PREFACE

After the Independence there was a nation-wide awareness towards development of Small Industry. Small Scale Industries (SSI) constitute an important integral part of India's industrial structure and play a significant role in the economic upliftment of the people. In order to give a fillip to the SSI the government has launched several assistance programmes so as to encourage setting up of such units even in rural areas. The small scale industry suffers from lack of organised information for application of new technologies of production and management. In order to overcome the information gaps - Information Systems need to be designed to assist managers, entrepreneurs etc., to facilitate in planning and decision making, by combining Library Information and computer science techniques, into an integrated decision oriented information system.

There has been no systematic study at the academic level by Indian scholars on the subject. Therefore it was felt necessary to make an indepth analysis of the situation in India, taking into consideration the resources available. The present work is based on an examination of published and unpublished material collected from organisations like, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Small Industry Extension Training Institute and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad. To get a deeper insight into the complex problems of the SSI and the Data Base Management systems
extensive discussions were undertaken with a number of scientists at the organisations mentioned above whose enlightened cooperation greatly enhanced the value of the work.

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