

Administrative Challenges and Strategies for ETDs Management at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh.

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the Study: Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are essential for promoting research by enhancing accessibility, discoverability, and dissemination of scholarly knowledge. However, Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh encounter notable Administrative Challenges that hinder the efficient management of ETDs. This study aims to explore these Administrative Challenges and offer practical recommendations for the improvement of ETDs management at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh.

Methodology: This study uses a descriptive research design to explore the Administrative Challenges associated with ETDs management at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh. A mixed methods approach has been employed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research problem and to provide recommendations. Four out of seven Agricultural University Libraries were chosen as a sample for data collection. Primary data were collected through a Semi-structured questionnaire distributed to information professionals working in the selected sample Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh. The questionnaire used a Five-point Likert Scale to assess the perceived Administrative Challenges, and open-ended questions were used to get recommendations. Data were analyzed using Descriptive Statistics. Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha was applied to test the reliability and validity of the questionnaire responses. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 26.0. The analysis examined the Administrative Challenges and proposed recommendations for improving ETDs management practices at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh.

Findings: The study revealed that 90% of ETDs repositories adopted DSpace software. The highest administrative challenge is concerns over electronic thesis quality, with a mean score of 5.0, and the lowest challenge is lack of promotion to raise ETD awareness, with a mean score of 3.25, and the overall average mean score of Administrative Challenges is 4.055, which is greater than the neutral point of 3. Indicating that Administrative Challenges are significantly present.

Implication: This study will provide a baseline for future research and policy making, offering insights into the improvement of ETDs management and facilitating a successful repository not only in Bangladesh but also in other developing countries' university libraries.

Originality/Value: This study represents the first initiative to explore the Administrative Challenges of ETDs management in Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh. It provides a valuable baseline for future research and policymaking, contributing to the global research community.

Keywords: Electronic Theses and Dissertations, ETD Management, Administrative Challenges, Agricultural University Libraries, Bangladesh.

INTRODUCTION

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) management is a vital concern for information professionals, ensuring potential accessibility and visibility of recorded knowledge (Mostafa, 2018; Shah, 2026). ETDs are the digital version of traditional print theses and dissertations. Electronic preservation has simplified the management process of ETDs. On the other hand, internet technology provides a significant opportunity for knowledge acquisition, preservation, and dissemination. It not only promotes transparency, connects users, and offers hosting services, but also removes numerous traditional obstacles to accessing knowledge, including geographic locations, time constraints, and delays in dissemination. (Rahman & Mezbah-ul-Islam, 2014; Shah & Hossain, 2022). To ensure the long-term reliability and accessibility of ETDs, institutions must implement robust digital preservation practices, including metadata standards, backup plans, and archive protocols. The need for ETDs preservation led to the implementation of the ETDs management system. The ETDs initiative originated in the 1980s and evolved with the rise of electronic publishing on the internet, supported by concurrent developments in Administrative platforms and software (Reeves et al., 2006) on the other hand, Bangladesh started ETDs preservation in 2005 by using the open-source Institutional Repository software (Islam et al., 2017). In Bangladesh, only public universities can receive theses and dissertations as a part of the MPhil and PhD degrees. At present, Bangladesh has seven (07) public Agricultural Universities, but only four (04) Agricultural Universities are providing MPhil and PhD degrees (M. A. H. Shah, 2025). Compared to other developing countries, Bangladesh is still in the preliminary stages in terms of ETDs management because administrative support is an indispensable requirement for the implementation of ETDs management, though there have been some challenges.

Administrative Challenges of ETDs management refer to the difficulties or issues that libraries face when handling and overseeing the digital submission, storage, and dissemination of ETDs. These Challenges can encompass a variety of operational, technical, and policy-related aspects. Information professionals have dissatisfaction with understanding the Administrative Challenges. The author believes this study will be a resilient basis for understanding the Administrative Challenges for the implementation of ETDs management at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh and in developing countries, where there is limited literature.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In 1860, dissertation submissions began at Yala University (Moxley, 2001; Shah & Hossain, 2022). From that time, theses and dissertations are part of the library collection (Yiotis, 2008). But the history of ETDs began in 1987 at Virginia Tech University, Michigan, USA (Fineman, 2003). According to Fox et al. (1999), Virginia Tech began requiring ETDs on January 1, 1997. This is a flexible and unique genre that enhances digital libraries and contains text, color images, or other multimedia, including audio and video files. Virginia Tech was the initiator to encourage the creation of ETDs; afterward, the movement flourished internationally and increased significantly, i.e., NDLTD, OhioLINK, CyberTheses, DART-Europe, Google Scholar, UTOG, DiTeD, DiVA, TDX, Shodhganga, and DAATJ (NDLTD, 2021).

