

“MGU Open Access Online Theses Digital Library is an important step towards democratization of knowledge and I am sure the model of digital archives created by MG University will be emulated by other Indian universities leading to transparency in education and research.”

HE Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam,
Former President of India
9th November 2008



CENTRE FOR DIGITAL ARCHIVING
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
Priyadarsini Hills, Kottayam-686 560, Kerala, India
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www.mgutheses.org, www.mgutheses.in



MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

ONLINE THESES DIGITAL LIBRARY

OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVE

<http://www.mgutheses.org>

USER GUIDE V4.0



<http://www.mgutheses.org>

The First Indian Online Digital Theses Library Providing Open Access to all PhD Theses of a University in English, Malayalam, Hindi and Sanskrit with Multilingual Online Keyboard and Full text Search Facility.



MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

ONLINE THESES
DIGITAL LIBRARY

A Project
Commemorating 25 Years of Achievement

USER
GUIDE
V4.0

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Message

Universities play a crucial role in generation and application of new knowledge through research. The critical knowledge developed by the Universities through public funded research should be made accessible to the public for incessant search for excellence, thereby contributing to the economic and political development.

Prevailing practices in public funded research are to confine the findings to the four walls of the institutions, preventing the prospective scholars to get motivated with the pathways developed by forerunners in respective disciplines. This leads to duplication of research activities, which is equivalent to irrational use of public money.

University research has often been under cloud for rampant plagiarism and duplication. Nonavailability of the research findings in the open domain has made the situation worse. Information Technology has now opened new vistas to address the knowledge management and dissemination issues.

Open Access Initiative (OAI) launched in early 2000's has provided a new direction to public funded research by promoting progressive publication of the research findings in the public domain. Besides providing better visibility and greater impact factor to the research work, OAI mandate will also elicit better work ensuring quality and relevance of research. OAI also guarantees the integrity of the research by ensuring that all research and scholarship will be available in perpetuity for unrestricted examination and, where relevant, elaboration or refutation. Mahatma Gandhi University took the lead in the country to provide open access to its doctoral theses which was well received by the academic community. The project was appreciated by the government and international agencies. .

We hope the present User Guide will go a long way to empower the research through faster retrieval of information.

Dr. Rajan Gurukkal
Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University





Mahatma Gandhi University

The Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) was established in 1983. It caters to the development of higher education of central regions of Kerala, the southernmost State of India. MGU offers graduate, postgraduate, M.Phil and PhD programmes through its departments in the main campus and 8 satellite campuses. The university has 10 interdisciplinary schools of teaching and research and 11 school of higher learning in applied science and professional studies with academic autonomy. At present the university offers research facilities and guidance in over 40 disciplines through the University departments and approved research

centers. University is having a web-enabled University Central Library and 17 Departmental Libraries and 4 Study Centre Libraries. Centre for Digital Archiving and a Centre for Advanced Research in Library and Information Science offer academic, research and development support. The Library is a member of UGC INFONET e-Journal consortium. It has access to digital libraries like EBSCO and also to full text of more than 10000 international research journals and databases through INFLIBNET.

During 1983-2010 MGU has awarded 1500 doctorates. About 350 faculty members from the university, affiliated colleges and other approved research centers have guided this research. ■



Genesis

Historically, India has had an enviable standing in the world of research. However, the current situation is unsatisfactory across multiple dimensions, and the reasons for this are manifold. An important factor which impacts the quality and quantum of research is the scarcity of talented and dedicated manpower engaged in research. India has only 112 researchers per million population compared to 633 in China and 4374 in USA.

Research is an activity based on intellectual investigation and has the purpose of discovering, interpreting, and revising human knowledge and experience on various aspects of life. It is crucial for the overall development of human society. As the economic paradigm undergoes a change in the globalized world, future economic progress will

increasingly be a function of the intellectual capital that a nation can create. This in turn depends crucially on the quality of academic research. Significant investment in research, accompanied by sustained vision and policy is vital to achieve a long term competitive advantage. While the importance of research and development in science and technology is increasingly recognized, basic research in many other areas like economics, management, social sciences and arts, play an equally important role in the overall development and well-being of a nation.

