Libraries are the essential organs of the modern society. Nowadays, the libraries become the information resource centers to keep the man with an up-to-date knowledge. A library is a collection of information, sources, resources, and services: it is organized for use and maintained by a public body, an institution, or a private individual. At present, the libraries are understood as extending beyond the physical walls of a building, by including material accessible by electronic means, and by providing the assistance of librarians in navigating and analyzing tremendous amounts of knowledge with a variety of digital tools.

The central mission of a library is to collect, organize, preserve, and provide access to knowledge and information. In fulfilling this mission, libraries preserve a valuable record of culture that can be passed down to succeeding generations. Libraries are an essential link in this communication between the past, present, and future. Whether the cultural record is contained in books or in electronic formats, libraries ensure that the record is preserved and made available for later use. Libraries provide people with access to the information they need to work, play, learn, and govern.

In general the libraries are broadly categorized as public, academic and special ones. Public Libraries are the first form of libraries; A library or library system that provides unrestricted access to library resources and services free of charge to all the residents of a given community, district, or geographic region, supported wholly or in part by public funds. Because public libraries have a broader mandate than academic and special libraries, they must develop their collections to reflect diversity.

Robert Welch rightly points out about the PL services, "the quickest and the easiest access to the world's best thought is through PL". Public Library has been acknowledged to be an indispensable part of the society. Public Library is playing a vital role to promote the social, economic, cultural, historical, scientific and technical knowledge among the society at large. It is the treasure house of the cultural history of mankind. A country can be valued by its cultural heritage and the knowledge bank. Public Library is the information resource pool, by which the richness of the country can be valued. It is of national importance. The Public library system is the study of the various
levels of PLs, their divisions, existing under the networked environment for the purpose of service the society. No one can neglect the services of PLs. Even a layman or illiterate may gain knowledge from PLs. Understanding the importance of public library system (PLS), the study of “Public library system in Bhutan: a systematic approach for future developments” has been taken for research.

Chapter one is “Introduction”, which deals with the introduction of libraries, the types of libraries, significance of public libraries and public library system. When we talk about public library system, it is very essential to mention the UNESCO manifesto which gives a detailed standards and guidelines for the public library system. This section also has included the systematic planning for public libraries in which the three basic factors of environmental factors, essential preconditions and infrastructural elements have been discussed. Next the chapter deals with the hypothesis, objectives, needs, methodology and limitations of the study. This chapter ends with the chapter plan of the whole project.

Chapter two is “Review of Literature” is to know the state of the art of public library system in India and some other developing countries. Not all countries provide public library services of an equally high standard, but there has been a tendency everywhere to recognize their value and to improve the system where they exist or to introduce the system where it has not been established. Since Bhutan is one of the developing countries, this will help to constitute a comparative study of PLS with the other developing countries. Next the section gives some previous studies on public libraries and public library system, which will justify the choice of the research topic, and the background information needed to understand the study.

Chapter three is Bhutan at a glance. Since Bhutan is a landlocked country, situated in the highlands of Himalaya, it is not well known to all. This chapter gives some background information to know the country. It covers the essential factors about the country, political system, population, economy and economic activities. This section includes some important notes on all districts (dzongkhag) and blocks / taluks (gewog). This section gives a sketch on twenty languages, which are spoken by the Bhutanese people. In Bhutan three types of education system are existed. They are monastic education, modern formal education and the non-formal education. At the end, this section tells about these educational systems and the literacy rate of the country.
The fourth chapter namely the “Status of Public Libraries & other Information Mass Media” gives an outline on the national library and archives of Bhutan and the public library of Thimphu, its brief history, collection and services, members, projects and its future plan. Next the section explains about the monasteries and their book collections. There are hundreds of monasteries were built in Bhutan at the sacred caves that had previously been places of meditation. Some monasteries have a good collection of books for its traditional education. Next the chapter deals with the other information mass media like newspapers and periodicals, Bhutan broadcasting service (BBS) of radio and television followed by cinema and internet café services. All these public libraries and the mass media are generally sketch the provision of information channels for the public.

The chapter five is “A study of Public Library System for Bhutan (Survey based)” consists of six sections namely fuzzy set theory, definitions, fuzzy mathematical model, fuzzy cognitive maps (FCM), justification for using FCM model and adaptation of the FCM. FCMs are the best suited tool in the study and analysis of the unsupervised data. FCM are the only structures which can give the hidden pattern of the dynamical system. By using FCMs we were able to find the main objective of Public Library system in promoting Literacy. The comments part gives some suggestions for the establishment of Public Libraries, and Mobile Libraries for rural Bhutan.

The sixth chapter gives “a plan of Public Library System for Bhutan”. No library is self sufficient; so the collection of libraries will serve better than the single one. This section talks about the plan of public library system, the cooperation and resource sharing among public libraries. This section talks about the formulation of legislation which is mandatory for public library system. At last the section covers the usage of modern technologies like automation and networking. The usage of computers in public libraries will play a vital role in providing the quality services.

The last chapter is “Conclusion”. This chapter covers the summary of the major findings of the project and the recommendations to be given to the Royal Government of Bhutan.

At the end, bibliographies of works sited in this study, some important appendices have been added namely, the legal deposit act of Bhutan, algorithm of FCM, the questionnaire given to the librarians of public library, the national library of Bhutan and the questionnaire used for the public survey.