Preface

“The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder”.
Ralph W. Sockman

My dream becomes true when I had an opportunity to interact with Prof. Subal Chandra Biswas and Dr Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay at the University of Burdwan in 2007. Prof. Subal Chandra Biswas was the man who first encouraged me to pursue my research in this emerging area. And Dr Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, now Associate Professor of the University of Kalyani, was the main curator of this research work who helped me in designing and developing an integrated software framework based on international standards and best practices. At that time, Dr Mukhopadhyay was the only researcher in West Bengal, who had been organizing workshops, seminars etc. and had already published valuable papers related to this domain.

When I look back towards the trend of research in LIS field, it is evident that the research in the area of information seeking behaviour, survey, classification and cataloguing was given emphasis during 1960s and 1970s, Bibliometrics and Informetrics during 1980s, Cybermetrics and Webometrics from mid 1990s and community information service, library automation and networking, digital library, ETDs, digital repository 2000 onwards. This may be due to advent of Internet and Web. There has been a dramatic shift in scholarly communication process and traditional publishing models are transformed into electronic publishing models. Impact of globalization and change in the mode of scholarly communication from print to digital to Web-based had shifted the focus of research area in LIS. The tremendous dependency on the Web due to huge growth of Web-based resources created a curiosity among researchers and academicians in the area of information science as well as computer science to study and measure the nature and features of Web documents.

The importance of institutional digital repository has been realized and has increased tremendously during last decade as we are depending more and more on the Web-based resources. There are many initiatives, projects and recommendations at national and international levels that support free access to public funded research. I hope, the thesis may be useful to know the Indian IDRs at a glance, to know their actual positions in respect of global standards. The thesis has proposed a model IDR policy in the line of global recommendations and developed a software framework by which intellectual output of a university created by its members would be kept in one unique place for perpetual access. Therefore, the research work may be helpful to research scholars, academicians in all fields and may help administrators and policy makers in designing and developing Web-based Unicode-compliant multilingual IDR. It may help policy makers in developing model IDR system for their institutions.

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