Preface

This is the first edition of this innovative text that considers the field of nursing informatics within the broader field of nursing knowing and hence information generation and evidenced based practice. Some of the work is an update of where both nursing philosophy and nursing informatics is currently at. This will be of interest to a broad range of readers from undergraduate to postgraduate students and clinicians. Most chapters are not a quick and simple read as they present challenges to the reader to critically think about not only the possibilities afforded by the informatics technologies but also how the use of technologies fits, or not, with nursing practice. Nursing practice is of course underpinned by nursing thinking. It is tempting for the reader to shy away from the challenge presented in the book in the pretence of the demand for simplicity. If ideas are not quickly grounded in recognised like ideas it is easy to blame the author’s writing style. Philosophy is often on the fringe as it falls prey to the reluctance ‘to’ reader tenacity. Many of the ideas presented challenge the reader to really become mindful of what they think and know of nursing, the language used and the origins of the words, and how this thinking and speaking is channelled into practice. The tools of informatics are tools of communication and practice and come into this musing at the level of communication and practice. It would be fine to write of theory, as the kind of theory in this book is of course the most practical kind of theory that drives to the route of what nurses do, but this book goes further with examples of application. In line with evidenced based practice this book explores not only informatics in practice but the evaluation of the practice. This is book is not aiming to present the definitive description of all informatics projects in nursing but a selection from across the globe to demonstrate the possible. We hope you enjoy this book that brings together this challenging, but extremely worthwhile thinking.

Andrew Cashin
Southern Cross University, Australia

Robyn Cook
Sidra Medical and Research Center, Qatar