ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the onset, I take this opportunity to thank the ALMIGHTY GOD for inspiring me to take up this research work and for his benevolence and blessings throughout the period of this study.

It is a matter of immense pride and pleasure for me to acknowledge the efforts of all those people whose guidance, efforts and support are responsible for the outcome of the present research work.

I am highly indebted to Dr S. R. Ganpule – my guide, for his thought-filled and painstaking guidance in shaping this work – right from its inception, till this stage of completion. Without his able guidance, valuable suggestions and patience, this work would not have seen light of the day.

My special thanks are due to Prof. (Mrs.) V.P. Rajhans- Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science, University of Mumbai and all those librarians and professional colleagues, who extended full co-operation to me in collecting the data through questionnaire, interviews, correspondence, personal visits and through institutional publications. Their support has made a valuable contribution to the work.

I am grateful to all those senior professionals in the country and other distinguished scholars who happily agreed to spare their valuable time for me for giving interviews, personal discussions and for peer reviewing.
I am highly indebted to Dr V. N. Patkar and H'ble Shri M.R. Riswadkar – who performed the role of a philosopher and guide for me all throughout the research work.

My special thanks to Mrs. Sushama Paudwal whose encouragement and friendly advice from time to time was a driving force for me.

I am sincerely thankful to Mr R. Y. Nadkar for providing the necessary programming support in analysing the data.

Mr. Vishwas Bal and Ms. Nisha Gurav definitely deserve heartfelt thanks from me for meticulously carrying out the typing and printing work of this thesis.

My sincere thanks to all of them whom I might have missed to mention, but their good wishes have surely contributed in this work.

Finally, I express my deep sense of gratitude to all my family members and my parents, who stood by me all throughout the time with great care and patience. Their constant moral support is immeasurable. I am profoundly grateful to them.

I must also mention that errors if at all, in this work are mine alone.

Pratibha A. Gokhale