ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply indebted to my esteemed supervisor, Dr. V. A. Kamath, who in spite of being very busy with his duties as head of a top scientific library and information centre (BARC-Bombay), provided full and detailed guidance to me in regard to this study. He discussed various points of the study with me in details and examined and re-examined the manuscript patiently. Though quite far away from my place of work, he made himself readily available, whenever I visited Bombay, and called me for discussion, whenever he visited Delhi, Chandigarh or Karnal in one capacity or the other. Moreover, he was very prompt in answering all my inquiries through correspondence.

I am also grateful to Miss A.K. Anand, Librarian, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who initiated me into this work. Shri S. Arunachalam, Editor, PID (CSIR), and Shri B.K. Sen, Scientist, INSDOC provided constructive criticism and suggestions to me. I offer my sincere thanks to them.

I am also thankful to all those who responded to my questionnaires and spared their valuable time for personal interviews.

My thanks are also due to my friends Virinder, Vijay, Sabad, and Ranjit who helped me in various ways to overcome certain difficulties faced by me in the present work.

Last but not the least, I am thankful to M/s Sarabjit Reprographic Centre, Sector 16 for the careful typing of the manuscript and the staff of Computer Centre of Panjab University for undertaking the computer work expeditiously.