ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to my guide Dr. B.S. Swaroop Rani, Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli for her guidance and support throughout the period. My sincere thanks to Dr. Ally Sornam, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Bishop Heber College for her support and encouragement. I thank other faculty members of the department, Dr. Manoharan, Associate Professor and Dr. V. Geetha, Associate Professor for their support. I also thank Mr. Jesudoss Manalan, Librarian, Bishop Heber College.

I am thankful to my doctoral committee member Dr. B. Ramesh Babu, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Madras who gave detailed feedback and advice throughout my research work.

My sincere thanks to Mr. R. Sampath, former Secretary, College Committee, Madras School of Social Work, Chennai and Dr. Fatima Vasanth, Principal cum Secretary, Madras School of Social Work and Syndicate Member, University of Madras for their support and encouragement.

I am grateful to my friend Dr. J. S. Gunavathy, Assistant Professor, Madras School of Social Work for her motivation and support from the day of my Ph.D registration and through all stages till completion. This study would not have become possible without her support.

I am thankful to the entire faculty and staff members of Madras School of Social Work, Chennai and particularly Dr. S. Raja Samuel, Assistant Professor for his input to this research. I
am also thankful to all my friends and professional colleagues in extending various kinds support for this study.

I am extremely thankful to the Principals of all affiliated colleges of University of Madras, Heads of various research departments, Research Coordinators, and Librarians of various colleges for their support in collecting the data for my study.

My thanks go to my family members for their cooperation to complete the study.

Last but not the least, my sincere thanks to all my respondents who spared their time for my study.

V.Sakthi Regha
ABSTRACT

Information literacy competency assessment is to find out whether a person possesses information literacy competency and if so, to what level. Information literacy competency assessment of any individual or group of individuals will help to structure or restructure an information literacy programme to best suit the level of an individual or group of individuals.

This research study has attempted to bring out a standardised tool to assess Information Literacy Competency. This study was set in the Indian environment and attempted to assess information literacy competency among the full-time research scholars of the University of Madras and its affiliated colleges. This research study adopted the survey design to achieve the research objectives. The tool was prepared based on the Association of College and Research Libraries Standard and the same was factor analysed using the data collected.

It is revealed from the study that a great majority of the respondents have high levels of information management competency and respondents doing Doctor of Philosophy have a higher mean score of information literacy competency compared to the candidates doing Master of Philosophy.

It is suggested in the study that even though the overall percentage of information literacy competency is high among the research scholars, the competency of information search through technology is only moderate. Therefore, the research scholars need more training on using technology for information search like searching online resources, using various databases, online forums and so on.