The task of college library is becoming more and more challenging and complex day by day due to financial crunch, enormous rise in student population and information explosion. The growing financial crisis along with the increasing social demands for higher education compels many academic institutions to find different means to solve their problems. Already a good number of colleges have started post graduate courses to meet the market need. Since 1990s a remarkable change has been noticed in the college library users’ attitude. The introduction of IT in the LIS field has influenced the user mind. The 21st century college library users want to get the requisite information at their fingertips. Naturally a college library needs to strengthen its infrastructure. Most of the colleges in West Bengal have taken steps in this regard. They have started library computerization since 1997. Excepting one, most of the colleges have not been able to complete the system changing project successfully till now. A huge amount of money and time have been exhausted but the result is not satisfactory. For a professional, it is a matter of interest to find the causes behind such failures. This has been the initial motivation for the present study under the guidance of Professor Amitabha Chatterjee of Jadavpur University (now retired).

The focal point of the study is the situation of West Bengal college libraries. A comparative study has been attempted between the college library situation of West
Bengal and those of Delhi and the USA. This has been done for measuring the growth of college libraries of West Bengal. Collection of relevant fool-proof data from different sources was not a very easy task. Along with data collection through questionnaire a regular discussions and communications with many professionals in India and the USA and study of relevant literature available online and offline have helped in obtaining a fairly good picture of college library situation in West Bengal and the USA. It is expected that the study will have its impact upon the college library reorganization in West Bengal and other parts of India for bringing out a sustainable college library development.