ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present thesis owes its existence to a large number of people. The completion of the research has become possible with the support and encouragement of numerous people including my well wishers, my friends, and colleagues in various institutions. I would like to thank all those people who made it possible. It is a pleasant task to express my gratitude and thanks to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study.

Foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Prof. Harsha Parekh for the continuous support for my Ph.D. study and research, for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm, and immense knowledge. I could not have imagined having a better guide and mentor for my study. The confidence shown by her in my ability to undertake this study in a hitherto unexplored field in Library and Information Science in India has helped me to complete it successfully. Her guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. At every stage of research she helped in clearing issues and overcoming doubts. Long discussions with her gave the project a definite shape and structure. Her keen interest and commitment in the profession and in research even several years after retirement are the qualities I admire and she has set an example for me.

I wish to thank Dr. Bharati Sen for encouraging and supporting me through out my study. Each and every colleague at the S.H.P.T. School of Library Science and S.N.D.T. Women’s University Library has directly or indirectly given me much needed support. Dr. Sushma Powdwal, University Librarian and Head, S.H.P.T. School of Library Science, S.N.D.T. Women’s University was always supportive and encouraging. As an administrator she facilitated my work as best as possible. I sincerely thank her for that. Ms. Chhaya Pednekar, Junior Library Assistant particularly helped me in locating information as and when I needed. I specially thank her for that.

Whether it was data collection or analysis or identifying and accessing the related literature many people have helped. I acknowledge with gratitude help of Mr. P.C. Shah and Dr. Rajwant Chilana in locating published and unpublished literature. I thank all the authors of literature referred by me for the present study.

Ms. Sarika Sonawane helped me in entering the large data of 291 libraries in MS-Excel format and tabulating it as required. I thank her for the long hours put in on this tedious work. I thank my nephew Nishit for transcribing the several of the recorded interviews. He chose to spend several evenings doing this monotonous work than going out with his friends.

I can not forget to acknowledge the help given by Dr. Perin Marolia. Not only did she read through the first draft of the chapters, but also commented and suggested modification wherever required.

The cooperation extended by my professional colleagues from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa and select other libraries from India in responding to my request for the data has been overwhelming. The librarians of the disaster affected libraries whom I personally met and interviewed showed willingness to share freely and frankly. I thank them for their time and patience. I also wish to record my gratitude to the various experts interviewed to help me better understand the concepts. They spent their valuable time in explaining technical issues– be it insurance, fire prevention, conservation or IT security to a lay person like me.

Last but not the least, I acknowledge and thank the full support of my family for encouraging and motivating me to complete this research. My husband Sanjay was extremely patient and bore with my many moods. I knew that he was always there and that was itself a very strong support. During the process of completing the research, I had to forego family obligations but they all understood. In addition to above, there have been several people who have assisted me in big or small ways. I thank them all.