Al Salmi (2014) conducted a study on factors affecting the adaptation of ETDs in the Arab Gulf States. The study addresses several Administrative Challenges faced by the ETDs management program, including insufficient staff, inadequate monitoring, lack of a project champion, time-consuming adoption processes, student resistance, financial constraints, and quality concerns. The university library should take the lead in managing the ETDs program, and promotional activities are necessary to raise awareness and foster greater cooperation within the university community.

Another study was conducted by Cayabyab (2015) on initiatives, challenges, and future developments of ETDs from the Philippines' perspective. The study objective was to show the emerging global concepts that could be used as benchmarks for ETDs initiatives in developing countries. The study addresses some ETDs management challenges such as accessibility issues, standard file format, storage platforms, visibility, interoperability and centralization, metadata, and sustainability. Gunjal & Gaitanou (2015) conducted a study on issues and challenges of ETDs and open access for research and development. The study focused some challenges for ETD management, such as adopting the Dublin Core (DC) Element Set, protocols such as OAI-PMH, MARC21, and controlled vocabularies, the Semantic Web, Linked Data, open access, system upgrades, implementation of discovery tools, proper indexing and harvesting, social plug-ins, and long-term preservation.

The ETDs movement in Bangladesh started by implementing an institutional repository in 2005 at ICDDR'B Library using DSpace open-source software (Islam et al., 2017). The history of the implementation of ETDs management started with open access initiatives in Bangladesh, which have been described by many researchers (Islam & Akter, 2013; Elahi & Mezbah-Ul-Islam, 2018; Das, 2019; Islam et al., 2021). Das (2019) examined that 96.08% of journals in Bangladesh are published as open access through BanglaJOL. However, adoption of OAI-PMH protocols remains low, with only 27.29% of repositories following these standards. The study also focused on two administrative Challenges, such as slow internet and a lack of ICT experts.

Needs of developing institutional repositories in the Bangladesh context are addressed in several articles (Shoeb, 2010; Chowdhury et al., 2011; Islam & Akter, 2013; Elahi & Mezbah-Ul-Islam, 2018; Chowdhury, 2020; Islam et al., 2021). Some authors have examined the growth and development of Institutional Repositories (IRs) in Bangladesh (Islam & Akter, 2013; Islam et al., 2017). Researches have been done on IR, an initiative of building a digital library program by Greenstone Digital Library Software at East-west University (Alam & Islam, 2011), barriers and recommendations for OA through IR (Uddin et al., 2014), and IR's role in hunching higher education (Mostofa et al., 2015), Factors influencing the use of a digital library (Tabassum et al., 2015), the development of an institutional repository using Dspace software (Chowdhury et al., 2011), aspects of open access in developing countries such as Bangladesh (Islam and Akter, 2013), challenges of digitization programs in Bangladesh (Alam, 2012), and the process of establishing IR at Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) using Dspace (Shoeb, 2010).

The preservation of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) began as part of institutional repositories, initially based on voluntary submissions by MPhil and PhD researchers (Rahman, 2015). While some universities mandate ETDs submission, others do not (Perera & Rahman, 2017). Studies highlight challenges and initiatives in ETDs management in Bangladesh and surrounding regions. Rahman (2015) and Das et al. (2015) noted issues like lacking metadata formats, network sharing, and open-source software in Bangladesh and India, with KrishiKosh and DAATJ serving as primary ETDs repositories. Perera and Rahman (2017) also studied how ETDs address information gaps, revealing factors influencing ETDs usage among scholars in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Further, Mostafa (2018) reported that ETDs improve research visibility and sharing in Bangladesh's public universities, while Bhuiyan (2019) emphasized the Digital Archive of Agricultural Theses and Journals (DAATJ) in Bangladesh and its role in supporting digitization and reducing research duplication. Later studies by Shah et al. (2021) and Rahman and Perera (2022) examined ETDs management challenges and the importance of open access and digital preservation, especially through the use of DSpace software. Rahman (2023) highlighted ongoing ETDs initiatives in public and private universities, noting gaps in compliance with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) and Shah (2026) disused the legal challenges of ETDs management at Engineering and Technology University Libraries in Bangladesh.