Research in any area requires continuous intellectual engagement along with a passion for ideas and creative thinking. We need to create a system where these qualities are nurtured and encouraged, thereby providing a pool of students wishing to pursue doctoral studies. Access to ideas, concepts, trends and directions in which research is progressing has always been a mirage for the scholars, while the Government continued to fund research in Universities.

Access to the doctoral theses has been a major topic of discussion for more than a decade among the national agencies of higher education in the country. In 2005 the UGC brought out its Electronic Thesis Online Regulation suggesting for setting up of a system for systematic digital archiving of doctoral research output of Indian universities which was revised in 2009. This was in line with international trend to maintain publicly accessible repositories of doctoral theses.

Taking cue from the UGC Regulations and the Open Access Initiative launched internationally, Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) took the lead in creating its Online Theses Digital Library (<http://mgutheses.org>) which was launched in the web on November 9, 2008. It provides Open Access to all the doctoral dissertations accepted for

awarding PhD by MGU since its inception. Thus MGU became the first University in the country to adhere to the guidelines issued by UGC.

Features

- ▶ Full Text Search
- ▶ Local Language
- ▶ Multi lingual on-line key board
- ▶ User- friendly

The recommendations of UGC are not mandatory and so they still remain to be adhered to by Indian universities. Then more than 50% of the theses from Indian universities are in regional languages and local scripts. This also has got many technical problems in developing full text these archives. With huge ICT Infrastructures developed with the support of UGC and State Governments, even after five years since the introduction of UGC Regulation on the matter, none of the universities in India could launch their official Digital Archives of PhD Theses in the web. In such a context the initiative of Mahatma Gandhi University in this regard deserves special attention.

Most of the technical problems for digital archiving stand cleared in MGU project. MGU is one of the less than a dozen from the 370 universities of India which has amended the PhD Regulation in accordance with UGC Regulation on electronic theses 2009 so that student has to submit a copy of the theses in electronic format to the university as per the specifications and standards fixed.

The MGU has completed in mere six months its ambitious project, which made freely accessible over Internet full text of all doctoral theses approved by the University. In this short period university has completed the task of digitizing around 1200 of the 1500 theses in English, Malayalam, and Hindi accepted by the university during the last 25 years

that is from 1983-2010, and also developed software that could successfully harness the technologies for handling PhD theses in local scripts.

The coverage from its mandatory area that is the theses of the university achieved by MGU is more than 90%. A comparison of the theses archives from advanced countries with MGU archive available in the web can reveal to anybody that the software developed for MGU is more effective and speedy for archiving dissertations especially in India where multiple languages will have to be dealt with in the same archive. Other Indian Universities can easily adopt the solutions developed for MGU.

The major difficulty faced by Indian universities in developing full text archives of dissertations is the need to handle multiple Indian scripts. The software developed by International Organizations could handle the International languages but for Indian languages they were not effective and useful. In every university more than 50% dissertations will be in local scripts usually in more than one Indian language. By leveraging the Indian language localization tools available with many NGO's MGU project has created a digital library package that can handle English and the Indian languages Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada the universities in Kerala have to handle.

For universities with most of their dissertations in local scripts like the Telugu University, Tamil University, Dravidian University etc at present Nitya D' Arch used at MGU is the only solution that could successfully manage local scripts. While the national projects and that of other universities are going on experimenting and customizing foreign packages for Indian situations MGU project has developed its own package which can process full text archives in English and all local scripts of India in a very user friendly manner. ■

Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library

Of the theses accepted by Mahatma Gandhi University 1200 theses have been digitized and uploaded in the Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library with full search facility. This is the biggest collection any university in India could officially put in the web. Within a short while the back file collection will be completed and afterwards each new thesis will be uploaded on the day on which the degree is granted.

Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library is first of its kind by any Indian University to apply a special archiving package for hosting in the web the entire knowledge it generated through doctoral research programmes. The package Nitya D' Arch used for developing and hosting the collection has multilingual search facility, multilingual online keyboard and it satisfies UNICODE standards. Presently it covers English, Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil and Kannada the languages used in Kerala. The specificity in search and retrieval offered by Online Nitya for MGU theses archive is not available in any other digital archives developed or used in India at present. Its metadata can be made OAI-PMH (Open Access initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvest) compliant. ■



“An Important Step Towards Democratization of Knowledge”

Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam

Launching the Archive in 9th November 2008 HE Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, Former President of India stated that the project is an important step towards democratization of knowledge and that he was sure the model of digital archives created by MG University will be emulated by other Indian universities leading to transparency in the education system.

Dr. Richard M. Stallman, the Father of Free Software Movement and Dr. Peter Suber who drafted the Budapest Declaration on Open Access lauded the



HE Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam launches the
MGU Open Access Online Digital Library of PhD Theses

effort as an important Open Access Initiative from India and asked other Indian universities also to redistribute such research documents to widen the reach of public funded research activities.

The MGU Dissertation archive is live in Internet without any failure 24 hrs 365 days a year for free access worldwide since its launching by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at www.mgutheses.org. ■

Nitya Digital Archive

Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library has used the software Nitya D' Arch. The software was customized as per the requirement of MG University by Beehive DC a group providing solutions for digital library and content management. The groups has conceived and implemented many complex digital archiving projects since 2002 and are proficient in content management and indexing methods especially in Indian local scripts. They are also involved in the project Malayalam Granthavivarm a web based reliable searchable archive of metadata for Malayalam books published from 1772. Their development team, which associated with MGU in the project, consisted of experts in documentation and linguistics. R & D for customization of Nitya was also undertaken at Centre for Advanced Research in Library and Information Science at the MG University. Nitya is the first bibliographic information system applied to digital archiving in Kerala, capable of search and retrieval using Malayalam and Tamil Scripts. Nitya is a procedure

as well as a programme. Search and retrieval of individual pages is a unique feature. While other programmes like Greenstone, DSpace etc retrieve whole documents, which contain the subject or key term of user's search, Nitya can retrieve specific pages where the information user sought for occurs and from there user can navigate to other pages of the document. It is Unicode compliant and multilingual. Online Nitya D' Arch is the web based version of Nitya developed to meet the requirement of Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library.

Deep Indexing: Unique Feature of Nitya D'Arch

Digital Library (DL) packages like DSpace, Greenstone, GenISIS etc provide only facilities parallel to that of traditional libraries and archives, with only an additional speed in search and retrieval of documents achieved by computers. When searching with key words users are presented with the whole e-Book instead of the exact page where his information occurs. User has to turn pages to reach his specific information; the only difference is that he is using electronic gadgets rather than his fingers! Getting a whole e-Book while we want only a single leaf can't be considered superior to a system where a

reader can pick a book from the rack consulting a catalogue in a wooden box. DLs are becoming black holes of e-Books where the light of information kept inner is barred ever from the outer world

But the technologies provided by ICT can be harnessed to achieve retrieval of specific information from huge collections or libraries and archives, in the place of document retrieval. Nitya D Arch uses deep indexing methods with which a searcher with a single step is able to reach the exact place where the information he/she requires occur in an e-Book from among, hundreds of pages of the book and millions of pages of books in that collection. For this the destinations of book marks are 'hooked' to the search engine in Nitya D'Arch, which lead search deeper into e-Books.

Digitization of documents like PhD Theses shall not merely replicate in digital form the traditional document collections and their catalogues. Research like that done in Nitya projects and interrogative tools for digitized materials developed in such projects by Centre for advanced Research in Library and Information Science, MGU, Beehive Digital concepts etc make digital surrogates more amenable to certain types of interpretation, such as full text searching and deep indexing as well as extension of search through multiple sources. ■



