Acknowledgment

The completion of a project of this size (moderate in comparison to building the Pyramids in Egypt, but substantial enough for two overworked academics), requires the carefully-planned collaboration of many people. We are particularly grateful to the following individuals:

For their willingness to engage in the process of writing rich and valuable contributions to this encyclopedia, we are very grateful to the 161 contributors whose work is presented here. Obviously, the success of such a venture as this one is entirely dependent on the work carried out by our contributors, who made sure that this project would not turn into just another encyclopedia.

Most contributors also turned into reviewers when it was required (all proposed entries were reviewed at least twice so we needed many reviewers). Also involved in the reviewing process were: Margaret Healy and Ciara Heavin (University College Cork, Ireland), John Artz (The George Washington University, Washington DC), Lucia Garcia (London School of Economics, London), Seamus Hill (University College Galway, Ireland) and Peter Tatray (Agrementa Consulting AB, Sweden).

The preparation of the encyclopedia, especially the formatting of the papers, involved substantial work. This was carried out by Marie Escudie, from the Ecole Supérieure d’Agronomie de Montpellier (France), during her visit to UCC in the Summer of 2007. The successful completion of the project rested largely on her shoulders during this time and she deserves special thanks for her efforts and the professionalism she displayed in preparing the final submission. Aude Montovert, from the Ecole d’Ingénieurs de Purpan (Toulouse, France) also deserves our sincere thanks for her work on the indexes.

Other colleagues deserve our thanks for the rich discussions we have had with them over the years, particularly those on our editorial advisory board and, more generally, the members of the Working Group 8.3 of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) on DSS, the AIS Special Interest Group on Decision Support, Knowledge and Data Management Systems (SIG DSS), and the EURO Working Group on DSS (EWG DSS), many of whom were also contributors or reviewers on this project.

The support team at IGI Global and in particular, Kristin Roth, our managing development editor, deserve a special mention. Kristin’s patience with missed deadlines and kindness when things didn’t go well, are only equalled by the speed and accuracy with which she can reply to a question, despite time differences between the States and Europe. Also, in the final stages of the production of these volumes, Jamie Sue Snively, our Production Managing Editor, managed to keep the whole process on schedule, despite some ultimate hurdles.