Based on the literature review, it appears that most Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh struggle to meet the standards required for effective Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) management. Moreover, limited scholarly research has been conducted on this topic. Therefore, this study aims to explore the

Administrative Challenges involved in implementing ETD management in Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh for the following reasons:

1. There is a lack of significant research on ETD management in Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh.
2. Comprehensive studies addressing the Administrative Challenges of ETD management in these libraries are largely absent.

Research Objectives

Based on the identified research gap, the following research objectives were formulated:

1. To identify the Administrative Challenges of ETDs Management at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh.
2. To propose actionable strategies for overcoming the Administrative Challenges of ETDs management at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a Descriptive Research Design to explore the Administrative Challenges. A Mixed-methods approach, combining both Quantitative and Qualitative Techniques, has been employed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research problem and to provide recommendations. This methodology enables the integration of numerical data with qualitative insights, thereby offering a holistic perspective on the issues under investigation.

Research Site

Research data were collected from three (03) Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh. The selection of these libraries was based on their offering of MPhil and PhD programs and the availability of digital repositories for the preservation of ETDs. The list of the selected university is given below:

Table -1: Research Site

SI No.	Research Site	Year of Establishment	Repository Web Address
1	Bangladesh Agricultural University Library (BAU Library)	1961	http://dspace.bau.edu.bd
2	Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Library (SAU Library)	2001	https://archive.saulibrary.edu.bd/
3	Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Library (CVASU Library)	2006	http://dspace.cvasu.ac.bd/

Population and Sample

The population for this study consists of three strata, including the librarians, library staff, and system analysts of the selected university libraries. Due to the limited population size of the selected universities and to make this study more convenient, a census approach is considered for selecting the librarians and system analysts, but library staff were purposively selected equally from each of those university libraries by visiting the library

staff register. The total number of respondents was 21, out of which three (03) were librarians, three (03) were system analysts, and fifteen (15) were library staff.

Table 2: Sample Size

Sample Size					
S.L	University	Respondent Group			
		Librarian	Library Staff	System Annalist	Total Respondent
1.	BAU Library	1	5	1	7
4.	SAU Library	1	5	1	7
5	CVASU Library	1	5	1	7
Total =		3	15	3	21

Data Type

Both the primary and secondary sources of data have been acquired for this study.

Data Collection and Analysis

Primary data were collected through a semi-structured questionnaire administered to librarians, system analysts, and library staff working in the selected libraries. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. One section contained open and close-ended questions designed to determine the present status of ETDs management, while the other section consisted of items structured on a five-point Likert scale to assess perceived Administrative Challenges. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, and mean scores) to summarize the results. Cronbach’s Coefficient Alpha was applied to test the reliability of the responses. Statistical analyses were carried out using SPSS (version 26.0).

FINDINGS

The study findings are divided into three sections: the identify Administrative Challenges, and the proposal of practical solutions, which are discussed below:

Reliability Statistics of Administrative Challenges

To examine the Administrative Challenges, a 5-point Likert scale questionnaire was designed and rigorously validated using Cronbach's Alpha, yielding a reliability score of 0.767 as per the following Table 1, which meets the standards set by Nunnally (1978) for social science research, where a value above 0.7 is considered acceptable. This suggests that the questionnaire items are consistently measuring the same underlying construct.

Table 3: Reliability Statistics

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.767	10

Descriptive Statistics of Administrative Challenges

The following Table 4 presents the Administrative Challenges of ETDs management at Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh.

