Many people have contributed to the writing of this book over the past few years. My original thought of using a database-driven solution to resolve issues in library Web content management and workflow streamlining was inspired by Kristin Antelman’s article “Getting out of the HTML Business: the Database-driven Web Site Solution” in 1999. At that time, I worked with my colleagues at the Pasadena Public Library to look into the feasibility of creating subject pathfinders utilizing MS Access database. We all agreed that database-driven Web content management was the right way to go for the development and management of such library resources. Due to our lack of technical expertise and perceived lack of models to follow at the time, our discussions did not lead to fruition. Nonetheless, these initial discussions contributed to a better understanding of the need for a more effective Web content management solution.

As I took on the responsibility as library Web administrator at the University Library, California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), the pressure to effectively manage library Web content and to streamline workflows in the creation, maintenance, and updating of Web content was mounting. In 2001, the Library Web Team embarked on an overall redesign of the Library Web site, of which streamlining content management workflow was a major concern. A decision was made to implement a database-driven solution to resolve content development and update issues for external users, internal Web content contributors, and the Web Team members maintaining the Web site. The goal was to redesign the Web site as a dynamic resource that patrons would use in a highly individualized way, and to ease the content management workload. Since various obstacles prevented the Library Web Team from using Active Server pages (ASP) and SQL server to execute our plan, a JavaScript constructed data source was chosen, and it in large part achieved our defined goal. For this process, I’m indebted to my colleagues serving on the Web Team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Scott Breivold, Paul Bui, Barbara Case, Doug Davis, Yvonne Hasegawa, Chad Kahl, Ken Ryan, Romelia Salinas, and Stephen Sottong for their creativity, patience, and perseverance. Particularly, my thanks go to Stephen Sottong for his initiative and testing in developing the JavaScript constructed Web content management structure.
This process urged me to seek out other successful or alternative models in managing library Web content. Around the same time, I received an invitation from Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour to edit a book on a subject of my choice. My prospectus on library Web content and workflow management was well received and was deemed to be worthy for publication. From the inception of this project to final publication, I received guidance and continuous support from Dr. Khosrow-Pour and his staff at Idea Group Publishing. Special thanks go to Dr. Khosrow-Pour, whose enthusiasm motivated me to initially accept his invitation for taking on this project. Further thanks go to Jan Travers, Senior Managing Editor, for her support throughout the project. I would also like to thank Michele Rossi, Development Editor, and Amanda Appicello, Managing Editor, who always timely responded to my email inquiries regarding the progress of the project. Jan, Michele and Amanda kept the project on schedule.

A very special “thank you” goes to all of the authors for their exceptional contributions, dedication and commitment to this book. I have learned from and been inspired by their research results, insights and practical solutions. Several of the authors of this book also served as referees for articles and cases written by other authors. Thanks go to all those who served as reviewers and who provided constructive, critical and comprehensive reviews. Among them, Carlos Rodriguez, Director of Library Information Systems, California State University, Sacramento, provided very comprehensive and insightful reviews despite a very busy schedule. Stephen Sottong, then Technology, Engineering and Computer Science Librarian at CSULA; Sarah Robbins, Electronic Services Coordinator at University of Oklahoma; and Michelle Mach, Digital Projects Librarian at Colorado State University, offered their constructive opinions on the cases they reviewed. A special thanks also goes to my long-time friend and colleague, Johan Ragetli, Information System Analyst, Peterborough School Board, for his encouragement and insightful suggestions throughout the process.

This book would not have been possible without the generous support from my colleagues, mentor, and supervisor at CSULA who offered their invaluable perspectives during the process, and served as reviewers. A special thanks goes to my mentor Ken Ryan. I value his detailed copyediting, insight, and most importantly, his willingness to help whenever I asked. Barbara Case, the former library Web administrator, inspired me to do my best through her enthusiasm and dedication toward her work. Doug Davis, the University Librarian, provided his invaluable perspective on many issues that I had puzzled over. I appreciate very much for their support, opinions, and encouragement.

Last, but not least, I must express my heartfelt appreciation to my husband, Alex, for his patience with my turning our living room into a study hall filled with mountains of books, papers, and notes for the duration of almost a year. My thank you and love also go to our dearest daughter, Judy, for her sparkling smile, lively comments and endless energy.