

# **Characterization of scientific production on electronic theses and dissertations based on a bibliometric analysis**

## **Introduction**

Theses and dissertations reflect the results of years of research carried out in postgraduate programs around the world. Because of this accumulation, this type of document can be strongly characterized as a valuable source of information and a major contribution to the generation of new knowledge. The presentation of these documents as proof of academic activity dates back to the period of the medieval universities and, since then, the tradition has been followed, although there may be differences in the format of the content depending on the area of knowledge. With the advance of technologies and the possibilities they offer, theses and dissertations have started to circulate in digital format, when digitized, and/or already produced digitally (born-digital). Thus, theses and dissertations that previously only occupied library shelves now form collections in digital libraries and other systems. This change of medium has increased access, visualization and dissemination to a much greater extent. This has contributed to the emergence of the phenomenon of repositories, local and national digital libraries for the management of electronic theses and dissertations. As a result, various studies have been produced to understand this movement, its characteristics, good practices and challenges.

## **Objective**

The aim of this study is to characterize scientific production on electronic theses and dissertations from 2002 to 2023, based on a bibliometric analysis.

## **Methodology**

The methodology adopted is exploratory and descriptive in nature, since its method of execution is the findability of scientific productions on the subject involving electronic theses and dissertations. The data collection technique was based on pre-determining the search arguments to be used in a Google Scholar search, in Portuguese and English, as well as tabulating the data collected. To do this, the free Publish or Perish software was used to retrieve the searches on Google Scholar, since this tool also makes it possible to extract information related to citations, authorship per search, among other variables. The search

parameters were the period from 2002 to 2023, limited to a total of up to 1,000 results ("electronic theses and dissertations" OR "electronic thesis and dissertations" OR ETD). The technique adopted for analyzing the data was bibliometric, with the aim of relating different aspects, such as authorship, authors' affiliation, year of publication, citation of the works identified in the research, as well as thematic areas.

## **Results**

The search resulted in 601 documents published between 2002 and 2023. Once tabulated, the data processing process was carried out. Based on the criteria of relevance to the subject of this study and duplicate titles, 538 publications were excluded, leaving 61 documents for analysis. Based on this selection, the metrics are observed: Based on this selection, the metrics are observed: in total, the 61 documents concentrate a total of 962 citations. When observing the data extracted with the tool, it is possible to identify that there are 45.81 citations per year and 15.7 per document. The h-index identified corresponds to 18 citations, which corresponds to a coverage of 78,6% of the total citations. Regarding the time frame, the years 2006 and 2008 were those with the highest number of works published within the researched theme, totaling 9 and 10 publications, respectively, for each year. In a content analysis, it is observed that the results demonstrate a maturity in scientific literature in English, with the appearance of 590 documents compared to 10 titles in Portuguese. When looking at the titles and summaries of the publications, there is greater diversity in the topics covered in the research regarding the geographical aspect of their approaches, but with common points related to the objectives: (i) report of experience in implementing ETD; (ii) challenges; (iii) management, policies and metadata.

## **Conclusion**

From the quantitative analysis of the results obtained through bibliometric analysis using Publish or Perish, it was possible to identify that there is a discreet growth in scientific publications about ETDs. However, it is important to mention that although the number of publications is low in relation to other topics, bibliometric analysis allows us to identify gaps between existing research, which can stimulate not only new researchers, but also researchers already established in the area. Finally, it is hoped that this work can contribute to stimulating the development of new research on the phenomenon of ETDs and their interfaces in scientific communication.

**Keywords:** Teses e dissertações eletrônicas; BDTD; NDLTD; ETD.

**References:**

Bhat, M. I. & Mudhol, M. V. (2014). Importance of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) on Internet: a survey of Indian ETD Repository Shodganga. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, v. 4, n. 2.

Borgman, C. L. (2007). *Scholarship in the Digital Age: information, infrastructure and the Internet*. MIT Press, 363. <http://books.google.com.br/>

Campello, B. S. (2000). Teses e dissertações. In: Campello, A. S., Cendón, V. & Kremer, E. M. (orgs.). *Fontes de informação para pesquisadores e profissionais*. Belo Horizonte: UFMG. 121-129.

Flick, U. (2009). *Qualidade na pesquisa qualitativa*. Porto Alegre: Artmed. 191 p.

Fox, E. A., McMillan, G. & Eaton, J. L. (1999). The evolving genre of electronic theses and dissertations. In *Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*.

Schöpfel, J., Chaudiron, S., Jacquemin, B., Prost, H., Severo, M., & Thiault, F. (2014). Open access to research data in electronic theses and dissertations: an overview. *Library Hi Tech*, 32(4), 612–627. <https://doi.org/10.1108/lht-06-2014-0058>

Seamans, N. H. (2003). Electronic theses and dissertations as prior publications: what the editors say. *Library Hi Tech*, 21(1), 56–61. <https://doi.org/10.1108/07378830310467409>