Acknowledgment

I am indebted to a number of persons and agencies that helped me along the way. I learned the value of journalism and media during my tenure as a student and later as an instructor at the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism at the University of North Texas. The Mayborn director, Mitch Land, has been a mentor and a friend since my days at Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique. As I drafted the proposal for this book, received chapters, and edited the manuscript, I had numerous conversations with another of my mentor, Brian O’Connor. My conversations with Dr. O’Connor ranged from constant chats in his office when he served as my dissertation chair, to meetings in coffee shops, to discussions during the Document Academy meetings, to his response to my e-mails and text messages, to long telephone dialogues, especially after I left the University of North Texas. Just as our conversations have been diverse in form, so have they been in content: representation, human information seeking behavior, graffiti, clandestine radio broadcasting, poetry, and photography. It is my hope that the content of this book will provoke more conversations among the readers. My intellectual journey starts with the seeds planted by Emilia V. Ilieva during my undergraduate days at Egerton University.

I am grateful to Evan Mwangi, Northwestern University; Kiarie Wa’Njogu, Yale University; Kenneth Kimani, Tennessee State University; Henry Chakava and Kiarie Kamau of East African Educational Publishers; Milton Obote Joshua, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Sangai Mohochi, Maseno University; Mahiri Mwita, Princeton University; Ali Mazrui, Binghamton University, Ravenna Narianzano, Binghamton University, Melinda Levin, University of North Texas, and Jurhee Curtis, University of North Texas.

I would, of course, like to register my great appreciation to my parents, Irene Njeri Wachanga and Simon Wachanga for their unwavering support despite of the geographical distance between us. My brother, Mwangi, and sister, Wangechi, encouraged me when it seemed difficult to tighten several looses of this volume. I would like to thank the readers in advance for taking their time to be part of various conversations contained herein.

D. Ndirangu Wachanga
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, USA