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**Section I. Fundamental Concepts and Theories**

This section serves as the foundation for this exhaustive reference tool by addressing crucial theories essential to the understanding of e-collaboration. Chapters found within these pages provide an excellent framework in which to position e-collaboration within the field of information science and technology. Individual contributions provide overviews of computer-mediated collaboration, communities of practice, and group decision support systems, while also exploring critical stumbling blocks of this field. Within this introductory section, the reader can learn and choose from a compendium of expert research on the elemental theories underscoring the research and application of e-collaboration.

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*Richard T. Herschel, Saint Joseph’s University, USA*

*Ira Yermish, Saint Joseph’s University, USA*
Section II. Development and Design Methodologies

This section provides in-depth coverage of conceptual architectures, frameworks and methodologies related to the design and implementation of e-collaboration systems, tools, and technologies. Throughout these contributions, research fundamentals in the discipline are presented and discussed. From broad examinations to specific discussions on particular frameworks and infrastructures, the research found within this section spans the discipline while also offering detailed, specific discussions. Basic designs, as well as abstract developments, are explained within these chapters, and frameworks for designing successful virtual environments, information systems, and knowledge sharing communities are presented.

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Joseph B. Lyons, Air Force Research Laboratory, USA
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Sébastien Peray, European Microsoft Innovation Center, Germany
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Daniel Schall, Vienna University of Technology, Austria
Marcel Tilly, European Microsoft Innovation Center, Germany

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Mike Chiasson, Lancaster University Management School, UK

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Beth L. Hewett, Independent Scholar, USA
Russell J. Hewett, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, USA

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Roberto Evaristo, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA
Jorge Luiz Nicolas Audy, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
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Section VIII. Emerging Trends

This section highlights research potential within the field of e-collaboration while exploring uncharted areas of study for the advancement of the discipline. Chapters within this section highlight evolutions in online communities, nethnography and its role in online interaction, and new models and concepts for online education. These contributions, which conclude this exhaustive, multi-volume set, provide emerging trends and suggestions for future research within this rapidly expanding discipline.

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Alanah J. Davis, University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA
Justin M. Yurkovich, University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA

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