph D Theses*

2.3.9 Reasons to avoid Online Access to Ph D Theses

Out of 26 Scholars not supporting online access, 23 (88%) identified copyright issues, 9 (35%) identified chances of Plagiarism, 6 (23%) identified Lack of Administrative Support, 5 (20%) identified lack of expertise as the reasons to avoid online access to Ph d Theses. 3 Scholars said that they are not interested to provide wide availability of their theses (See Figure 3.44).
Figure 3.44 - Reasons to avoid Online Access to Ph D Theses

2.3.10 Publication Practice of Ph D Research

Figure 3.45 – Publication Practices of Ph D Research
Figure 3.45 shows the publication practices of Indian University research. Journal Articles will be the favorite choice for 131 Scholars (76%), 78 (45%) have plans to publish in Conference proceeding, 52 (30%) have plans to publish Book and 7 (4%) have no plans in publishing their research works. It is clear that Indian academic research is partially published through articles and publication of Books based on Ph D Theses is not a common practice by Faculties or Researchers.

3. **Findings of the Study**

1. Indian Universities altogether holding a huge volume of Doctoral Theses in their custody.

2. Large number of Universities has Multi Campuses and Regional Campuses, but most of them keep copies of Ph D Theses only in Central Library. Hence access to Ph D Theses collection becomes difficult.

3. Access policy to Ph D Theses collection varies with Universities, but most of them provide Closed access to the members

4. All the Universities provide access to Ph D Theses Collection to their Faculty and Research Scholars, but most of them are not accessible to non-members of the Library, which include Research Scholars of other Universities.

5. Since most Libraries do technically processing and well maintaining the Ph D Theses, it is easy to locate them in Indian libraries.

6. Only very few Universities provide Interlibrary Loan facility or Photo copying facility to their Ph D Theses collection. The availability of them physically or as a copy for an outsider, is not a reality in most of the Universities.
7. All most all Guides advise their Research Scholars to consult Ph D Theses in their discipline. Most of the Research Scholars consult them in the same University, a few consult Ph D Theses from another University.

8. Even though there are no major obstacles in accessing Ph D Theses from the same University, the Distance, unavailability of a distribution mechanism etc are the obstacles in accessing Ph D Theses collection of another Universities.

9. Majority of Guides, Research Scholars and Librarians rated Ph D Theses with high importance in furthering research in the respective disciplines.

10. “University News” of AIU does not cover doctorate awarding of all Indian Universities, which the only available current printed listing of Ph Ds awarded every month.

11. Only a very few Universities have the collection of Ph Ds awarded by other Universities.

12. Most of the Libraries created a computerized database of their Ph D Collection, and most of them regularly contributing the bibliographical details to INFLIBNET Theses Database.

13. Majority of Guides, Research Scholars and Librarians are well aware about ETD Initiatives at International level.

14. Very few Universities adopted a policy to collect electronic format of Ph D Theses along with its print submission.

15. Good Majority of Guides and Research scholars are willing to provide electronic format of Ph D Theses to their University.

16. In case of online access to their ETDs, majority of Research Scholars and Guides support the idea, but only a moderate majority of Librarians support this idea.
17. In case of access policy, there is only a moderate majority who supports Global access to Ph D Theses through Internet, where a substantial minority is still supporting access over Library LAN or Campus Intranet.

18. Majority of Librarians think Copyright issue will be an obstacle in creating ETDs. Chances of Plagiarism, Lack of funding, administrative supports, Government policies are also obstacles in creating ETDs in India campuses. But few Research scholars and Guides identified these as obstacles in creating ETDs.

19. Very few Universities adopted a policy to host their ETDs in any other Digital archive and majority of them are willing to provide the content to any national level Organization.

20. A considerable minority of the Universities already started creating their ETD System, and majority of the rest have plans to have ETDs by 2005.

21. Indian Universities are looking for Policies from Universities and Government agencies like UGC, Infrastructure Support, Technical Expertise, Financial supports etc to create ETD Systems in their campuses.

22. Majority of Indian academic community access INFLIBNET Theses Database, but effective awareness programmes are required to increase its visibility.

23. Most of them consult Newsletters or Journals or other sources from their own discipline to know about Ph D awarded in their area. INFLIBNET Theses Database, AIU University News and Handbook are less used during conceptualization of the research topic to avoid duplication. The unavailability of full coverage in these sources may be the reasons for their less usage.
24. Most of the Researchers publish their research results through Journal articles or Conference proceedings. Very few of them publish their research study in Book form.

25. The usage of Ph D Theses varies from Disciplines to Discipline.

4. Conclusion

This study is an effort to know about Indian scenario of Ph D Theses collection and stakeholders’ attitude towards electronic publishing of them. Even though there are issues and concerns from every corner, the study clearly shows the trend towards the creation, organization and dissemination of information in electronic means. In the near future, every Indian University will collect electronic format of Ph D Theses and host them in a Digital Archive, which will be accessible through campus intranet or through Internet, according to their access policies. Since this idea is in the initial stages, it is better to have a common policy accepted by all Universities, in terms of format, workflow, software, accessing and archiving policies, which will help them to share this valuable resource through a national level platform identified by Governmental agencies working in this area, like INFLIBNET.