Acknowledgements

In the name of God, Most Merciful and Compassionate

My foremost duty is to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. G.C. Bansal, Former Professor and Ex-chairman of Department of Library and Information Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh for his gracious guidance. Despite his pressing scholarly engagements and busy schedule he has taken great pains in going through details of this work.

I am thankful to the faculty members and the staff working in the Department of Library and Information Science of Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing facilities during the course of my study.

I express my grateful thanks to my colleagues of the Department of Library and Information Science, Azzahra University specially Dr. S. Rezaei Sharifabadi, assistant professor of the Department for his valuable suggestions and help in various aspects.

I have great pleasure to record my thanks to my sister Dr. Masoumeh Bagheri, assistant professor of Tehran University, for her kindness and helping me in all aspects of my life, specially for this research to come this far. This study without her wouldn't see the light of the day. I also record my thanks to Dr. Z. Bornaee faculty member of Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology, and Dr. R. Baradar assistant professor of Azzahra University, Tehran; to make easy in distributing and collecting my questionnaires.

I am highly thankful to Dr. Vimla Mehta Former Professor of Department of Education of University of Gurakpur, Colonel Gurdip Singh, and Mr. D. R. Grover, Former Reader, Department of Library and Information Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh for reading this work and giving precious suggestions.

During the course of this study an interaction with a large number of individuals and institutions was made. The teachers and librarians with whom I have discussed, I am grateful to all those who assisted me to accomplish this work.

My appreciations to all authors and researchers whose work I have consulted and quoted in my research work.

Last but not the least, I am highly obliged to the Ministry of Sciences, Researches and Technology for giving me the opportunity to complete this research. Also I owe my thanks to the Science and Education Section of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi specially Dr. Hajizadeh the representative of the Ministry.

Mansoureh Bagheri

10-December, 2002