While giving lectures to the students of Bachelor class at the Department of Library & Information science, Asian Worker's Development Institute (AWDI), Bastia Smruti Sadan, Rourkela on the topics of information needs and uses since 1986, a sense of 'hollow feeling' used to crop into my mind when I used to cite the examples from authors working with communities from well developed countries, but not from India where the environmental conditions are complete contrast to what is taught from the books. This dreath of literature on the subject in Indian context always haunted me and I felt that the research projects in this area in our country have to be undertaken to make our library services socially useful. A look into the excellent reviews made by Dervin & Nilan (1986) and Hewins (1990) in which not a single Indian author was cited, only confirmed my feelings further. Of course this is not meant to discredit the excellent works made by very few authors with Indian communities. For example the research project on the information needs of different communities in the Puri District of Orissa by Baliarsingh(1989) is a pioneering work in India and has become very useful in providing the necessary basis for other workers in the field. In the present investigation a sample of 809 employees working in an industrial environment, i.e the Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela, Orissa., one of the largest steel plants of India, are considered with an overall objective of assessing their every-day information needs and to suggest the possible solutions. Though this can not claim as a comprehensive work to make generalisation on information needs of general public, it may, perhaps, be adequate to study the small communities working and living under similar environmental conditions.

Geeta Mohanty

(Original Signature)