

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the outset, I take this opportunity to thank Prof. J. N. Goswami, Director, Physical Research Laboratory for allowing me to carry out the doctoral research.

I am highly indebted to Dr. Shyama Rajaram, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, M. S. University, Baroda for accepting me as a Ph. D. student and providing all the necessary support. She guided me through the research process with lot of patience and allowed me to carry out the research at the best pace possible for me. I have immensely benefited from her profound knowledge and practical advice during the discussions with her.

I am grateful to Prof. S. Krishnaswami, Prof. S. K. Bhattacharya, Prof. A. K. Singhvi, Prof. A. Joshipura, Prof. V. K. B. Kota, Prof. B. G. Anandarao, Prof. S D. Rindani and Prof. T. Chandrasekhar, for their wise counsel and encouragement throughout my research tenure.

I appreciate the unstinted support given to me by my staff members in the Library (Umaben, Thakkerbhai, Samim, Prakash, Hitesh, Vibhuti, Vimal, Gaytri and Varshita) without which, it would have been very difficult to carry out this research.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge and thank Pauline and all the friends of tea-table (Santha, Priti, Parul, Ushaben, Vijayaben, Nandini, Kuljeet, Miraben, Jayshree and Archana) for making the days livelier and making the work environment joyful which immensely helped me during my research tenure.

I would not have been able to complete the doctoral research without the whole hearted support of my husband (Anil) and children (Prerna and Kunal). My discussions with Anil about the research work and other professional matters have always given me a different perspective. My parents have been instrumental in my pursuing of higher studies and were always there for me whenever I needed their support. I thank my family for standing by me and making it easier for me to balance the home, the office and the study.

My special thanks are to all the scientific, technical and administrative staff of PRL for their help during the course of my research work.

The acknowledgement will not be complete if I do not thank my senior professional colleagues (Mrs. Rhoda Bharucha, Dr. Jagdish Arora, Dr. Christina Birdie, Mr. S R Deshpande, Dr. Shailesh Yagnik, Dr. T. S. Kumbar, Mrs. Dharmishtha Patel and Mrs. Pragnya Pathak) at other institutes for sharing their knowledge and insights with me during the discussions we had at various meetings.

Nishtha Anilkumar

Candidate