This explorative study examines the effectiveness of the structure, organization and process of biomedical and health care information provision in the health sciences libraries of Karnataka. It also endeavors to create an awareness of and appreciation for the profession of Health Sciences Librarianship in the State as well as to fill a literature gap on the subject.

To achieve its objectives, the dissertation utilizes a questionnaire method. It is supplemented by personal visits and interviews with the user community comprising of clinicians, teachers, postgraduate students, allied health personnel and health care administrators.

The findings of the study may be summarized as follows:

[1] Historically the librarianship continuously is suffering because of lack of importance given to libraries by governments and managements of institutions in the country and in the State.

[2] The health professionals rely heavily on biomedical and health information to be aware of the latest trends in specialized information applicable to the patient care, medical education, research, self advancement and Continuing Medical Education [CME].

The apparent growth in biomedical and health care information has made the health sciences libraries and librarians rely to a great extent on one another for collection augment through cooperative efforts and resource sharing.

The library network have become absolutely essential ingredient in the present century because of sky rocketing prices of reading materials in the biomedical and health sciences with apparently no proportionate increase in the library budgets.

The nation lacks a network facility which would have created an impact forcibly towards the provision and dissemination of biomedical and health care information in the specialized libraries of the nation.

Because of these reasons, the dissertation makes a case for cooperative efforts and resource sharing in health sciences libraries of Karnataka. It proposes on an urgency, an establishment of a regional network of health sciences libraries in the state.

The network management is a critical task. It demands that those in charge of the facility must have insight, know-how and knowledge of the working of the facility. The network will have diverse user community of medical and allied health professionals and a work force of library professionals from different environments.
A proposal for Distributed Network is suggested for the State of Karnataka with four medical school libraries to work as Regional Health Sciences Libraries. All medical school libraries will be heavily relying on one another in providing document delivery and information to all health professionals in the State as well as to other health care libraries and institutions around.

A management structure is suggested which will be responsible for the working of the facility on approved principles, policies and procedures.

The financial aspects of the facility have been discussed and means of augmenting necessary funds for the uninterrupted working of the network facility have been proposed.

The network when established, will be one of its kind in the nation and that other states will follow the establishments of state-wide network of health sciences libraries. When majority of states in India have their regional health sciences library networks established, it would then be easier to merge these into one National Health Sciences Library Network. The impact of such facilities in each state as well as in the nation will be so much that the user community will have all literature on health and biomedicine at their disposal that has to do any thing with the improvements in the patient care. The libraries will then be looked upon as the service departments and the
rewards to follow after this will be many—financial, status for the librarians and the improvements in libraries, increase in funds and reading materials in libraries and tremendous use of these resources state-wide. This will result in the improved health and biomedical education, CME and most importantly the qualitative improved care of the sick.

[7] As the evaluation of this facility must be one of the objectives of network facility, due consideration and importance has been given to the mechanisms of network evaluation.

[8] Job description are of immense importance and have been developed for several categories of professional as well as other support staff that will help organizations in the proper distribution of responsibilities and the management of tasks in libraries.

The advances in the biomedical sciences have created an avalanche and financial constrains on libraries are tremendous. No single library could dream of having a "Comprehensive Collection". The network is the only way out if the health sciences libraries of Karnataka and the nation are to stand up to the tests and fulfill their only obligation and goal of provision of timely, qualitative, accurate biomedical information retrieval, dissemination and delivery. It will make the health sciences libraries in the nation in general and in the state in particular responsive
to the users' need for medical and health care information on advances that may have any effect on education, research and patient care.