The editors would like to acknowledge the help of all people involved in the collation and review process of the book, without whose support this project could not have been completed.

We thank all the chapter reviewers for their dedicated effort to review chapters in their areas of expertise in a timely manner. Special thanks go to all the staff at Idea Group Inc., whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. In particular, the editors are thankful to Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, senior academic editor of Idea Group Inc., for his support and encouragement in publishing this book. The authors are grateful to Kristin Roth, development editor, for her timely and professional cooperation, and for her decisive and kind support of this project.

In closing, we wish to thank all of the authors for their insights and excellent contributions to this book. We also want to thank Professor Elena Ferrari for kindly accepting to write a foreword for this book. Finally, we thank our families for their support and understanding throughout this project.

We hope that the readers will find these chapters informative and enlightening. Comments from readers will be greatly appreciated. Please contact us at avakali@csd.auth.gr and gpallis@ccf.auth.gr.

Athena Vakali and George Pallis
Thessaloniki, Greece
June 2006
Special Thanks to Reviewers

This project depends on the efforts of our volunteers to help us deliver high-quality peer-reviewed chapters. We thank the following reviewers for their gracious efforts.

- Lefteris Angelis, Aristotle University, Greece
- Nikos Bassiliades, Aristotle University, Greece
- Salima Benbernou, University of Lyon 1, France
- Barbara Catania, University of Genova, Italy
- Elena Ferrari, University of Insubria, Italy
- Fang Li, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China
- Rosa Meo, University of Torino, Italy
- Marco Mesiti, University of Milano, Italy
- Giovanna Guerrini, University of Pisa, Italy
- Carlos Hurtado, University of Chile, Chile
- Dimitrios Katsaros, Aristotle University, Greece
- Vassiliki Koutsonikola, Aristotle University, Greece
- Jaroslav Pokorny, Charles University, Czech Republic
- Yucel Saygin, Sabanci University, Turkey