Advances in database techniques and technologies continue to emerge and significantly improve throughout the fields of database applications and research. In recent years, the overall utilization of database technologies has exploded throughout organizations of all sizes and types. Today, almost every computer-based application relies heavily on the use of database technologies and techniques. Many organizations have been successful, and yet some have failed in the utilization of database technologies. Learning from success factors and reasons for failure can assist systems professionals and students in the field to learn how to develop and apply database technologies successfully throughout organizations worldwide. *Cases on Database Technologies and Applications*, part of Idea Group Inc.’s *Cases on Information Technology Series* presents many real-life examples and experiences of those involved in database research and database technology applications and management. *Cases on Database Technologies and Applications* presents a wide range of the most current development, design and analysis of databases, and will assist practitioners and students alike in learning about emerging issues, problems, and challenges in developing database applications without pitfalls.

The cases included in this volume cover a wide variety of topics focusing on database technologies, database research, systems analysis and design and the utilization of software engineering technologies in database applications and management. These topics include: library databases, executive information systems, data warehouses, non-profit organization information systems, geographic information systems, information systems for law enforcement practices, administrative cultures and information resource management, public sector data management, large companies’ adoption of data warehouses, online course management systems, an electronic document initiative at a power plant, data mining solutions for an automobile insurance company, flexibility within data resources, data warehouses for financial application service providers, virtual
academic library environments, and IT architecture for a residential real estate firm.

As more businesses, universities and organizations seek technological solutions to the growing volume of data and information in organizations, database technologies continue to stand as necessities and valuable instruments in managing data and producing valuable and effective information. Hopefully *Cases on Database Technologies and Applications* will provide practitioners, educators and students with important examples of database technology implementation successes and failures. An outstanding collection of current real-life situations associated with the effective utilization of database technologies, with lessons learned from the cases included in the publication, this publication will be very instrumental for those learning about the issues and challenges in the field of database technologies.

**Note to Professors:** Teaching notes for cases included in this publication are available to those professors who decide to adopt the book for their college course. Contact cases@idea-group.com for additional information regarding teaching notes and to learn about other volumes of case books in the IGI *Cases on Information Technology Series*.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Putting together a publication of this magnitude requires the cooperation and assistance of many professionals with much expertise. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the authors of cases included in this volume. Many thanks also to all the editorial assistance provided by the Idea Group Inc. editors during the development of these books, particularly all the valuable and timely efforts of Mr. Andrew Bundy and Ms. Michelle Potter. Finally, I would like to dedicate this book to all my colleagues and former students who taught me a lot during my years in academia.

A special thank you to the Editorial Advisory Board: Annie Becker, Florida Institute of Technology, USA; Stephen Burgess, Victoria University, Australia; Juergen Seitz, University of Cooperative Education, Germany; Subhasish Dasgupta, George Washington University, USA; and Barbara Klein, University of Michigan, Dearborn, USA.

*Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, D.B.A.
Editor-in-Chief
Cases on Information Technology Series
http://www.idea-group.com/bookseries/details.asp?id=18*