ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is matter of immense pleasure and privilege to pay special regards and thanks to Dr (Mrs) Ranjana Vohra, Chairperson, Department of Library and Information Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who patiently supervised this work with a great critical insight and intellectual acumen. Under her guidance, things always looked within reach. In fact without her consistent critical suggestions, cheerful encouragement and sincere co-operation, this effort would have remained futile. I have learnt a lot from her and her complete knowledge of the subject imbibed in me a desire to learn more and more. It was a great privilege to study under a profound scholar and kind supervisor like her.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr (Mrs) Preeti Mahajan, Reader and staff members of the Department of Library and Information Science for providing me necessary co-operation and support.

Thanks are also due to all the librarians and staff members of various libraries for providing essential information for the present study. I acknowledge my thanks to all the authors and editors whose works I have consulted and cited in this thesis.

I am grateful to my parents for their blessings, consistent encouragement and moral support. I also take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for my family members for their patience and active co-operation.

I am especially thankful to my husband, Kamal, for his affection, understanding and inspiration. His perpetual encouragement acted as catalyst, which has invigorated me to enhance the speed of the work.

Dated: 28.08

(Meenakshi)