ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with great honor and pride that I convey my honest gratitude to my guide and mentor Dr. Mahesh V. Mudhol, Reader, Department of Library and Information Science, Mangalore University, Mangalore for his colossal knowledge in Library And Information Science, profound interest in research and perfection personified. His caring virtues, relentless reassurance, timely advice, tremendous patience and attention to detail while supervising me during the study period made this work possible. He has been a constant source of inspiration to me and it was his expertise and enthusiasm in the subject that drove me to take up this challenging endeavor. After all, words are such that they don't do adequate budding for the depth of feelings. I have and I can only express less than what I feel. I am eternally indebted to him.

I extend my earnest gratitude to the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of Manipal University, Manipal for having faith in my abilities and employing me.

I am grateful to Dr. Sripathi Rao, Dean, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Dr. R.S.P. Rao, Ex-Dean and now professor, Dept. of Community Medicine, KMC, Manipal and Dr. A. Krishna Rao, Ex-Dean and now advisor, Dept. of Physiology, KMC, Manipal for their encouragement extended throughout my research.

I express my sincere thanks to my superior, colleague and friend Dr. K. Shivananda Bhat, Senior Librarian, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal for his constant encouragement, motivation, personal involvement, numerous suggestions and support throughout the study period.

I am deeply indebted to my colleague Mr. Nithyananda Nayak, Junior Systems Executive, KMC, Manipal for his ever willing help, guidance, technical advice in computing and statistical analysis during the course of the study.

I render my sincere thanks to Dr. Sreemathi S. Mayya, Associate Professor, Dept of Statistics, Manipal University, Manipal for helping me out with the statistical analysis. I am indebted to her for her continued suggestions and encouragement.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. B. Srinivasa Bhat, Graduate Assistant, SMS PU College, Brahmavara for his valuable advice, constant suggestions, technical expertise and language editing throughout the course of this work.

I offer my sincere thanks to the Dean and management of all the medical colleges in Coastal Karnataka under the study for permitting me to carry out this research.

I owe my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Leelavathi, Senior Librarian, KMC, Manipal; Mrs. Pooja, Senior Librarian and Mr. Ananth Rao, Librarian, KMC, Mangalore; Mrs. Janet Dotty Lobo, Chief Librarian, Father Muller Medical College, Mangalore; Mrs. Supriti Shetty, Chief Librarian, K S Hegde Medical Academy, Mangalore; Mrs. Mamatha P. Kumar, Chief Librarian and Mrs. Seemalatha, Assistant Librarian, Yenepoya Medical College; and Dr. A. Venkatesh, Chief Librarian and Mr. A.K. Gowda, Deputy Librarian, A J Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalore for their valuable help in collecting the data.
I am thankful to Dr. A.K. Baradol, Chairman, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Mangalore University, Mangalore and Dr. M.K. Bhandi, University Librarian, Mangalore University, Mangalore for their valuable support and help.

I would be failing in my duty if I don’t thank to Dr. Varadaraj, Assistant Professor, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, Dr. Ganesh Bhat S, Professor of Commerce, St. Mary’s College, Shirva, Dr. Suresh Jange, Deputy Librarian, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Dr. Libert Anil Gomes, Associate Professor and In-charge HOD, Dept. of Hospital Administration, KMC, Manipal, Dr. Gautham Shenoy, Professor, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, Dr. Sandeep, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pediatric Surgery, KMC, Manipal, Dr. Vadraj, Associate Professor, Dept. of Radiotherapy, KMC, Manipal, Mr. Vasudeva G., Lecturer, Dept. of Statistics, Manipal University, Manipal for their valuable suggestions and advice at the various stages of my research work.

I am highly indebted to all the staff members of Health Sciences Library, KMC, Manipal and friends for their kind support, co-operation and help.

I acknowledge the help of Mr. Ramesh B., Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, Mr. Sanath B., KMC Office, Manipal and Mrs. Shobha, Melaka Manipal Medical College, Manipal.

I shall be failing if I forget to mention the encouragements received from my wife Mrs. Vidya M. Rao who had to bear great stress and strain during these years failing which it would not have been possible for me complete the work without taking much time. I am also thankful to my parents, family and two daughters Navya and Dhanya who made my path easy through their unconditional love, patience, endurance and concern.

I thank all those who have directly or indirectly helped me in my research work and completion of the thesis.

Before concluding, I offer my hearty devotion to the ‘Almighty God’ for His sacred blessings bestowed.

Mahabaleshwara Rao