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics of Administrative Challenges (N=20)

SL	Statements	(1) Strongly Disagree	(2) Disagree	(3) Neutral	(4) Agree	(5) Strongly Agree	Mode	Mean	SD
1	Allocating an insufficient number of qualified staff with appropriate technical skills to manage the ETDs program.	0 (0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(75%)	1(25%)	4(75%)	4.25	0.433
2	Inadequate monitoring and evaluation of ETDs management processes for continuous improvement	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(50%)	2(50%)	4 & 5 (100%)	4.50	0.500
3	Lack of a project champion to lead the ETDs program in the university	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(25%)	3(75%)	0(0%)	4(75%)	3.75	0.433
4	Time taken to convince the top-level administration to adopt an ETD program	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(50%)	2(50%)	4&5(100%)	4.5	0.500
5	Lack of cooperation and commitment from students to the ETDs program, if participation is voluntary	0(0%)	0(5%)	1 (25%)	2(50%)	1(25%)	4(50%)	3.6	1.020
6	Motivate the university community to be more willing to cooperate with the ETDs program	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(00%)	2(50%)	2(50%)	4&5(100%)	4.5	0.500
7	Lack of financial support to adopt the ETDs program	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(25%)	3(75%)	0(10%)	4(75%)	3.75	0.43
8	The university may hesitate to publish some theses electronically due to concerns about their quality	0 (0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	4(100%)	5(00%)	5.00	0.000
9	The university library should be in charge of leading the university's ETDs program	0(0%)	0(5%)	2(50%)	1(25%)	1(25%)	3(50%)	3.40	1.020
10	There is a lack of promotional activities to increase awareness of ETDs programs among the university community	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(75%)	1(25%)	0(0%)	3 (75%)	3.25	0.430

Insufficient Staffing and Technical Skills for ETDs Program: 75% of respondents agreed, and 25% strongly agreed, that the adoption of the ETD program is challenging due to a lack of qualified staff with the necessary technical skills. The mean score of 4.25 indicates overall agreement, highlighting that most

respondents view insufficient staffing as a significant barrier. The standard deviation ($SD = 0.433$) indicates high consensus among respondents.

Inadequate Monitoring and Evaluation of ETD Management: 50% of respondents agreed, and 50% strongly agreed, that effective monitoring and evaluation are essential for the continuous improvement of ETD management processes. The mean score of 4.50 suggests strong agreement. The SD of 0.5 indicates some variation in responses.

Lack of a Project Champion: 75% of respondents agreed, and 25% remained neutral. The mean score of 3.75 indicates the lack of a project champion to lead the ETD program is the significant administrative challenge. The SD of 0.433 shows relatively high consent. The data shows strong agreement about the need for dedicated leadership for your ETD program, with most respondents recognizing this as an important gap to address.

Time Required for Administration to Adopt ETD Program: 50% of respondents agreed, and 50% strongly agreed, that convincing top-level administration to adopt the ETD program is time-consuming. The mean score of 4.50 suggests strong agreement. The SD of 0.5 indicates some variation in responses.

Impact of Voluntary Participation on Student Commitment to ETDs: 50% of respondents agreed, 25% strongly agreed, and 25% were neutral regarding the lack of student cooperation and commitment if participation in the ETD program is voluntary. The mean score of 3.6 indicates overall agreement, with the SD of 1.020 showing variability in responses.

Motivating the University Community: 50% of respondents agreed, and 50% strongly agreed, indicating that effective monitoring and evaluation are crucial for the smooth functioning of the ETDs program and are a significant administrative challenge. The mean score of 4.50 suggests strong agreement. The SD of 0.5 indicates some variation in responses.

Lack of Financial Support: The study found that 75% of respondents agreed, and 25% were neutral, that a lack of financial support poses a significant barrier to adopting the ETD program. The mean score of 3.75 suggests general agreement, with the SD of 0.43 reflecting some variability in responses.

Concerns Over Electronic Thesis Quality: All respondents (100%) strongly agreed that the university may hesitate to publish some theses electronically due to concerns over their quality. The mean score of 5.00 indicates unanimous agreement, with no variation in responses ($SD = 0.00$).

Library Leadership in ETD Program: 50% of respondents were neutral, 25% agreed, and 25% strongly agreed that the university library should lead the ETD program. The mean score of 3.40 indicates general agreement and lack of knowledge of the respondent about the statement, while the SD of 1.020 shows some variation in responses.

