Acknowledgment

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

Most of the authors of chapters included in this book also served as referees for chapters written by other authors. Thanks go to all those who provided constructive and comprehensive reviews. However, some of the reviewers must be mentioned as their reviews set the benchmark. Reviewers who provided the most comprehensive, critical and constructive comments include: Ricardo Bellazzi of University Pavia, Italy; Lenka Lhotská of Czech Technical University, Prague; and Ján Paralič of Technical University Košice, Slovakia. Support of the department of information and knowledge engineering, University of Economics, Prague, is acknowledged for archival server space in the completely virtual online review process.

Special thanks also go to the publishing team at IGI Global, whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. In particular to Deborah Yahnke and to Rebecca Beistline who assisted us throughout the development process of the manuscript.

Last, but not least, thanks go to our families for their support and patience during the months it took to give birth to this book.

In closing, we wish to thank all of the authors for their insights and excellent contributions to this book.

Petr Berka & Jan Rauch, Prague, Czech Republic
Djamel Abdelkader Zighed, Lyon, France
June 2008