PREFACE

In the present digital environment e-information resource collection form an important part of university library collection along with traditional print collection. Further the phenomenal growth of consortia over the past decade has accelerated the use of e-resources among participating libraries. Today many university libraries are members of one or more other types of consortia initiatives. Building library collection in print and electronic format calls for continuous change and evaluation of existing collection management practices in university libraries.

In this context, the study was formulated to compare and examine how the existing university libraries changed their approach in the selection, acquisition, organization and preservation of scholarly information that is published and maintained in electronic format. An attempt has been made to examine how far heterogeneous university libraries specialized in different fields of disciplines like Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, including a Central University that is offering conventional courses in A.P. and have reflected their objectives in Collection Management (CM). Though all the selected university libraries in Andhra Pradesh have electronic collections along with print, wide gap prevails in their organization and management of both print and electronic resources. This has posed several questions on how effectively our libraries providing access to the dual collections.

The present study is an attempt to understand and explore the dynamics of collection management of e-information resource and further evaluate the utility and services provided through it. Libraries now need new guidelines to address selection and management of e-resources for conducting cost effective and cost benefit analysis that promote benchmarks for making decisions. It is needed to access the fruits and benefits enjoyed by university libraries that are participating in consortia and their services in terms of user satisfaction. Though, it is not comprehensive and total, I hope some useful points could be observed with this study to redefine the practices of collection management in the light of e-information resources in university libraries particularly in Andhra Pradesh.