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An Analysis of ResearchGate Memberships and Publications of State Universities in India

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Abstract

This paper examines the ResearchGate memberships and research contributions of State Universities in India. The data for the study have been extracted from ResearchGate website (www.researchgate.net) December 2017. 370 State Universities have been established by 29 States in India. Out of 370 Universities, the 98 State Universities were inactive in ResearchGate. Further the data were analyzed to find out the membership and publications of the Universities in ResearchGate. The Universities were classified into four zones like by North Zone, East Zone, West Zone and South Zone based on the location of the Universities. The result of the study clearly indicates that more number of research contributions were made by the 98 Universities located in South zone with 27811 members with 44325 publications and the Universities located in West Zone were contributed less with 13708 members and 17609 publications in ResearchGate.

Keywords : *ResearchGate, State Universities Analysis*

Introduction

Online technologies have long been established as communication and collaboration tools such as ResearchGate and Academia etc. Academics have reported that the main reasons for using these sites are getting in touch with other researchers, disseminating their research results and getting informed about other researchers' activities. However, their actual use shows that they do not utilize the full capacity of the site to meet their goals, since most of them do not upload any documents and follow fewer than ten academics (Nandez & Borrego, 2013).

1.1 ResearchGate

ResearchGate is the largest professional network for researchers; it enables researchers to connect with colleagues, build their scientific network and collaborate with one another using numerous applications that are unique to the scientific platform. It was founded in 2008 by physicians Dr. Ijad Madisch and Dr. Sören Hofmayer, and computer scientist Horst Fickenscher. ResearchGate today has more than 13+ million members. There are over 100+ million publications to go through and 1 million answers to research questions. ResearchGate is an effective tool for academic communication and most user-friendly. ResearchGate gives heavier focus on collaboration, discovery and interaction.

ResearchGate has number of features to help the research scholars and faculty members in Sharing publications, Connecting with colleagues, Seeking new collaborations, Obtaining statistics and metrics on use of uploaded publications, Asking questions of researchers around the world that have the same set of interests, Job seeking or recruitment, Creating profiles, Liking and following researchers and their publications, Endorsing the skills of others, Ability to bookmark favorites and Ability to comment or send feedback.

2. Review of Literature

Asnafi (2017)¹ intended to survey on the participation of the Iranian Library and Information Science departments in Research Gate as academic social networks. Iranian faculty members of the Library and Information Research also analyzed the members, RG Score, Impact Points, Publications, Citations and Reads. Jeyapragash and Issac Arputharaj (2017)² discussed on objectives, importance and highlights of ResearchGate and its utilization in Tamilnadu State Universities in terms of publication, membership, total RG scores and top departments with members. Kuo, Tsai, Wu, and Alhalabi (2017)³ presented in empirical survey of the top 150 researchers' grants and their RG scores among 126 colleges of management in Taiwan and also found that a strong correlation between the research grants and RG scores based on the analysis of college as a whole. However, the relationship becomes insignificant for

individual researchers. Elsayed (2016)⁴ investigated Arab researchers' attitudes and perceptions toward the use of academicsocial networks (ASNs), with a sharp topical focus on the ResearchGate (RG) network. From sixArab universities, a sample of 2,991 Arab researchers was invited to participate by online questions and 315 participants filled out the questionnaire. The study revealed that three quarters of the respondents use ASNs to share publications and most researchers subscribed to more than one ASN, but RG was the most frequently used one. El-Berry (2015)⁵ attempted to explore the awareness and use of ResearchGate, Acedemia.edu, LinkedIn, Mendeley and Scholastica by the South Valley University (SVU) academic staff. A structured questionnaire was sent by email and Facebook. Study revealed that most of the respondents were aware of and using the ASNs. ResearchGate demonstrated the highest level of awareness and usage followed by LinkedIn, Acedemi.edu, Mendeley and Scholastica, respectively.

3. Objectives of the Study

The following are the major objectives of this study.

1. To find out the Memberships and their Publications contributed by the State Universities of India.
2. To compare contributions of the State Universities in ResearchGate located in different zones of India.

4. Research Methodology

The data for the study were extracted from the website of ResearchGate (www.researchgate.net) in December 2017. The data were converted into Ms-Excel for analysis. Simple calculations and percentage were done to find out the results.

5. Data Analysis

5.1. Membership in Research Gate

The study has analyzed the ResearchGate Membership and Publications of State Universities in India based on the locations. In this study, the Universities were classified into four major zones based on the locations of the Universities and the same is given in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1

Memberships in ResearchGate

S. No.	Description	No. of Universities	Members	Rank	Publications	Rank
1	South Zone	98	27811 (39.51%)	1	44325 (37.50%)	1
2	North Zone	107	19023 (27.02%)	2	34189 (28.92%)	2
3	West Zone	73	13708 (19.47%)	3	17609 (14.90%)	4
4	East Zone	92	9851 (13.99%)	4	22086 (18.68%)	3
Total		370	70393		118209	

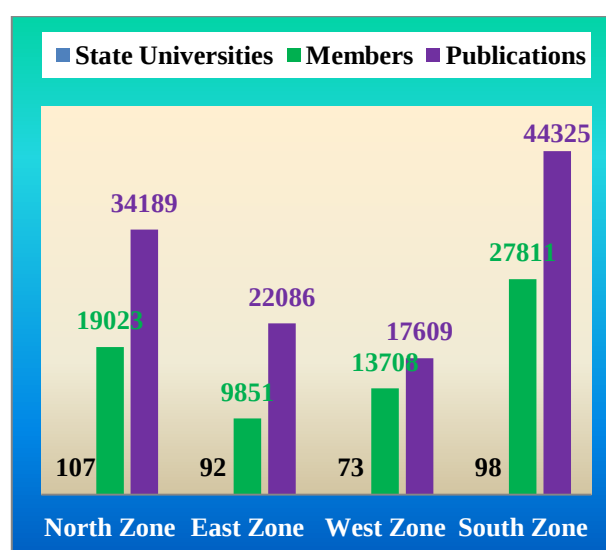


Figure 1

Table 1 and Figure 1 indicate that ResearchGate Members and Publications of State Universities located in different places of India. The Universities located in South zone had more memberships (39.51%) in ResearchGate. Further, these Universities were also contributed more number of publications (44325 37.50%) and occupied first rank. The Universities (107) of North zone had 19023 memberships in the ResearchGate with 34189 publications and placed in second rank. It is to note that Universities are less in number in the West Zone, however, it is found more memberships in ResearchGate and placed in the third rank in respect of membership. The publications contributed by these Universities were less with 17609, 14.90%. It is also found that the Universities located in the East Zone were contributed a good number of publications (22086,

18.68%) even though, these Universities are having less memberships in ResearchGate (9851, 13.99%).

5.2. Memberships and the Publications of South Zone wise State Universities

The study has analyzed the Memberships and the Publications of the Universities located in South Zone. The State Universities of below five states are classified under South Zone for this study.

Table 2

Memberships and the Publications of South Zone wise State Universities

S. No.	States	No. of State Universities	Members	%	Publications	%
1	Andhra	20	3591	12.91%	6026	13.60%
2	Karnataka	27	6098	21.93%	8794	19.84%
3	Kerala	13	3479	12.51%	4973	11.22%
4	TamilNadu	22	11618	41.77%	20500	46.25%
5	Telangana	16	3025	10.88%	4032	9.10%
Total		98	27811	100	44325	100

It is found from Table 2 that the ResearchGate Memberships and the Publications of State Universities of South Zone. It is shows that the Universities of Tamil Nadu were produced more number of publications (11618, 41.77%), even though it has less number of Universities compare to Karnataka (27 Universities). "Tamil Nadu" has highest number of 22 State Universities, 11618 (41.77%) members with 20500 (46.25%) publications in ResearchGate, It is followed by "Karnataka" 27 State Universities, 6098 (21.93%) members with 8794 (19.84%) publications, "Andhra" 20 State Universities, 3591 (12.91%) members with 6026 (13.60%) publications and "Kerala" has 13 State Universities 3479 (12.51%) members with 4973 (11.22%) publications. It is inferred that the "Telangana" has 16 State Universities and less number of 3025 (10.88%) members with 4032 (9.10%) publications in ResearchGate.

5.3. Memberships and the Publications of North Zone wise State Universities

The study was also analyzed the ResearchGate Memberships and the Publications of North Zone wise State Universities and the same is given in Table 3.

