As one of the over 900 contributors to this encyclopedia, I must admit that, at first, I was skeptical of the whole idea of an encyclopedia dedicated to information science and technology. I was familiar with other kinds of encyclopedia – the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and *Mosby’s Medical Encyclopedia*, for instance – but was unsure that an encyclopedia format could support enough of a wide spectrum of topics under the auspices of information science and technology to do it justice. Now, having seen the newly-released, five-volume set of the *Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology*, I acknowledge my total lack of foresight and congratulate Idea Group Reference and encyclopedia editor Professor Mehdi Khosrow-Pour on a job very well done.

In the Preface, information science and technology is characterized as a new science of “understanding the nature of information processing and management combined with computer and telecommunications technologies to process, disseminate, and manage information.” It is a collection of many specific disciplines that researchers have created through the years. In the *Encyclopedia*, these disciplines are presented as subjects including business/IT alignment, data mining, database technology, decision support systems, electronic collaboration, e-commerce, e-government, end user computing, ERP, geographic IS, global IT, the human side of IT, information modeling, intelligent IS, IS research, IS security, IT education, IT evaluation, IT in developing countries, IT in healthcare, IT in libraries, IT in small business, IT in personnel management, IT in project management, knowledge management, mobile technologies, multimedia, object oriented technologies, software engineering, strategic IT, telecommunications and networking, UML, virtual organizations, and Web applications.

Contributors were initially asked to submit proposals describing their topic coverage. The proposals were reviewed by the editor for their suitability to the encyclopedia project. One important criterion for proposal acceptance was the researcher’s record of similar work in the area of the proposed topic. Complete submissions were forwarded for review to at
least three external reviewers on a double-blind, peer review basis. Submissions with strong and favorable reviews were chosen for inclusion in the Encyclopedia, which contains over 550 contributions from more than 900 researchers in over 50 countries. For ease of use, the contributions are organized in the table of contents by both volume and by subject.

One interesting feature of the contributions is the inclusion of technical and managerial terms relevant to the topic and their descriptions that follow each article. In addition, these terms are collected together in an index of nearly 5,000 key terms, which can be used to easily find related contributions discussing the term.

Equally impressive is that over 11,500 references are cited and fully documented throughout the encyclopedia. These sources not only add validity to the materials in the encyclopedia but also offer students, scholars and researchers direction for further study on any of the encyclopedia entries.

There is also an online version of the Encyclopedia that is regularly updated to keep up with emerging technologies and research discoveries. This e-Access version is available free to libraries that purchase a hard copy. Users will be able to access the Encyclopedia from anywhere there is Internet access – an information resource that will prove valuable to distance learning programs worldwide.

All in all, I am very impressed with the end result of this project and honored to appear side by side with so many distinguished and respected contributors. The Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology would be an excellent addition to any library’s reference section.