PREFACE

College library is an integral part of collegiate education. It performs a central function in the educational process in a college. Library is characterized as an organisation that preserves books and other reading materials and makes them available to readers. Library personnel are one of the important ingredients and essential input in a college library. They hold a pivotal position in the matter of providing library service to the teachers and students and determine the effectiveness of the college library.

College libraries are gaining importance day by day. High cost of books, higher rate of expenses on education and vast amount of literature coming in the market changed the condition objectives and methods in higher education are a few factors which are making students more and more dependent upon the libraries. Due to knowledge explosion growth in the number of users, diversified nature of users requirements, escalating cost of documents librarians are facing great difficulties in providing need based information to the users.

Being a Librarian working in a college library I took interest in taking up survey on college libraries. The aim is to throw light on the functioning of college libraries of all the three districts of Barak Valley. The main purpose of this study is to bring out the present picture of college libraries which consists of five chapters. The study is based on the physical observation of college libraries and collection of information by using questionnaire prepared for the purpose. The information has been collected from degree students, teachers and librarians of general colleges of Barak Valley. If this study helps the colleges towards developing or better plan for extending effective information services, information sources to its esteemed users community my work will be rewarded.