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LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH IN GAUHATI UNIVERSITY (1996-2021): A BRIEF ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Research is the way of finding new knowledge, knowing the unknown or unearthing of fact, and an authentic base of formulation of theories, principles and law. Research in Library and Information Science must have the practicality and validity as it is a professional subject. Thus, research in the field really helps to find the existing problems, solution to the problems, and to assess the future prospects through the systematic and scientific approaches to the research. In this particular paper the author is endeavoured to study the research contribution of Department of Library and Information Science (DLISC), Gauhati University which is the oldest state university of North East India established in 1948 and the Department of Library and Information Science came into existence in the year 1966.

Keywords: Gauhati University, Department of Library and Information Science, Research, Theses

1. Introduction

Research is a way of thinking and an approach which leads to revelation of new knowledge. In a academic setup, Research activities are one of the core activities of Universities. It is kind of contribution or supplementary to the existing universe of knowledge. Many instances are evident that some of the universities are sought after by the aspirants to get admitted because of the excellence in the research activities, its endorsement and support in a specific area. In the present scenario, research plays a vital role in institutions reputation, ranking, funding, endorsement/support from the government as well as from the other funding agencies which helps in collaboration with other institutions, and bodies which gives encouragement and exposure to the researchers. Thus, Bibliomatric parameters are of great significance which needs to be considered.

2. Objective

The study is confined to the following motive:

- ✓ To study the contribution of Library and Information Science Doctoral Theses of Gauhati University.
- ✓ To identify the most productive/prolific guide.
- ✓ To identify the different area of Doctoral Theses.

✓ To identify the trend of research.

3. Methodology

"The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009 Amendment made on 2016) dated 5th May 2016 mandates submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by the researchers in universities." (https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/). Thus, the paper is accomplished base on the retrieved data from Sodhganga, repository of theses, manintained by INFLIBNET centre, Ahamedabad, related to the number of theses submitted by Gauhati University as on 18.07.22. It is observed that, first theses was completed in the year 1996 and till 18.07.22 last theses submitted was in the year 2021. Hence, 1996-2021 has been taken as the base year for the study. Data are analysed and conclusion are put forward based on the analysis, insight gained through the retrieved data and survey of different literatures.

4. Literature Review

Many literatures have been searched out for the purpose and much work has been done related to scholarly contributions in different span of time. Jhamb, Garvita and Samim, Abdus (https://core.ac.uk/) studied the theses contribution of top ten central universities of India to Sodhganga. In study it was found that Aligarh Muslim University (33.7%) is the most prolific followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University (25.5%). It is also faculty of sciences has the maximum contributions. Singh, Javendra (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344026304) also conducted a study LIS theses contribution base on the data available from University News (1993-1997). According to the author, much work is done in public library/special library/academic library as compare to reference services, manuscripts, etc. And compare to science discipline, LIS research is not satisfactory. Pandita. Ramesh. etal(https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/CC-02-2021-0005/full/html) have taken Scopus as the data source (2011-2020) and through analysis it was found that India was placed in 5th position (4.59%) in regard to contribution of LIS research and USA stand 1st with 33.03% of contribution in the discipline. Moreover, University of Delhi and University of Kashmir have the active contribution than the other universities. Patra, Swapan Kumar (https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2107/2107.13238.pdf) asserts that Web of Science and Scopus has limited in LIS coverage, so the author has taken the publications under consideration from Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA) and used scientometrics and Social Network Analysis (SNA) tools for analysis. Kumar observed that need of strengthening the LIS research and collaboration with international institutes.

5. Brief Glance of the Universities with DLISc in North East India

The table given below only reflects the State and Central Universities and private universities are excluded:

Sl Name of the University Year of **Total** Number **Establishment** Theses of No University Dept. Theses Of LIS in LIS 1. Gauhati University (GU) 1948 1966 6007 61(36%) 2. North East Hill University 1973 41(24%) 1985 2426 (NEHU) 3. Manipur University (MU) 1980 1980 1220 29(17%) 4. Assam University (AU) 1994 2009 1899 10(6%) Mizoram University 2001 28(17%) 5. 2002 637 (MZU)

Table 1: list of DLISC in North East India

The table shows that the Gauhati University is the oldest university of N.E region established in 1948 a year later after the independence. And Mizoram University is the youngest established on 2001. It is evident from the data that after 18 years of establishment of Gauhati University, Department of Library and Information Science came into existence. Likewise, in Assam University and NEHU it took 15 years and 12 years respectively. It's a good sign that in Manipur University, Department of Library and Information Science established along with the establishment of the university, whereas in Mizoram University it came into existence after a year.

