PREFACE

The present study is an attempt to evaluate the present status of medical college libraries in West Bengal. Today none can deny the importance of medical college libraries as a basic tool for acquiring medical knowledge. So the present position of such libraries should be reviewed to gather a complete picture.

It attempts to make a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the library and information facilities available in the medical college libraries and before presenting the analysis of the study findings, traces succinctly the historical development of the various systems of medicine from ancient time to the present day.

On the basis of the data collected through three questionnaire, one for librarians and the others to the users (students and teachers) of these libraries which include the book provides detailed information about the aims and objectives, of these libraries, their information resources and their management, their financial position, and infrastructural facilities and services available to their users.

The new electronic technologies have to be regarded as powerful agents for helping the libraries to achieve speedier access to information. They have, in fact, revolutionized every function of the library and information science to the benefit of both the library profession and the users.

The prominent feature of this study is the recognition of the fact that the libraries should endeavor to achieve a dynamic interface with users. In this context, services and the facilities available to users, their reactions to these services and the attitude to the librarians have been explained in detail. Ti clearly comes to conclusion that in this age of knowledge explosion the existing resources and services provided to the bio-medical
community are inadequate and insufficient to meet their increasing demands. This independence necessitates formation of the sort of network which would ensure that the total national resources of the medical libraries would be at the service of the user of the bio-medical community in the country.