

Acknowledgements

It is my pleasure to express my sincere thanks to all who came to help me to undertake this research study and to persevere and complete it satisfactorily.

At first, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to my respected supervisor, Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, India for his continuous support to my Ph.D study and related research, for his patience, motivation, and wisdom. His guidance helped me all the time of research and writing of this thesis too.

I would also like to express my gratitude to other members of the Ph.D Committee, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University namely Prof. D.S. Rath, Ms. Smita Sett, Dr. Nivedita Bhattacharyya Sahu, Dr. Soumen Mallik, Dr. Bidyarthi Dutta, Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee and Prof. Subarna Kumar Das for their insightful comments and encouragement which incited me to widen my research from various perspectives.

I am deeply indebted to my respected teacher Late Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel and convey my utmost gratitude to him for his valuable advice and sincere guidance during my research.

I would like to express my special thanks and immeasurable appreciation to my beloved brother Dr. Dipanjan Das Majumdar for his prompt inspirations, scholarly advice and imparting his knowledge and expertise in statistical method and GIS technology for the accomplishment of my thesis.

I am thankful to Dr. Arupratan Das, President, All Bengal School Librarians' Association for his kind assistance during the survey. I am also thankful to Jonaki Basu Ray, Debasish Bera, Keya Chandra and Dipankar Halder for their co-operation during the survey.

I am also thankful to Swagata, Subhradip, Anupama and Joydip and all the other family members for their continuous support and encouragement.

My sincere thanks also goes to the library staffs of Central Library, Vidyasagar University. I am thankful to my colleagues at Majilapur Birendra Vidyapith and Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri College.

My joy knows no bound to express my cordial gratitude to my husband Mr. Ranadip Chandra for his selfless and sincere support, continuous encouragement, valuable advice, meticulous scrutiny and an endless help in completion of the manuscript.

Finally, I am much indebted to my son, Rivu who patiently bore my indifference to him during my work.

Last but not least, with boundless love and respect, I would like to convey my profound gratitude to my parents; Sri Debiprasad Das Majumdar and Smt. Sipra Das Majumdar for their unequivocal love and support since my first breathe.

(Parama Das Majumder)

Date: