Preface

The library is a social institution with the sacred responsibility of collecting, organizing, preserving and disseminating knowledge. Information Technology (IT) has revolutionized information management to the extent that information will no longer confine to the four walls of the library. The college libraries are no exception and this category of libraries are not far behind in the application of IT for the library operations and services so as to provide better facilities and services to their user community that primarily consist of students and the faculty members.

The present study on “Information Technology Application and Level of User Satisfaction in Degree College Libraries in Chandigarh: An Analytical study” has been undertaken for doctoral research with the aim of ascertaining the extent of use of Information Technology applications for various library operations and services in the degree college libraries in Chandigarh. The study has generated useful information, particularly for the Degree College librarians and others about the application of Information Technology and its impact on the users in these libraries.

The study has been organized into the following six chapters: The First Chapter deals with the introduction, statement of the problem, need of the study, objectives of the study, the hypotheses, universe of the study, delimitations of the study and research methodology. The Second Chapter provides reviews on the current developments in the use of information technology in the libraries, usage pattern of electronic information resources; and satisfaction level of users on the information technology infrastructure and electronic resources with respect to Degree college libraries in Chandigarh. The Third Chapter has documented the profiles of the degree college libraries in Chandigarh with reference to their origin, objectives, activities, infrastructure and libraries. Briefly introduced the growth of college
libraries and role of University Grants Commission and the also that of Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) that these organizations played in the development of college libraries in the country.

The Fourth Chapter covered the application of Information Technology for various library operations and services in ten degree college libraries in Chandigarh. Starting with the definition of the IT, the chapter listed various technologies that comprised of IT, such as telecommunication technology, network technology, multimedia technology, etc. An important component of this chapter is the analysis of the Information Technology infrastructure available in the degree college libraries in Chandigarh.

The Fifth Chapter has presented the analysis of the respondents’ data on the use of electronic resources and services in the degree college libraries in Chandigarh. The major findings are with respect to usage of on-line catalogue, automated services, electronic resources and satisfaction with respect the IT based facilities, resources and services, etc. The Sixth and the last Chapter include conclusions and suggestions for strengthening the IT infrastructure and electronic resources, services and facilities in the degree college libraries in Chandigarh. This Chapter also lists the hypotheses tested based on the data analyzed.

A comprehensive bibliography has also been provided at the end of the chapters for further reading on the subject of research. The two questionnaires that used to collect data from the colleges and users have been appended at the end of the thesis as Annexure I and Annexure II.

It would be a matter of great satisfaction for me if the findings and suggestions of this study would be of use for the college libraries in Chandigarh and in other regions in the country as well for strengthening the IT infrastructure to provide efficient and effective information and library services to the end users.

(Jaspal Kaur)