Lack of Promotion to Raise ETD Awareness: 75% of respondents were neutral, while 25% agreed that there is insufficient promotion to raise awareness of the ETD program within the university community. The mean score of 3.25 suggests that, on average, responses leaned slightly toward agreement, with a standard deviation (SD) of 0.43, indicating moderate variation in responses.

Key Insights

Compared to other developing countries, Bangladesh is still in the preliminary stages of ETD management because administrative support is an indispensable requirement for the implementation of ETD management, though there have been some challenges. The Administrative Challenges can be better understood through the following figure-1: Key Insights of Administrative Challenges.

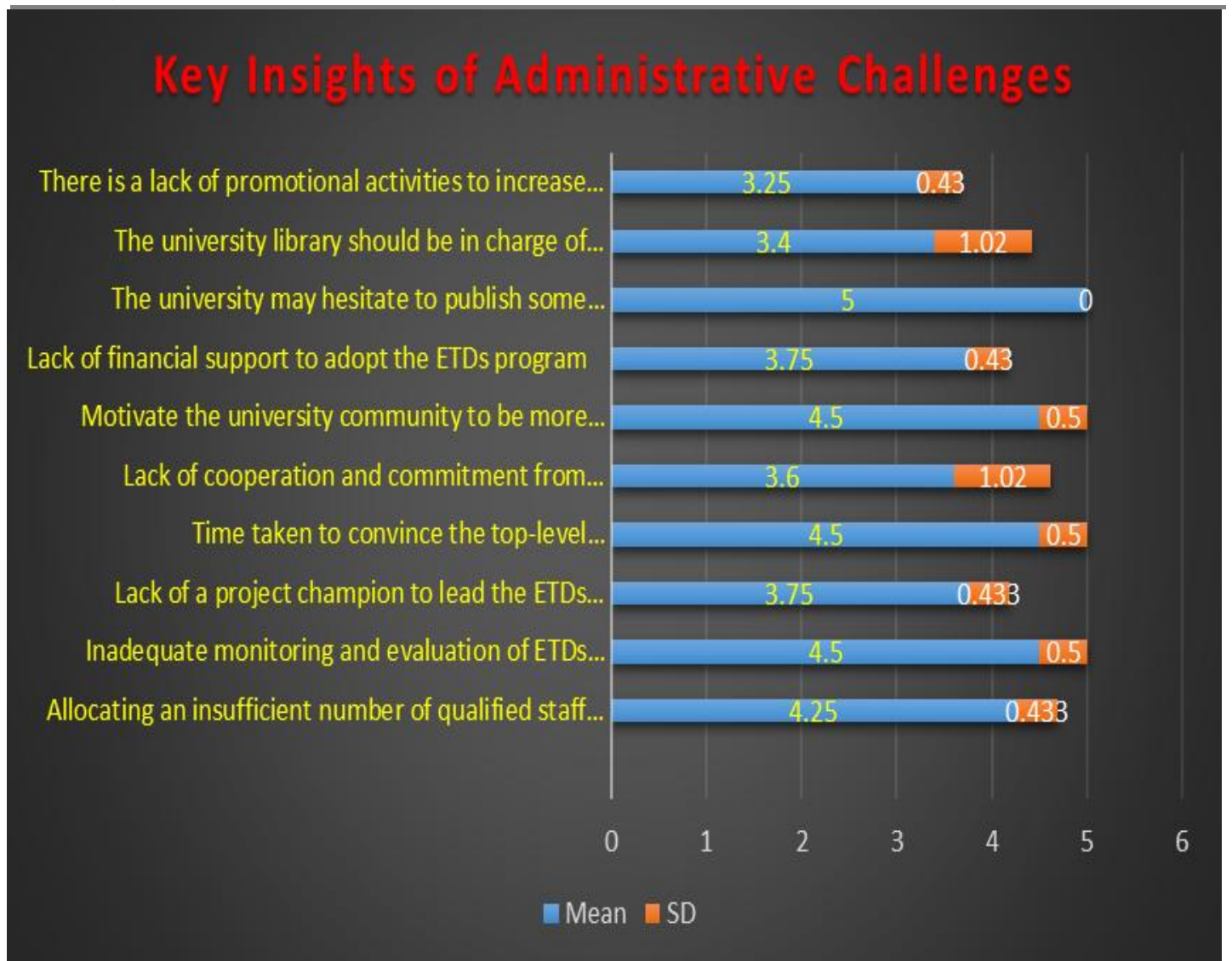


Figure 1: Key Insight of Administrative Challenges

Unanimous Challenges: The study found several unanimous Administrative Challenges in managing ETDs. First of all, the substandard quality of some theses causes universities to hesitate to publish certain ETDs due to concerns about quality. Additionally, there is limited motivation and engagement of the university community, as well as delayed decision-making by the top-level management to implement the ETDs program, and lastly, inadequate monitoring and evaluation for the continuous improvement of the ETDs management process.

Perceived Minor Challenge: The study also identified some minor administrative Challenges, such as a lack of promotional activities by the university community and unclear leadership responsibility for running the ETDs program.

Mixed Perceptions: Some mixed perceptions of administrative Challenges, such as insufficient qualified staff. Lack of student commitment and cooperation. Inadequate project champion and insufficient financial support for the implementation of ETDs management program.

STRATEGIES

Developing a strategy to overcome the Administrative Challenges of ETDs management requires insights from research findings. The suggested strategies focus on optimizing the management of ETD programs to ensure sustainability while also enhancing library administrative practices.

Emphasize hiring and staff training for effective ETD management.

The study found that a major challenge in managing ETD programs is allocating an insufficient number of qualified staff with appropriate technical skills. The study suggested the following strategies:

- a) The library authority should emphasize hiring skilled library professionals to run the ETDs management system smoothly. On the other hand, library staff should participate in professional development initiatives that offer intensive courses on ETD management software, as well as provide opportunities for professional training and certification. Ensure continuous learning by initiating an internal ETD skills development program that can be established by joint efforts between the IT and library departments.
- b) Regularly monitor and evaluate staffing levels and workload distribution to address emerging challenges proactively.

Establishment of monitoring and evaluation framework