So far contribution of research is concern, Gauhati University being the oldest among the other, has maximum number of production of 61, followed by NEHU and Manipur University with 41 and 29 theses in their credit respectively. Mizoram University is proliferating in the field with 28 research contributions. For better perception, contribution in percentage is shown using pie chart:

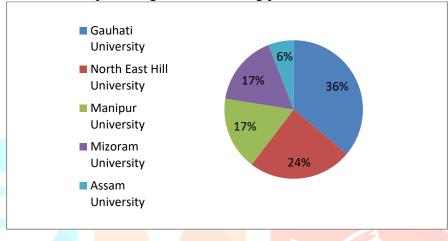


Figure 1: percentage of research contribution

Gauhati University has 45 Departments and contributed 6007 theses inclusive of all Departments as on 18.07.22:

Table 2: departments of Gauhati University

Sl.No	Department	No. Of	Sl. No.	Department	No. Of
		Theses			Theses
1.	Anthropology	178	24.	Geography	175
2.	Applied Sciences	14	25.	Geological Science	98
3.	Arabic	49	26.	Hindi	65
4.	Assamese	400	27.	History	163
5.	Bengali	74	28.	Information Technology	10
6.	Bioengineering and 45 29. Instrumentation and USIC Technology		70		
7.	Biotechnology	226	30.	Law	111
8.	Bodo	19	31.	Library and Information Science	61
9.	Botany	449	32.	Linguistics	36
10.	Business Administration	36	33.	Mathematics	253
11.	Chemistry	401	34.	Medicine	52
12.	Commerce	225	35.	Modern Indian Languages	236
13.	Communication and Journalism	45	36.	Persian	23
14.	Computer Science	35	37.	Philosophy	127

	and Application				
15.	Economics	204	38.	Physics	341
16	Education	288	39.	Political Science	194
17	Electronics and communication Technology	39	40.	Psychology	56
18.	Engineering	70	41.	Sanskrit	166
19.	English	174	42.	Sociology	8
20.	English Language Teaching	10	43.	Statistics	99
21.	Environmental Science	59	44.	Women Studies	20
22.	Folklore	198	45.	Zoology	390
23.	Foreign Languages	15			

From the table given above, it is self evident that the Department of Botany has the maximum number of 449 doctoral theses in their credit while the Department of Sociology 8 completed theses in their credit. Department of Library and Information Science which is the study area of present paper holds submitted 61 theses.

Other than theses, Gauhati University has contributed scholarly research papers also. Based on the Scopus database, Borah, Kakali. (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351955366) has done bibliometric study of scholarly contribution of some of the universities of Assam and found that Tezpur University has the highest contribution of 3847 papers followed by Gauhati University with 3317 publications.

Table 3:contribution of research papers

University	Publi	cation (2011-2020)
Assam University	2260	
Bodoland University	157	
Cotton University	429	
Dibrugarh University	1568	
Gauhati University	3317	7.77
Tezpur University	3847	

Source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351955366

Gauhati University, being a premier state university of Assam, has an excellence in academic and since its inception, nurturing the scholar and scholastic ventures.

6. Research Contribution of Gauhati University

Since 1996, research activity of GU has initiated. In other words, after 30 years of its existence research contribution has begun. Gauhati University has encouraging and conducive academic environment with well equipped library services and adequate infrastructure. The data related to year wise research activity is tabulated below for lucid comprehension:

Table 4: list of theses and respective supervisors

Sl.no	Year of	No. Of	Present	Maximum Theses Guided by
	completi	theses	ation in	
	on	Submitted	%	
1.	2021	1	1.6%	Dr. Dhrubajit Das -1
2.	2020	2	3.2%	Dr. Sanjay Kr. Singh-1, Dr. Dipen Deka-1
3.	2019	2	3.2%	Dr. Sanjay Kr. Singh-1, Dr. Tilak Hazarika-1
4.	2018	4	6.6%	Dr. Narendra Lahkar-2, Dr. Sanjay Kr. Singh-2
5.	2017	9	14.7%	Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman-3, Dr. Sanjay Kr. Singh-3, Dr.
				Narendra Nath Sharma-2, Dr. Narendra Lahkar-1
6.	2016	8	13.1%	Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma-3, Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman-2, Dr.
				Narendra Lahkar-2, Dr. Sanjay Kr. Singh-1
7.	2015	3	4.9%	Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma-1, Dr. Narendra Lahkar-1, Dr.
			<u>, 200</u>	Sanjay Kr. Singh-1
8.	2014	3	4.9%	Dr. Naren <mark>dra Nath Sharma-</mark> 1, Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman-1, Dr.
				Narendra Lahkar-1
9.	2013	6	9.8%	Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma-2, Dr. Alaka Buragohain-2, Dr.
				Narendra Lahkar-2
10.	2012	2	3.2%	Dr. Naren <mark>dra N</mark> ath Sharma-1, Dr. Narendra Lahkar-1
11.	2011	4	6.6%	Dr. Rajan <mark>i Kanta Barman-2, Dr. Nar</mark> endra Lahkar-1, Dr. Alaka
				Buragohai <mark>n-1</mark>
12.	2010	1	1.6%	Dr. Naren <mark>dra Lahkar-1</mark>
13.	2009	1	1.6%	Dr. Alaka Buragohain-1
14.	2008	4	6.6%	Dr. Narendra Lahkar-2, Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma-1, Dr.
				Rajani Kanta Barman-1
15.	2007	3	4.9%	Dr. Narendra Lahkar-1, Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma-1, Dr. Alaka
				Buragohain-1
16.	2006	3	4.9%	Dr. Narendra Lahkar-1, Dr. Alaka Buragohain-1, Dr. Narendra
				Nath Sharma-1
17.	2005	1	1.6%	Dr. Narendra Lahkar-1
18.	2004	1	1.6%	Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma-1
19.	2003	1	1.6%	Dr.Alaka Buragohain-1
20.	1997	1	1.6%	Dr.Alaka Buragohain-1
21.	1996	1	1.6%	Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma-1
		Total=61		

It is self evident through the above table that, Gauhati University has a repository of theses since 1996 which is in the credit of Dr. Bhrigu Ram Bharali having the title "Role of Special Libraries in Assam and its Socieconomic Impact on Societies: A Study" Guided by Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma. And till date repository is enriched with many theses through Shodhganga maintained by INFLIBNET centre. 2017, is the most productive year for the DLISc Gauhati University with maximum number of research activities having, 14.7% of its total contribution followed by 2016 and 2013 with 13.1% and 9.8% respectively. However it may mention that, there is large gap of 5 years between the years 1997 to 2003 where no research activities have been seen.

7. Most Prolific Guide/Supervisor

For any kind of research, mentor or supervisor is a must. They play a vital role in carrying out the research in a right direction systematically and smoothly. The table underneath gives a glance of number of theses supervised by the esteemed faculties of DLISc., Gauhati University:

Sl.No.	Name of the Supervisor	No. Of Theses Guided
1.	Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma	15
2.	Dr. Alaka Buragohain	8
3.	Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman	9
4.	Dr. Narendra Lahkar	17
5.	Dr. Sanjay Kr. Singh	9
6.	Dr. Dhrubajit Das	1
7.	Dr. Tilak Hazarika	1
8.	Dr <mark>. Dip</mark> en Deka	1

Table 5: number of theses guided by supervisors

The above table is self explanatory and it is worth mentioning that, the most productive supervisor of DLISC Gauhati University is Dr. Narendra Lahkar with highest number of 17 successful research activities under his supervision. The second productive supervisor is Dr. Narendra Nath Sharma with 15 successful research contributions. Moreover, Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman and Dr. Sanjay Kr. Singh have contributed 9 successful research products and Dr. Alaka Buragohain, contributed 8 researches under her able supervision in the domain of Library and Information Science. Dr. Dhrubajit Das, Dr. Tilak Hazarika and Dr. Dipen Deka have also contributed by supervising 1 successful research activity each in the field. The bar chart shows the data for better observation:

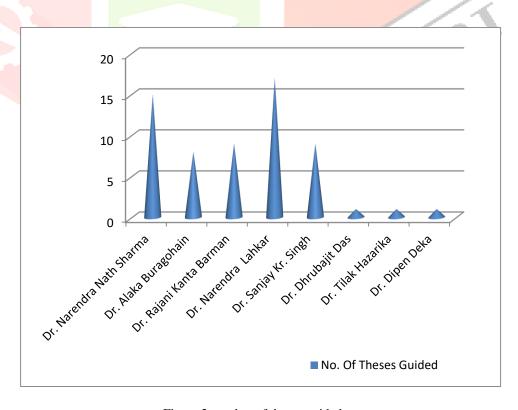


Figure 2:number of theses guided

8. Research Area of Doctoral Theses

Different areas have been undertaken for research in different slot of time. Therefore, the various areas taken up for research are given below:

Table 6: list of research areas

Sl. No.	Year	Research Topic
1.	2021	1.Usage of ICT in the college libraries of Assam: A study
2.	2020	1.Use of ICT in the libraries of medical institutions in north east India: An
		analytical study
		2. Ontology on traditional dances of Assam for the semantic web with special
		reference to the dances of Rabha community
3.	2019	1.Citation analysis of doctoral theses of selected disciplines submitted to Tripura
		university: A Bibliomatric study
		2.Research contributions of the Universities of Assam through the prism of web
		of science: A scientrometric study
4.	2018	1.Problems and prospects of networking in public library system in Assam: A
1.	2010	study
		2.Preservation of library documents in digital environment with reference to
		college libraries of Assam: An empirical study
		3.Perception and satisfaction level of open access journals in university libraries
		of Assam: A study
		4.Management of e resources in the health science libraries Of Assam: An
		analytical study
5.	2017	1.Motivating library and information science LIS professionals in engineering
5.	2017	college and institute libraries of Assam for qualitative development
		2.Impact of INFLIBNET in the modernization of university libraries in India
		with special reference to North Eastern region
		3. Use of library software packages in the libraries of institutes of higher learning
		in Assam with reference to serial control module: An evaluative study
	Brak.	4. Growth and development of university libraries of Assam in the context of
		Ranganathans fifth law of library science in it environment
		5. The effectiveness of continuing education programme for LIS professionals a
		study of university libraries of north east India
		6. The factors of competency development among the working library
		professionals of the university libraries of North East India :Challenges and
		realities
		7. Strategic capacity planning for hybrid library environment
		8.Impact of information technology on the collection development in university
		libraries of Assam: A study
		9. Prospects of consortia based resource sharing among the agricultural university
	2016	of north east India with special reference to central agricultural university Imphal
6.	2016	1. College library effectiveness study with special reference to the Tinsukia and
		Dibrugarh district
		2. Evaluation of university library websites of west Bengal: A study from
		librarians perspectives
		3. Challenges and realities of children libraries of Assam: An analytical study
		4. Prospects of using open source library management software in college and
		university libraries of Assam
		5. Job analysis of library professionals in science and technology institutes of
		Assam: An evaluative study
		6. Management of Indian institutional repositories: An evaluative study
		7. Job satisfaction of university library professionals in Assam: A critical

		analysis
		8. Designing of an e learning model for supplementing LIS education
		programmes
7.	2015	1. Management of manuscript collection in Assam in digital era a practical
		approach using ICT tools
		2. Prospects of coordinating Sarba Siksha Abhijan and rural libraries for social
		development in Assam with special reference to Kamrup district
		3. LIS education in the universities of India a study on the course contents with
		reference to universities of N.E India
8.	2014	1.Library services in medical and paramedical colleges in Assam : Analytical
		study
		2. Use of web based resources in engineering college libraries of Assam: An
		empirical study
		3. Collection development in the libraries of technical institutions in Assam A
		study in the context of emerging ICT
9.	2013	1. The role of library professionals for effective use of library resources in the
		present context a study with reference to the university libraries of Assam
		2. Documentation of information resources in Womens studies Centres of India
		with reference to North East India
		3. A critical study of preservation techniques for Sanchi manuscripts of Assam
		4. Use of online resources among research scholars in social sciences in
		university libraries of Assam
		5. Audio visual materials and their management and preservation in television
		media organizations
		6. Growth of research output in science and technology institutes in Assam and
		the role of libraries
10.	2012	1. The working and functioning of the Assam Legislative Assembly library and
		its use and impact on legislators and administrators: A critical study
	and the second	2. Digital resources management with reference to Indian university libraries
11.	2011	1. Prospects of human resource development in the libraries of institutions of
		higher education in North East India with special reference to library automation:
		A critical study
	1600	2. A study on growth and development of literature in Naga languages
		3. Information needs and information seeking behaviour of urban community and
		its satisfaction by the public library system
		4. Citation pattern of doctoral dissertations in physics submitted to the Gauhati
		university Guwahati 1993 2000
12.	2010	1. Buddhist Manuscripts with special reference to Arunachal Pradesh utilisation
		restoration and digitisation
13.	2009	1. Use of internet service in the university libraries of Assam: An evaluative
		study
14.	2008	1. Information seeking behaviour of degree students of general colleges of Barak
		valley
		2. Impact of user education on academic libraries in Assam a study on strategic
		management of resources and services
		3. Public library system in Bhutan a systematic approach for future developments
		4. Search engines and their search performance in retrieving internet resources:
		An evaluative study
15.	2007	1. Retrieving information on the socioeconomic and socio-cultural conditions of
		north east India using different internet search engines
		2. Public libraries in a multicultural society and their role in promoting social
		harmony a critical study with special reference to Assam
		3. Prospects of application of information technology in academic libraries in

