PREFACE

This thesis represents a culmination of work and learning that has taken place over a period of my research. The thesis highlights the developments of Library and Information Science education from early times to modern digital era whereby learning takes place virtually in an online environment. The latest developments are the outcome of the widespread application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in higher education system. ICT has revolutionized the way of teaching and learning and has given rise to various movements and initiatives in e-learning.

The present study is an effort to highlight the use of e-learning systems by various universities across India and the satisfaction of students and e-learning proficient staff members. Moreover, the expertise of e-learning proficient staff in managing the overall integrated e-learning systems has also been described.

The present research is perhaps the first of its kind that focuses on the top most universities in India and describes various experiences of e-learning proficient staff members and students and the softwares used in the universities under study.

There is a need to develop an e-learning system in LIS education and after evaluating some of the select well known web-based e-learning system which provides free access to professionals, teachers and students, an e-learning prototype has been designed. It is an attempt to subside the shortage of contact class programmes due to the phenomenal growth in the number of students. The proposed prototype will expand the possibilities of improving professional caliber and quality of education in Library and Information Science.

Based on the study and remarks from the faculty members and participants, some suggestions have been put forward for the further improvement of the development and scope of study in the country. The thesis has been divided into seven chapters and appended a comprehensive bibliography and questionnaires under appendices.