The study found inadequate monitoring and evaluation of ETD management processes. So, the study suggested the following strategies:

- a) Establish a clear monitoring and evaluation framework as well as set SMART goals that align with the main objectives of the program.
- b) Apply digital tools like dashboards and analytics software for real-time monitoring, reduce manual errors, improve data accuracy, and support knowledge-based decision-making, allowing staff to focus on strategic improvements.
- c) Regular performance audits should be conducted to ensure that the ETD program maintains institutional standards and functions efficiently.

Appoint a dedicated project champion.

The study identified that the lack of a project champion is a significant administrative challenge in managing the ETD program. So, the study suggested the following strategies:

- a) Appoint a high-impact project champion who will be a dedicated, influential figure to guide, promote, and coordinate the ETD program. This ensures stronger administrative support, stakeholder alignment, and sustained program momentum.
- b) Secure executive sponsorship for ensuring strong leadership and institutional support for ETD management projects. Support from the higher authority not only provides resources, strategic direction, and authority but also promotes cross-departmental cooperation and reinforcement.

Develop a strategic advocacy plan for top-level administration.

The study found that convincing top-level administration to implement the ETD management program is a time-consuming process, which is a significant administrative challenge in managing the ETD program. The following strategies may be considered :

- a) Develop a comprehensive strategic advocacy plan that aligns the benefits of the ETD program with the university's strategic goals, proposals, case studies, and stockholder recommendations to accelerate acceptance.

- b) Launch a pilot project with a select group, such as a department or a few graduate students, to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of the ETD system. This trial run will showcase its effectiveness and support efforts to gain leadership approval.
- c) Build a coalition of support across departments to advocate for the ETD program, showcasing diverse support for administrative approval.

Incentivize Voluntary ETD Programs

The study found a lack of student cooperation and commitment when participation in the ETD program is voluntary. After data analysis, the study shows variability in responses. So, the study suggested the following strategies:

- a) The university can encourage active participation in ETD programs by offering academic and non-academic incentives and recognizing student achievements through official publications.
- b) Strengthening mentorship and support systems helps students better understand the ETD process, gives them clear guidance from faculty and support staff, boosts their confidence, and encourages them to take part more actively.
- c) Enhancing awareness and training helps students to understand the submission process and benefits of ETDs, and encourages students to be more actively engaged.

