Acknowledgment

The editor would like to acknowledge several individuals for their contributions in the preparation of this handbook. Deep appreciation and gratitude is due to professor Frank Zhigang Wang, director of Centre for Grid Computing, Cranfield University, UK, for the cooperative assistance in acquiring the materials for the publication. Professor David Erbach, chair of computer science department at the Indiana – Purdue University, Fort Wayne, USA for the generous allocation of hardware and software resources and other sundry support.

Most of the authors of chapters included in this handbook 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: Ruth Shaw (University of New Brunswick), Eric Aubanel (University of New Brunswick), Daniel Katz (Louisiana State University), Maozhen Li (Brunel University) and Yuhui Deng (Cranfield University).

Special credit should also go to the editorial and production team at IGI Global, whose contributions throughout the whole process from inception of the initial idea to final publication have been invaluable. Kristin M. Klinger approved the project and pushed for a coordinated completion of the work. Kristin Roth provided the initial editorial assistance, while Heather Probst, Julia Mosemann and Beth Ardner at the final stage prodded via e-mail for keeping the project on schedule. Their ideas and enthusiasm motivated me to successfully complete the project.

Special credit should also go to Ruth Shaw, who wrote the foreword and read a semi-final draft of the manuscript as well as provided helpful suggestions for enhancing its content. And last but not least, my wife, Agatha, and children for unfailing support and encouragement during the months it took to give birth to this book.

In all, I wish to thank the authors for their insights and excellent contributions to this handbook and the almighty God for the successful completion of the project even at trying time.

Emmanuel Udoh, Indiana University–Purdue University, USA
January 2009