ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would like to thank God, the Almighty, for having made everything possible by giving me strength and courage to do this work.

It is a great pleasure and privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude and everlasting indebtedness to my guide, Prof. Narendra Lahkar, HOD, Library and Information Science, Gauhati University, who introduced me to the area of research in search engines and its related areas. I am deeply indebted to him for his enthusiasm, continuous encouragement, and guidance which have been the main source of inspiration during the preparation of this thesis.

I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the faculty members of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University for their valuable advice and help all throughout my Ph.D. period. I express my sincere thanks to Dr. B. Saibaba, Deputy Librarian, Central Library IIT Guwahati, Mr. R. K. Rajbangshi and Dr. T. K. Guha, both Assistant Librarians, IIT Guwahati for their cooperation and useful comments during the progress of my research work.

I am deeply indebted to my dearest colleagues Chandrika, Gitasri, Sewali, Bina, Sudipa, Chandan, CKDas, Niraj, Pranjit, Deepak, Harihar, Kakati, and Dibakar for all their support, help, encouragement and company throughout my research work. My special thank is also due to Dr. Dhrubajit Das for providing various research related information. I am also grateful to my departmental senior and junior research scholars for their help and cooperation. It is my great pleasure to thank
my all friends at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati for their affectionate
courage to accomplish the research work. I am also very much thankful to
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati for giving me the permission to undertake
this PhD work and providing a truly wonderful academic atmosphere and facilities
for pursuing research.

My heartfelt gratitude is due to my parents and other family members for their
abundant love, affection, constant encouragement and moral support for everything
throughout my life

Date: 8th April 2008

(Sanjib Kumar Deka)