Strengthening Financial Support

The study found that a lack of financial support poses a significant barrier to adopting the ETD program. But there is some variability in responses. So, the study suggested the following strategies:

- a) Develop secure funding for the implementation and maintenance of the ETDs management program. This can be achieved by advocacy, budget allocation, fees, partnerships, and grants.
- b) Introduce public-private partnerships with tech firms, publishers, and cloud providers so that they can help ETD programs by providing sponsorships and technology support. This partnership could reduce costs and ensure long-term sustainability and visibility of ETDs.
- c) Implement cost-effective open-source platforms to reduce licensing and operational expenses.

Improve Thesis Quality

The study found that all the respondents strongly agreed that the university may hesitate to publish some theses electronically due to concerns over their quality. It indicates unanimous agreement, which is a significant administrative challenge in managing the ETD program.

- a) Ensure mandatory pre-submission quality review of each ETD by using checklists, supervisor approval, and AI tools for automated checks. Assess originality, structure, and methodology before submission. These measures help maintain high-quality standards for the ETD program.
- b) Implement a tiered publication system that ensures the quality of theses and will publicly share high-quality ETDs.
- c) Introduce targeted training for students and supervisors that will help prevent quality issues. This targeted training will be very helpful for both the student and supervisor to learn the necessary skills for writing high-quality ETDs.

Consider the library to lead the ETD program

The study found some variation in responses to considering the university library to lead the ETDs program as an administrative challenge. So, the study suggested the following strategies:

- a) Conduct piloting, which helps to reduce risk by testing the new library system on a small scale. This trial shows the library's ability to manage the system effectively and helps convince the university authorities to be more supportive.
- b) Enhanced library advocacy that helps turn neutral opinions into strong support by using clear communication and sharing successful examples from other institutions.
- c) Enhance Governance Structure that helps avoid isolated decision-making by promoting shared ownership of ETD workflows. Creating a cross-departmental committee will make all stakeholders feel included, reduce resistance, and encourage stronger support.

9. Increase promotional activities for ETDs awareness

After data analysis, the study found that there is insufficient promotion to raise awareness of the ETD program within the university community. The study also found that there are some variations in responses. So, the study suggested the following strategies:

- a) Launch a multi-channel awareness promotion using emails, social media, and university platforms to promote the benefits of ETDs.
- b) Enhance the visibility and usability of the ETD repository by optimizing the website for better clarity and searchability. Ensure users can easily search, access, and retrieve the relevant content.
- c) Integrate the ETDs promotion into academic workflows by assigning ETD training in thesis and dissertation workshops, ensuring students' information literacy about the process and benefits.

By addressing these Administrative Challenges with the recommended strategies, Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh can enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability of their ETD management systems. These improvements will ensure that the libraries continue to serve the academic community effectively while keeping pace with technological advancements and security requirements.

IMPLICATIONS

The identified Administrative Challenges and the findings of the study offer the library administration practical solutions for the ETD management system. The study would be a valuable contribution to academic knowledge, especially in the field of digital scholarship in Bangladesh, and also support agricultural research. Finally, the study suggested a further research direction on AI in ETD systems and its impact on agricultural research.

LIMITATIONS

This study has some limitations, such as its scope being limited to Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh. It also does not explore the preservation process of traditional theses and dissertations, and the survey was conducted exclusively with the head of the library.

CONCLUSION

This study investigated the Administrative Challenges in managing ETDs in Agricultural University Libraries in Bangladesh. Despite notable progress through the implementation of platforms like DSpace and digitization

initiatives, several challenges persist. This includes inadequate staffing and technical skills, weak monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, voluntary student participation, low awareness of ETDs, lack of a project champion, limited financial support, and the absence of strong library leadership. The strategies for mitigating the challenges The study prioritizes staff training, implementing strategic monitoring and evaluation plans, appointing a dedicated project champion, increasing financial investment, and enhancing promotional activities. Addressing these challenges will improve research accessibility, strengthen academic scholarship, and ensure the long-term sustainability of digital repositories. Overcoming these barriers is essential for optimizing the management of ETDs in Agricultural University Libraries and fostering innovation in agricultural research across Bangladesh and the other developing countries in Asian and African regions.

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