

Teaching Social Sciences through Open and Distance Learning A Twenty First Century Perspective

Editors

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FOREWORD

Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), since its inception in 1997, has crossed a number of important milestones in making breakthroughs in the fields of *Open and Distance Learning* (ODL) in the eastern region of the country. In the field of Social Sciences too, it has been contributing both in teaching and research in a very big way. Apart from imparting instructions to the thousands of learners covering different branches of social science disciplines through its network of comprehensive Student Support Services, the *School of Social Sciences (SoSS)*, which emanated from the erstwhile *School of Humanities & Social Sciences* in 2015, has been engaged in organising seminars, symposia, workshops etc. both in the core areas of the respective disciplines as well as in the applied aspects of ODL. It also undertakes several research projects with particular emphasis to carry forward the fruits of research to extend the border of ODL. The publications of the members of the School in different aspects of Social Science are also noteworthy.

The present publication entitled ***Teaching Social Sciences through ODL: A 21st Century Perspective*** is the outcome of a National Seminar organised by the *School of Social Science*, NSOU, on 03 March, 2017 and attended by scholars all around and graced by some doyens in the disciplines of Social Sciences as well as the policy-makers of the ODL at different levels. The publication and the Seminar represents one of the functional aspects of a research project entitled ***Teaching Political Science through Open and Distance Learning: A Comparative Study of Student Support Services in Indian Universities*** undertaken by Dr Debnarayan Modak, Professor of Political Science, SoSS. It may be regarded as one of the pioneering attempts to assess the very status of the

teaching-learning process in social science disciplines under ODL. It may help one to understand the gaps, if any, between the promises and performances and to take fresh initiatives to make social science teaching through ODL more effective and fruitful. I congratulate Professor Chandan Basu, Director, SoSS and Professor Debnarayan Modak, the Principal Investigator of the Project and former Director of the School, for their initiatives and efforts to bring the contributions made in the Seminar under two covers. I am also very grateful to Professor Radharaman Chakraborti, the First Vice Chancellor of NSOU for contributing a thought-provoking lead article for the volume. I take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt thanks to the *Distance Education Bureau* of the *University Grants Commission* for making available to us the necessary financial assistance in this regard.

I do hope that the publication, will help all concerned to understand the specificities of the problems in this regard and enlighten us the scope of using the fruits of modern technology in commensurate with the potentialities of the 21st century and encourage us to initiate further steps towards the quality assurance in teaching social science disciplines through ODL.



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APPLICATION OF DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN PROTECTING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Barnali Roy Choudhury

Abstract

Digital Rights Management (DRM) is an important area of consideration in view of the socio-legal aspect of library management. DRM covers all sorts of digital contents (including digital text, audio, video files, graphics, animations, images etc.) and spans through their entire lifecycle (creation, distribution, updates). This paper discusses how DRM can be applied in protecting Indigenous Knowledge from copyright infringers. IK is now brought into the centre of deliberation due to its enormous possibilities in different area of human activities. It is a great challenge to organize these data in a systemic manner as because IK is not only generated by individual persons but also it is the result of transmission of tacit knowledge from one person to another or to one generation to another by oral or demonstration process. As regards methodology, it may be said that DRM, in general, is a framework for restricting the access and distribution of digital contents. The main purpose of DRM is to protect the digital data/contents via encryption by using standards like REL, DPRL, XrML, ODRL, XACML etc. (Full forms are in Table1). Digitized IK is being shared over the web for global access by well known agencies. But access control should be there in order to protect rights of the community responsible for developing the knowledge base. In fine, it is argued that the sustainability of IK is essential. Protection from infringement may help in sustainable development of IK. DRM may act as an effective mechanism in protecting rights of the communities in their own knowledgebase.

Key Word: *Digital Rights, Digital Rights Management, Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge Management Systems, Mechanism of Digital Rights Management.*