The information explosion and mechanisation in the information storage and retrieval programmes led to the designing of a number of information systems at the national and international level. UNESCO, under its UNISIST programme, has taken active interest in the formation of National Information System in Science and Technology. In India, the design of information systems is in its infant stage. National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) was established under the department of Science and Technology in July 1977.

There are a number of specific subject areas of national importance which are yet to possess National Information Systems. Marine fisheries is one of the important subject areas among them. Importance of marine fisheries in the national development programmes, progress of marine fisheries research and development activities, growth of marine fisheries literature, inadequacy of library and information services connected with marine fisheries and information needs of the actual and potential users of marine fisheries sector.
are the important factors that have been considered in this study.

The first five chapters of the thesis discuss the importance of marine fisheries in the national development programmes, the progress of marine fisheries research in the last two and a half decades and the growth of marine fisheries literature in India from 1960 to 1985.

The sixth, seventh and eighth chapters deal with the origin and growth of marine fisheries information, the important marine fisheries information sources and the status of existing library and information services of the country. They also deal with the important International Information Systems on marine fisheries and allied subjects.

In the ninth chapter, results of a survey on the opinions of the users of marine fisheries are presented. The gap between the need and the supply of information has been identified. The most essential services have been identified from the suggestions of the users.

In the tenth chapter the structure and functions of a Marine Fisheries Information System have been dealt with. The results of the study clearly indicate that the design of Marine Fisheries Information System and its implementation will support all the progressive efforts of the country in the development of the Marine Fisheries sector.