ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all I express my indebtedness, sincere gratitude and deep sense of admiration to my ever inspiring teacher and guide Professor (Dr.) A K Baradol whose invaluable guidance, encouragement and suggestions have been of immense help in preparing this thesis. He is the mentor for my progress in career and his wisdom, unstinted support and insights throughout the tenure of preparing this thesis has enabled me to complete the work.

I immensely indebted to Dr. Niranjan Kumar, Medical Director, and Dr Y S Rai, Dean, S.D M College of Medical Sciences and Hospital, Dharwad, for granting permission to take up the research and supporting it all through its completion. I am also obliged to Dr G N Prabhakara, Principal, S D M College of Medical Sciences and Hospital, Dharwad, for his encouragement.

I thank Ms. Marian Taliaferro, Manager (Library and Archives), Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Washington, USA, for providing useful information required in the compilation of this work. I would also like to thank Prof. (Dr.) R S R Vara Lakshmi, Department of Library and Information Science, College of Arts and Commerce, Andhra University, Visakapatnam, for her encouragement to this research work.

My sincere thanks to Dr Gopakumar V, Librarian, University College, Thiruvananthapuram. Discussions with him have helped in refining my research ideas.

I would like to express my appreciation for Professor (Dr.) D Shivalingaiah, Dr M V Mudhol, Reader, Dr K M Khan, Reader and Mr Umesh Naik, Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, Mangalore University, for their constant encouragement during the work. I also acknowledge the assistance of Ms Shobha and Mr Ramappa, Department of Library and Information Science, Mangalore University.

Dr. M.K. Bhandi, University Librarian, Mr K K Badami, Assistant Librarian, and other staff of Mangalore University Library were very supportive throughout my study. I place on record my sincere gratitude to all of them. I also would like to thank the Mangalore University guest house staff for their help in the past five years.
I extend my heartfelt thanks to the libraries that responded to the survey and co-operated during my personal visits. It is because of their support I could finish the work in time.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to all my colleagues in the SDM College of Medical Sciences and Hospital Central Library, Dharwad, for extending their co-operation at every step during the work. Special mention needs to be made regarding the assistance of Mrs. Manjula Harobidi, Mr. Devaraj S. Narendra and Mr. Mahantesh M. Kumbar.

I am grateful to my mother Smt. Gulabi for her eternal support, patience and prayers for the successful outcome of this work. I shall be failing in my duties, if I do not acknowledge the incredible support and dedication of my wife Champa, and my children Keertan and Kriti during the last five years.

Looking back after finishing this work, I find many more people who have in one or the other way inspired and contributed to this project. I would like to inscribe my deep sense of gratitude to all of them.

Finally, I bow before the Almighty God for the fortunes and favours showered on me.

31st December, 2009

Ravichandra