Table 3

Memberships and the Publications of North Zone wise State Universities

S. No.	North Zone	No. of State Universities	Members	%	Publications	%
1	Chandigarh	1	1469	7.72%	4594	13.44%
2	Haryana	14	2408	12.66%	4341	12.70%
3	Himachal Pradesh	04	331	1.74%	1199	3.51%
4	Jammu & Kashmir	09	2459	12.93%	1546	4.52%
5	NCT of Delhi	07	2641	13.88%	494	1.44%
6	Punjab	09	2891	15.20%	6358	18.60%
7	Rajasthan	22	1797	9.45%	4061	11.88%
8	Uttar Pradesh	30	3826	20.11%	10175	29.76%
9	Uttarakhand	11	1201	6.31%	1421	4.16%
Total		107	19023	100	34189	100

Table 3 explains that the ResearchGate Memberships and the Publications of North Zone wise State Universities. It shows that the "Uttar Pradesh" has highest number of (30) State Universities, 3826 (20.11%) members with 10175 (29.76%) publications in ResearchGate and placed in first position. It is followed by "Punjab" has 9 State Universities, 28.91 (15.20%) members with 6358 (18.60%) publications, "NCT of Delhi" 07 State Universities, 2641 (13.88%) members with 494 (1.44%) publications and "Jammu & Kashmir" has 9 State Universities, 2459 (12.93%) members with 1546 (4.52%) publications and placed in third, fourth and fifth position. It is inferred that the "Himachal Pradesh" has very less contributions of 4 State Universities, 331 (1.74%) members with 1199 publications in ResearchGate.

5.4. Memberships and the Publications of East Zone wise State Universities

The study has analyzed the ResearchGate Memberships and Publications of East Zone wise State Universities and the same is given in Table 4.

Table 4

Memberships and the Publications of East Zone wise State Universities

S. No.	East Zone	No. of State Universities	Members	%	Publications	%
1	Assam	12	1383	14.04 %	1112	5.03%
2	Bihar	15	330	3.35%	756	3.42%
3	Chhatisgarh	13	478	4.85%	669	3.03%
4	Jharkhand	08	155	1.57%	269	1.22%
5	Manipur	01	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
6	Odisha	16	1907	19.36 %	2262	10.24 %
7	Tripura	01	10	0.10%	08	0.04%
8	West Bengal	26	5588	56.73 %	17010	77.02 %
Total		92	9851	100	22086	100

Table 4 explains that the ResearchGate Memberships and Publications East Zone wise State Universities. It shows that "West Bengal" has highest number of (26) State Universities, 5588 (56.73%) members with 17010 (77.02%) publications in ResearchGate. It is followed by "Odisha" 16 State Universities, 1907 (19.36%) members with 2262 (10.24%) publications. "Assam" has 12 State Universities, 1383 (14.04%) members with 1112 (5.03%) publications in ResearchGate. "Tripura" has 1 State University no members and no research contributions in ResearchGate.

5.5. Memberships and the Publications of West Zone wise State Universities

The study was also analyzed the ResearchGate Memberships and the Publications of West Zone wise State Universities and same is given in Table 5.

Table 5

Memberships and the Publications of West Zone wise State Universities

S. No.	West Zone	No. of State Universities	Members	%	Publications	%
1	Goa	01	375	2.74 %	364	2.07 %
2	Gujarat	28	4473	32.63 %	5544	31.48 %
3	Madhya Pradesh	21	1702	12.42 %	3886	22.07 %
4	Maharashtra	23	7158	52.22 %	7815	44.38 %
Total		73	13708	100	17609	100

It is found from Table 4 that "Maharashtra" has 23 State Universities, 7158 (52.22%) members with 7815 (44.38%) publications in ResearchGate. It is followed by "Gujarat" has 28 State Universities, 4473 (32.63%) members with 5544 (31.48%) publications, "Madhya Pradesh" 21 State Universities, 1702 (12.42%) members with 3886 (22.07%) publications and "Goa has 1 State University, 375 (2.74%) members with 364 (2.07%) publications in ResearchGate.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

ResearchGate is the platform to share and contribute the academic and research activities among the researcher in world wide. This tool enables the researcher to organize and disseminate their research activities in a systematic way. Since it is available in open forum it enables the researchers contributions reach widely. The study focused that the Indian Universities are actively participating in the ResearchGate for the visibility of Indian research by international researcher. It is recommended that in India East Zone wise State Universities to be contributed more in research to improve the research visibility of their Universities by worldwide.

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