Selected as Best Web Resource by INTUTE

Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library (<http://mgutheses.org>) has been selected as one of the Very Best of Web Resources for education and research by INTUTE functioning under Government of UK's Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The MGU Theses Library is accessible through INTUTE at <http://www.intute.ac.uk>. The INTUTE citation occurs at the INTUTE website:http://www.intute.ac.uk/socials_ciencs/cgi-bin/fullrecord.pl?handle=20090324-15000040. INTUTE is a consortium of universities working with a whole host of partners, bringing together the expertise of people and processes through which academic and research resources in the web are evaluated for inclusion in its system. It is based in UK. The mission of INTUTE is to advance education and research by promoting the best of the Web easily accessible in a single system, through a process of evaluation and collaboration. INTUTE provides through its system access to the very best web resources for education and research. The software packages used and content of all the sources included in INTUE is evaluated and selected by a network of experts. MGU Online Theses Digital Library is the only theses collection of any Indian University so far included in INTUTE. Nitya D' Arch is also the only Indian software for full text digital libraries that got into INNTUTE network. With this selection the citations for dissertations from MGU has increased tremendously in research in European countries which give international exposure to MGU research.■



MGU Becomes First Indian University to Endorse Open Access for Sharing Scholarly Work

October 19-23 was marked as the first international Open Access Week. Open Access Week is celebrated to broaden awareness and understanding of Open Access to research, including access policies from all types of research funders, within the international higher education community and the general public.

MGU during the Open Access Week on 20.10.2009 endorsed measures to allow open access to its research with the broader academic community. MGU decided to provide Open Access Digital Archives of PhD Dissertations of MG University hosted in the web, accepted Online Nitya D' Arch package used in its dissertation archive as the official package for the MG University Online Theses Library, decide that each thesis shall be uploaded in the digital archives within a week after the approval of the theses by the Syndicate.

By the above resolution MGU became the first Indian university to adopt Open Access to make the results of doctoral research in the university transparent to academics World Wide. The decision of the MGU speaks of the university's commitment to increase its contribution to world knowledge and promote free access to the results of publicly funded research. ■



MGU Becomes First Signatory with INFLIBNET-UGC for Contributing Digital Theses Collection to National Depository

MGU was the first university to sign MOU with UGC-INFLIBNET for implementation of e-theses and dissertation project. Inspired by the MGU theses archive launched in 9th November 2008 UGC also launched on 27.01 2010 a digital repository for pooling the e-theses and dissertations of Indian universities named iETD. With the signing of the MOU INFLIBNET has agreed to host all the theses of MGU Archive in its iETD repository as well which will serve like a mirror site for MGU Theses Library. This will remove any possibility failure of access to the archive even on extraordinary situations. This will also further enhance the visibility of MGU theses among Indian academic community.



Kerala State E-Governance Award

The Kerala e-Governance Awards were instituted in 2008 by the Government to accredit outstanding e-governance initiatives in the State. It is recognition for ICT enabled citizen centric services and projects that have improved the quality of service delivery.

Mahatma Gandhi University has won the First Place for its Online Theses Digital Library in the 2009 edition of State e- Governance Awards. The jury consisting of ICT experts and administrators opined that “Mahatma Gandhi University has shown remarkable prowess in deploying ICT tools through its Open Access Initiative, which has become a model for the Nation.”

Kerala Law, parliamentary Affairs and Public Works Minister Sri M Vijayakumar presented the Award at a public function organized at Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram on 4th November 2010 which was received by Dr. R. Raman Nair, University Librarian who initiated the project, representing MG University. ■

Objectives of MGU Online Theses Digital Library

- ▶ To enhance exposure to the academic research conducted in the university
- ▶ To prevent duplications and plagiarisms in research
- ▶ To enhance quality of research and trigger further investigations.
- ▶ To ensure accountability, transparency and responsibility of research
- ▶ To provide opportunity for social audit of research.
- ▶ To provide Open Access to knowledge generated by the University

Unique Features of MGU Online Theses Digital Library

- ▶ Exhaustive collection of theses
- ▶ General retrieval of the whole theses as well as specific retrieval of pages/sections
- ▶ Open database allowing future migration to OAI-PMH compliant packages
- ▶ Continuous updating of the repository of MGU research ■

