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Anwesan: A Search Engine for Bengali Literary Works

Article type: Research Article

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Abstract: Most of India's literature was written in Bengali since the beginning of the 19th century. Hundreds of authors have contributed to the enrichment of Bengali literature for years. Besides that, nearly 300 million people around the world speak in Bengali. The language, having a rich traditional background and popularity throughout the world, must be taken care for the web users in the present era of World Wide Web (WWW). The digitization of Bengali literary works and the development of the search engine is very important for the benefit of the Bengali language users all over the world. The paper describes Anwesan, a search engine for Bengali literature. Currently the entire work of Rabindranath Tagore and a part of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's work is searchable through Anwesan. Several advanced search features necessary for simple and expert users are supported. It also serves as a digital library with various metadata information. The engine is implemented by customizing DSpace in Bengali language and is perhaps the most exhaustive exercise in this direction. This search system was primarily open for the public in Kolkata Book Fair 2010 only with Rabindra Rachanabali collection. Since then, its been in high use.

Keywords: Digitization, Anwesan, Rabindranath Tagore, Information retrieval, Metadata search

DOI: 10.3233/WDL-120003

Journal: [World Digital Libraries - An international journal](#), vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 11-18, 2012

Published: 2012

Price: EUR 27.50

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