CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
Conclusion and suggestions

Information is the basis of economic growth, essential characteristic and driving force of a range of technologies of breathtaking potential. Information society is not a fiction or the prediction of the futurologists, but it is a fact of life. It is already fully realised and adequately perceived in the developed countries, whereas the developing and underdeveloped countries are steadily accepting the impact of information society. The challenges of this society are many. In order to facilitate the generation and communication of primary information and its service through secondary sources for the optimum utilization, every government gives the top priority. In the process, every country would attempt to establish its national information infrastructure. Thus, developed information infrastructure provides the capacity to the country to harness, marshal, organize and channelise the information from the point of generation to the points of use. It is seen that the developed countries spend major share of their national income for the information activities. In Japan, Germany and USA, 60% of the total workforce is invariably involved in information activities. It is noteworthy that the possession of the capacity to handle information and knowledge become the means of access to and source of power and the potential for material wealth as a society tends towards technological and industrial growth.
This study is an indepth evaluation of development of library and information services in UAE since its independence. Efforts are being made here to assess the possibilities of building effective and efficient Library and Information Service System (LISS) keeping in mind, the existing information infrastructure and also the computer and communication technology capability of the country.

UNESCO international conference (NATIS conference, Paris, 1974) on the planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructure indicates that in each country to maintain the satisfactory selection, treatment and availability of information, there must be a minimum of adequate organization in three areas, i.e., libraries, documentation centers and archives. In this regard UAE is adequately poised to provide information in all its forms and formats but there needs a kind of reorientation to the existing environment to exploit the optimum utilization of information.

Present study has revealed the potentiality of the libraries and information centres in the UAE. If proper professionalism is infused and a kind of autonomy is offered, it goes a long way in changing the dimensions of information handling in all walks of life. Further, this
study also paved the way for suggesting some ways and means to rejuvenate the total information environment in the seven Emirates. Following are some of the suggestions made on the basis of the survey of libraries and information facilities:

1. In order to generate the library consciousness among the public and to spread the network of public libraries there is an immediate need for Library legislation which will give a new framework to the library development.

2. To encourage the dynamism in the profession, professional associations at different levels should be formulated. This will help in getting a status and recognition to the profession. Associations should promote the publication of journals and newsletters to keep informed the developments in the profession as well as the growth of the subject and its literature. Further, it becomes easy for obtaining the financial aid, sponsorship of national and international governments and organizations to better the welfare and working conditions of the professionals. It also promotes the organization of conferences, seminars and other continuing education activities at different stages.

3. Looking into the scanty provision for manpower development programme it is observed that this should be
given a priority to shoulder the responsibility of managing the library on sound lines. Ministry of higher education, higher colleges of technology, professional associations should take the strain of starting of education and training programmes in various stages. Attention should be focussed on modern technology and its application. Efforts may also be directed to invite the expert group from the developed countries so as to lay the solid foundation of professional education and training.

4. Keeping view the rich national resources (oil, crude, petrol, etc.) efforts are to be directed to formulate the National Information Policy on the guidelines of the international organizations. Convenient strategy be worked out to develop the information systems and programmes in the selected sectors. Available communication and computer technology be utilized for obtaining information for use from within and outside the UAE. This calls for an intensive study of the existing system by an international expert group to suggest for the appropriate National Information Systems in different sectors. Different existing systems and programmes in other countries be compared and evaluated so as to formulate the suitable programme for UAE.
5. Information Technology is making big strides in information processing and transmission all over the world. UAE with its enormous amount of national income can overcome the barriers in adopting the latest Information Technology, to provide an access to and to store and control adequately the latest information in all the fields of activities to facilitate national development.

6. Governments should promote the bilateral and multilateral relations to marshal the information from all nooks and corners of the world. UAE Federation of Information processing and transmission is the need of the hour in the total set up.

This research study is conducted with all the limitations and has brought out the above mentioned suggestions. It would be possible for the researchers of the future to take up the individual sector and study intensively to evolve methods, procedures and strategies. There are wide opened opportunities to go for further research in the field of Library and Information Science. Public libraries, school and college libraries including university and research libraries and information centres need a sincere and consistent persuasion in modelling, organizing and
programming them to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Whatever may be the type of society that takes shape, it cares for knowledge, information and data which are the basic ingredients of the life of that society. These things are to be possessed and channelised for use. In this context, libraries, information centres, data centres, etc., are becoming the inevitable partners in the progress. This is what is needed for a country like UAE at present.