Mahatma Gandhi Open Access Digital Library of PhD Theses

Technical Data

Title

Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Library

Description

Mahatma Gandhi University is an interdisciplinary university based in Kerala, India. This website provides free access to a growing collection of its online doctoral theses (e-theses) in Sanskrit, Malayalam, Hindi and English. A wide range of subject areas from the humanities, sciences and social sciences are covered in the institutional repository. There is particularly strong coverage of Indian history, society, politics and culture; Gandhi studies; international relations, foreign policy and regional issues in South Asia (incorporating relations and security between the nations of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh). Copyright and technical information is displayed on the website.

Keywords – controlled

Post colonialism; social history; political history; economic history; colonial history; Asiatic religions; Asian studies; Asian organizations; Asian and pacific languages; theses

Keywords – Uncontrolled

India; Pakistan; South Asia; Pakistan; Bangladesh; orientalism; Kashmir

Type

Doctoral Dissertations Approved by the university (collections)

URL

<http://www.mgutheses.org/> [English;], and <http://www.mgutheses.in/> [English;]

Classification

Research Tools, History, Culture, Society, Politics, Elections in Asia International Security, Asia, India, Pakistan, Political Parties, Asia

Country of origin

India

Requirements

Adobe Acrobat (PDF)

Technical Data

Open Access. Multilingual data input and Boolean Search. Compatible with any browser on any operating system. No need for additional software like java or flash. Only browser is needed. Live and dedicated Linux Server, can cater thousands of simultaneous requests without performance loss. Built on PHP programming language in combination with MySQL. Retrieval of specific pages/sections together with the entire dissertations. Open database structure allowing future migration to OAIPMH compliant packages. Unicode Compliant. Query building and searching using English, Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil and Kannada scripts. Unique deep indexing technology.

Date of Launch

9 November 2008



How to Use MGU Online Digital Archives

The user Interface of MGU Online Theses Digital Library is very simple and is similar to Google Search Engine. Subject keywords are to be entered in the search form given in the Home page. Then we have to Click the 'Search' button

List of Relevant Theses

When the 'Search' button is clicked a list of relevant theses is displayed. All the titles of the retrieved theses having the search term in title, as well as highly relevant to search topic are first displayed. After that in continuation all the sections in other theses related to the query are listed.

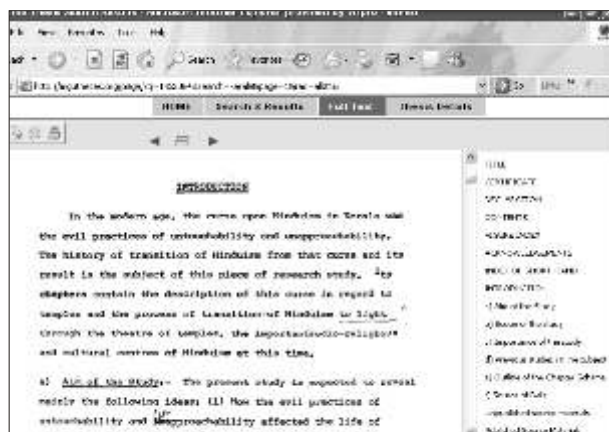
The list of theses generated by a query can be printed for future reference if essential.

CATEGORY	TITLE & SECTIONS	SCHOLAR	YEAR
THESIS	ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PAST AND PRESENT OF KERALA	ABHIRAM K	2005
THESIS	THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PAST AND PRESENT OF KERALA	ABHIRAM K	2005
THESIS	THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PAST AND PRESENT OF KERALA	ABHIRAM K	2005
THESIS	THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PAST AND PRESENT OF KERALA	ABHIRAM K	2005
THESIS	THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PAST AND PRESENT OF KERALA	ABHIRAM K	2005

From this list user can chose the required title or theses or the section of any theses. For this the user has to click at the concerned item in the list. This opens the concerned full text and user can go to the full text of the thesis or concerned section.