		Assam: A study
16.	2006	1. Feasibility of library software packages for library automation in higher
		educational institutions of Assam: A critical study
		2. Document description and their practices in university libraries in north east
		India: A study
		3. Reflection of rural information in leading newspapers of Assam : A critical
		study
17.	2005	1. A study on organization and services of libraries in research and training
		programme in financial institutions of North East India
18.	2004	1. A study of public library system as community information centers in
		Nagaland: Realities and challenges.
19.	2003	1. A study of the trend of growth of agricultural literature in north eastern region
		from 1976 to 1996 and its impact upon higher studies in agricultural science
20.	1997	1. Prospect of automated cataloguing in the three university libraries of Assam
		based on users satisfaction under mejor catalogue codes
21.	1996	1. Role of special libraries in Assam and its socio economic impact on societies:
		A study

From the bottom, in 1996 first research concern was confined to special libraries in Assam and its socio-economic impact on the societies. In 1997, metadata creation through automated cataloguing was focused. In 2003-2005, services of libraries in research and training programme, public library system and growth of literature in agricultural literature in N.E regions from 1976 to 1996 was studied. In 2006, the study areas are very unique. In 2007, areas are mostly on use of ICT have been reflected. In 2008, areas are very consolidating related to information seeking pattern, user education, public library system and evaluation of search engines in information retrieval. In 2009-2012, very interesting areas has been ventured pertaining to Assam Legislative Assembly library, digital resources in management in university libraries, human resource development with reference to library automation, citation pattern, Buddhists manuscript and use of internet services. In 2013-2016, the areas are very relevant and it is evident that application and use of ICT in various prospects have been studies. In 2017-2021, more or less focus area is use of ICT from library and user perspectives.

Areas chosen for the research are very relevant and unique which really conform to the contemporary issues of the then milieu. However, ICT is the prevailing interest area in different domain. Moreover, other than academic libraries; public libraries and special libraries are also taken up for the research.

It is noteworthy that, thesis submitted by Amal Kumar Mondal in 2011 entitled "Citation Pattern of Doctoral Dissertations in Physics Submitted to the Gauhati University, Guwahati (1993-2000)" under the supervision of Dr. Rajani Kanta Barman is one the bulkiest thesis with 336 pages.

9. Trend of Research

Preliminarily, the research was base on the domain of role of libraries and its impact on the society. Only one research is related to automated cataloguing system. Gradually, the research area is inclined to the use of ICT in different libraries, its related services, library software, open sources, web base resources, open access journals, search engines, internet services in the libraries, citation pattern, digital resource management, preservation techniques in digital environment, consortia, LIS education, e-learning model, etc. Overall, it is reflected that, more or less almost the research areas are very different and unique. But in the recent years, it is self evident that research areas has more touch of modern concepts.

10. Conclusion

Quality education is the lifeline of universities, where as research is the contemporary and sustainable effort to supplement the academic enthusiast to add something to the existing knowledge (discovery, creation, innovation), enhance understanding and applicability of research outcome to solve the real life situations. Basically, research areas are directly related to the contemporary issues but it may also be mentioned that other than the contemporary issues, research can also be retrospective, descriptive and analytical to quench the thirst for knowledge. Gauhati University is the oldest among the other universities of N.E. region. It has the base and fertile ground for the exceptional research in the near future. Moreover, Gauhati University has not only contributed in research but it also encouraged the young generations of the state as well as the neighbouring states through LIS education as a professional course.

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