

## INFLIBNET Centre

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Shodhganga

(A Repository of Theses and Dissertations submitted to the Universities in India)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered into on **4<sup>th</sup> June 2012** between the INFLIBNET Centre, an IUC of University Grants Commission located at Ahmedabad, hereinafter referred to as "INFLIBNET" and **Gujarat University, Ahmedabad** (University / Deemed University / Inter-University Centre), here in after referred to as the '**University**'.

WHEREAS, INFLIBNET Centre, an Inter-university Centre of the University Grants Commission, as its mandate, promotes open access to scholarly content generated in universities. The Centre has computers, network, software infrastructure and technical know-how required for hosting electronic versions of theses and dissertations in open access with interface to search retrieve and access these content.

**WHEREAS Gujarat University** (University / Deemed University / Inter University Centre) has agreed to take part in the process of digitisation of old theses and dissertations (not available in computerized machine-readable format) and building-up of digital repository and to promote, share and host its ETD in 'Shodhganga: A reservoir of Indian theses submitted to the Universities in India' and other universities in open access. 'Shodhganga' is a name coined by INFLIBNET Centre for referring to the repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations. The word "Shodh" originates from Sanskrit and stands for research and discovery. The 'Ganga' is the holiest, longest and largest river in Indian subcontinent which has held heart of its people captive and drawn millions of people to its banks since the dawn of history. The Ganga is the symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization, ever changing, ever flowing, ever loved and revered by its people. "Shodhganga", a repository of theses and dissertations submitted to Indian universities, is expected to keep growing to a formidable size as more and more researchers from India submit their research works to this ever growing reservoir.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) defines responsibilities, liabilities and commitments of the institutions involved to ensure proper system implementation, to meet the objectives pertaining to submission and access to Electronic Theses and Dissertations as envisaged by the UGC vide its Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulation, 2009 dated 1st June, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements herein contained, INFLIBNET and the University agree to the following terms and conditions:

#### I. INFLIBNET Centre

1. Provide access to ETD hosting server(s) at the INFLIBNET Centre 'Shodhganga' to the University with accompanied software interface enabling University / its student to create metadata and upload their theses and dissertations in ETD repositories designed for this purpose. The INFLIBNET will take the responsibility of keeping the data intact and usable, keep back-up of the data so as to avoid its loss. The INFLIBNET will deploy tools and

techniques of digital preservation to ensure continuing access to scholarly content in digital formats and to protect them from media failure, physical loss and obsolescence.

2. Recommend to the UGC to extend financial assistance to the Universities under Sections 12(B) and 2(f) of UGC Act for digitization of theses and dissertations not available in computerized machine-readable format and / or for procurement and installation of a suitable computer system / infrastructure for creation of ETDs.
3. Provide configuration of system, specifications and technical guidance to the University for procurement of computer hardware and related systems for setting-up of ETDs.
4. Provide guidelines, technical standards and specifications for digitization of Ph.D. theses submitted to the university in past and for theses not available in computerized machine-readable format.
5. Impart training to at least one person from the university (from library field and / or from computer field) in creation, updation and computerized operation of digital repositories of ETDs especially on 'Shodhganga'.
6. Extend access to an anti-plagiarism software or provide services to evaluate theses for possible plagiarism and submit a report to the concerned university.
7. The INFLIBNET may refuse to host any material deemed by the INFLIBNET to be controversial in nature or is in violation of copyright act.
8. This right of refusal will not relieve the University / Ph.D. scholar of liability, both to INFLIBNET and to the public, for matter contained in the theses that may be libelous or actionable and to both INFLIBNET and copyright owners for copyright infringement by the Ph.D. Scholar.
9. The INFLIBNET Centre will not be responsible for i) errors, omissions, inaccuracies and quality of content or misinformation or for any damages caused to the user or any third party from the use of content provided in the theses; ii) safety and archiving of loaded content in cases of "force measure" including natural calamities; and iii) printed version of theses.
10. INFLIBNET Centre will recommend or provide access to plagiarism software which university may use to detect plagiarism before awarding the degree.
11. The INFLIBNET Centre replicates the content of theses and dissertations on different server and other auxiliary storage media. However, the INFLIBNET Centre does not take the responsibility for the archiving or backing-up of loaded content. The universities, therefore, should also keep a back-up of their theses and dissertations.