TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1   INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study .................................. 1
1.2 Rationale of the Study ..................................... 3
1.3 Research Questions .......................................... 7
1.4 Operational Definitions ...................................... 7
1.5 Significance of the Study .................................... 10
1.6 Limitations of the Study ..................................... 11

CHAPTER 2   LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Computer Literacy before the Nineties ........ 13
2.2 New Definition of Computer Literacy ......................... 15
2.3 Computer Literacy in Malaysian Context ................. 17
2.4 Development of Computer Literacy in Malaysia ............. 17
2.4.1 Computer Projects in Schools .......................... 18
2.4.2 Computer Projects for Preservice Teachers ............ 20
2.4.3 Computer Projects in the Seventh Malaysia Plan ........ 21
2.4.4 MSC Project ............................................. 22
2.5 Measurement of Computer Competency ......................... 23
2.6 Computer Literacy Research ................................ 24
2.7 Gender differences ......................................... 26
2.8 Socioeconomic Status ...................................... 28
2.9 Ownership of computers  28
2.10 Summary  29

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY  31

3.1 Introduction  31
3.2 The Subjects  31
  3.2.1 Gender  32
  3.2.2 Socioeconomic Status  32
  3.2.3 Ownership  33
3.3 Instrumentation  34
  3.3.1 Student Background Information  36
  3.3.2 Self-rating Computer Literacy Levels  37
3.4 Calculation of Mean Category Scores  38
3.5 Socioeconomic Status  38
3.6 Pilot Study  39
3.7 Data Collection  39

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS, INTERPRETATIONS, AND DISCUSSIONS  41

4.1 Introduction  41
4.2 Descriptive Statistics  41
  4.2.1 Seven Categories of Computer Competency  41
  4.2.2 Sub Scales based on Three Independent Variables  43
4.3 Inferential Statistics Analyses of Relationships

4.3.1 Influence of Gender on Computer Competency 45

4.3.2 Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Computer Competency 48

4.3.3 Influence of Ownership on Computer Competency 52

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Introduction 54

5.2 Descriptive Analyses 55

5.3 Inferential Statistics of Significance 56

5.3.1 Influence of Gender on Computer Competency 56

5.3.2 Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Computer Competency 57

5.3.3 Influence of Ownership on Computer Competency 57

5.4 Limitations of the Study 58

5.5 Conclusions 59

5.6 Implications 60

5.7 Recommendations for Further Research 61

APPENDIX A: CRITERIA USED FOR ASSIGNING SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS 62

BIBLIOGRAPHY 64