Navigating Through Full Text

Once the full text is opened user can navigate through entire thesis back and forth. Book marks provided on the right side of the screen help the user to go to the relevant chapters instantly if needed.



At present downloading of the theses or printing of full theses or selected pages are not permitted. Only one selected page can be printed at a time. Providing further facilities is under consideration.

Advanced Search

Searches can be made specific to categories like Title or Scholar or Guide. 'Advanced Search' option permits the user to build complex Boolean queries in single steps.

Specifying 'Marx' and 'Education' in title field will retrieve theses having both these words in the title.

Multi Lingual Search Facility: Malayalam

Mahatma Gandhi University Online Theses Digital Library is the only Theses Digital Archives presently existing anywhere in the world, which has multilingual, search capability (i.e. for searching Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, other Indian scripts and English)

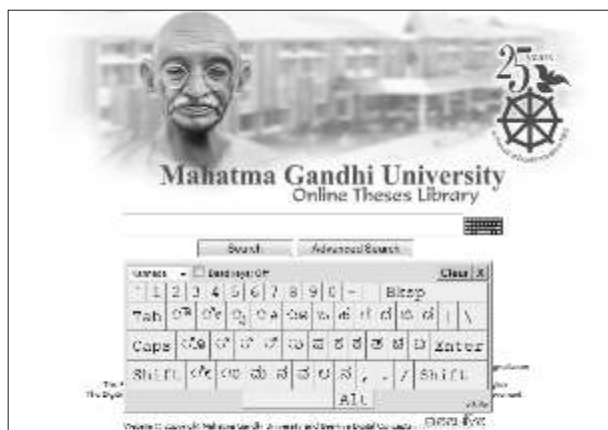
If user is not very familiar with the Malayalam key board or other language keyboards, user can click



on the key board symbol on the right side of the search form and from the list select the Malayalam online key board in the screen. By clicking on the letters in the online key board user can type the query in the search form.

Multi Lingual Search Facility: Hindi, Tamil and Kannada

By clicking on the TAB at the left side of the key board user can get the list of Indian language key boards that are active and select Hindi or other



languages in the same way in which Malayalam was selected. Even though Tamil and Kannada theses are not available in the collection, facilities for those scripts are also activated by default and those language theses can also be uploaded and searched through concerned language provision in this archive.



Getting Bibliographical Data of a Theses

At any time while scanning through the documents by Clicking the tab 'Theses Details', user gets full bibliographical data of the thesis. ■

Credits

Project Coordinator: Dr. R. Raman Nair, University Librarian, MGU. **Inter Departmental Links and Publicity:** Sri. G. Sreekumar, Public Relations Officer, MGU. **Associate Coordinators:** Laila T Abraham, Deputy Librarian (Management), Annu George, Assistant Librarian Sr.Scale, (Technical Aspects), Raghunathan Nair, Administrative Officer, (Administration). **Technical Assistance:** Nikesh.N, Reference Assistant, Sebastian Joseph, Reference Assistant, Sunny.C.P, Technical Assistant, Anil Kumar, Reference Assistant, Sreeja.K, Library Assistant (Temporary), Kochumol.K.M, Library Assistant (Temporary), Sangeetha Ramachandran, Library Assistant (Temporary), Manoj.K.B, Library Assistant (Temporary), Dhanya.G.Nair, Library Assistant (Temporary). **Programming Support and Guidance (Voluntary):** Sri. K. H. Hussain, KFRI, Anivar Aravind, Swatanta Malayalam computing, K.P.N. Unni, Kriyate, C S Sathikumar, KLAS, P.M. Abdul Khadi, and Rasheed, Project Managers of Beehive Digital Concepts. **Archiving Assistants:** Rajan P K, Pushpalatha R Satyan, Anupam Mol M K, Jisha V Babu, Sajitha, Chandran, Tiffana K , Shiju Das C D. **Organizations Involved:** Centre for Advanced Research in Library and Information Science, MGU, Beehive Digital Concepts, Cochin, Centre for Informatics Research and Development, Swathanthra Malayalam Computing (SMC), Public Relations department, MGU. ■

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